



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 3434 Meridian, Bellingham, Washington 98225
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**MEETING SUMMARY NO. 1
LITTLE SQUALICUM MASTER PLAN
STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE OF MTG.: March 31, 2009, 3:00PM
DATE ISSUED: April 23, 2009
MTG. LOCATION: Mayor's Boardroom, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street
BY: Gina G. Austin, P.E. - City of Bellingham Park Project Engineer
DISTRIBUTION: via email

PRESENT (indicated by an 'X'):

- 1. Gina G. Austin, PE, City of Bellingham
 - 2. Edie Norton, Columbia Neighborhood
 - 3. Eve Magyar, RA, Bellingham Technical College
 - 4. Mark Longtine, Ecology & Environment, Inc (consultant for Environmental Protection Agency)
 - 5. Chris Secrist, Oeser
 - 6. Jack Weiss, Bellingham City Council
 - 7. Renee LaCroix, City of Bellingham
 - 8. Meredith Murray, Columbia Neighborhood
 - 9. Tim Wahl, City of Bellingham
 - 10. Mike Stoner, Port of Bellingham
 - 11. Mary O'Herron, Washington State Department of Ecology
 - 12. Freeman Anthony, PE, City of Bellingham
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This meeting summary is a general overview of the items discussed at the subject meeting. Any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of Gina G. Austin, P.E. at 360-778-7000, gaustin@cob.org.

I. GENERAL

- a. This meeting is the first of a series of stakeholder meetings to obtain input on the design of the master plan of Little Squalicum Park.
- b. Gina asked that everyone introduce themselves and state one item they are most interested in discussing at these stakeholder meetings:
 - i. Plans for Port of Bellingham Property
 - ii. Safety for the neighborhood
 - iii. Improve habitat
 - iv. Coordinate construction with the Oeser cleanup
 - v. Incorporate cleanup with master plan
 - vi. Coordinate with the Bellingham Technical College master plan
- c. Gina provided an introduction regarding the project background and schedule.
- d. Tim provided background information regarding the history of the site, previous plans, and current contamination issues.
- e. Freeman (aka 'Fritz') provided a brief project description and update regarding the proposed plans for the West Illinois road improvement project.

II. DISCUSSION

a. The following includes a list of concerns, questions and comments discussed by the group:

i. Site management & boundaries

1. Does the cement plant retain an easement to the pier? No. However they do have a harbor area lease.
2. When will the park be annexed? This needs to be worked on. There is a concern regarding law enforcement and applicability of City codes. Annexation of park will need to be considered under larger annexation plan with additional properties
3. Can you walk up the beach towards the County? There appears to be both private and public property along the beach.
4. Connection to the Cliffside? There is a valuable beach walk at low tide in this area.

ii. Park Design

1. Propose changing the name of the master planning documents to “Little Squalicum Beach & Natural Area”
2. Public meeting for master plan should include information about site history, constraints, ravine and water table
3. The new trails should accommodate bikes and meet City of Bellingham trail standards.
4. The Schultz Drive connection is important.
5. The Bay to Baker trail is a major trail connection. Connections to the park should be enhanced.
6. Create places for people to sit.
7. Incorporate an interpretive story board, coordinate with the tribes.
8. Desires for this park: Kayak launch, trails, restroom at trailhead, daylight stormwater & manage treatment, which can provide aesthetic benefits for park users.
9. Manage stormwater flow and detention by creating a wetland at landfill excavation site.
10. Concern about stagnant water bodies and mosquito issues. Diversify vegetation to increase mosquito predators.
11. 1990 master plan shows meadow areas, open views for safety corridors.
12. Will the public request significant changes to the current park use? People want contact with water, may want a picnic shelter or playground.
13. Coordinate park master plan with BTC master plan. BTC Admin building proposed to be built over existing parking lot at northeast boundary.

iii. Habitat

1. Fish presence in the creek is affected by culvert and beach drift on Port and RR property. Conceptual plan calls for culvert removal and, if feasible and desirable, pocket estuary creation on park property.
2. Creek grades ok for habitat, doesn't appear to be any negative impact on fish presence.
3. Focus on native vegetation.
4. Will fishing be allowed on the Tilbury pier? Fishing is managed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

iv. Cleanup discussion at public meeting – how will this be handled?

1. People will want to talk about the cleanup at the master planning meetings.
2. Include EPA and Ecology in public meetings for master plan. Representatives can be available to answer questions.
3. Good to provide the public with detailed information ahead of time.

4. Emphasize that costs for cleanup will be paid with cleanup money, park money used for park development.
5. Ecology proposes to issue another fact sheet, and then schedule a public meeting after reviewing draft Remedial Investigation report and after negotiating an agreement with EPA.
6. The master plan can be presented at the separate public meeting lead by Ecology to discuss cleanup issues.
7. Some Oeser work will coincide with development proposed in the master plan.
8. Remind public that Oeser is committed to cleanup according to Consent Decree with EPA.
9. Mark with Ecology & Environment, Inc (consultant to EPA) is here to observe and is not acting in any capacity for EPA.
10. Mark agreed that the more information that is available to the public, the better

III. ACTION ITEMS/NEXT STEPS

- a. Park's consultant selection committee will meet on April 15 to discuss scores and develop shortlist for interviewing master plan consultants.
- b. Parks will select design consultant on May 6.
- c. Ecology will schedule public meeting to discuss status of cleanup.
- d. Parks will schedule public meeting after Ecology's meeting and after design consultant is on board.

IV. CORRECTION ITEMS

- a. None.