

MINUTES—Regular Meeting  
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT  
Wednesday, April 26, 2017  
Fairhaven Branch, Bellingham Public Library  
1117 12<sup>th</sup> St, Bellingham, WA  
Fireplace Room 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
Mailing Address: PO Box 4283, Bellingham, WA 98227

Our Mission: The mission of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District is to ensure the entirety of the property is protected in perpetuity in public ownership, with respect for its ecological, recreational, and educational functions and to serve as a fiscal mechanism through which the district, via a tax levy, will repay the City of Bellingham for the Greenways Endowment Fund loan.

**Call to order:** At 6:00 PM President Vince Biciunas called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** John Hymas, Susan Kaun, John Brown (Clerk), Vince Biciunas (President), John McLaughlin.

**Introductions:** Bob Carmichael, legal counsel, Diane Birsner, Board Secretary. Rae Edwards, Charlotte Waller, Michael Chiavario, Michelle Bates, Stefan Freelan, Miles Freelan, Mike Storm, Tim Swarens, Tucker Swarens, Spencer Arp, Devon Bumstead.

**Motion:** J. Hymas moved to approve the Agenda for today's meeting as amended. S. Kaun seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

**Student Presentation:** Miles Freelan, with assistance from fellow students Tucker Swarens, Spencer Arp and Devon Bumstead, gave a Powerpoint presentation of their vision for future mountain bike use in the lower quarry area of CCF park, in partnership with Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC), other users and parents. They envision building a variety of berms, jumps and pump tracks for beginners through advanced riders in the lower quarry. The group plans to restore some of the present wider, disturbed park trails to more natural, pristine woodland trails, and intends to remove some of the existing jumps and corners and replant natural vegetation along their borders. The group began the restoration work by planting 55 sword fern plants along some of the main trails this week. Freelan cited the benefits of a planned space in the lower quarry for the community of bikers, particularly the younger ones who can't drive or bike along major arteries to Galbraith, Civic Field, and other Chuckanut trails.

**Presentation Questions and Comments:** M. Chiavario praised the presentation and the group's vision. V. Biciunas raised the question about which of the trails bikers tend to use to reach the quarry. Freelan replied that the group plans to use all of the existing trails to gain access, mostly the Viewcrest access and via Fairhaven Park. Biciunas expressed her hope that the group will interface with the city when it creates the Master Plan. J. McLaughlin assured the group that overall their trail construction has had less impact on the environment than the large equipment previously used for exploratory work in the forest. Tim Swarens

recalled his use of the CCF as a child coming from out of the area, stating that the CCF is a place for the community as a whole, not just for kids and their families who live on the south side. C. Waller asked if a task force could be created to act as liaison to facilitate the conservation easement revision process. Biciunas and Chiavario stated they are liaisons to the Parks Department, and that the revision is in the Park's hands at the moment. McLaughlin suggested that citizens, as park stewards and stakeholders, help to facilitate the process by checking in with the city's progress. R. Edwards and Biciunas clarified the process of amending the conservation easement. B. Carmichael directed the group to receive revision updates from the Parks Department, i.e., Rae Edwards and Nicole Oliver, and *not* the City Attorney. Chiavario added that blackberry removal is also currently proceeding ahead of the conservation easement revision.

**Recess:** The board recessed at 6:27 PM to serve refreshments to the presenters. The board resumed the meeting at 6:41 PM.

**Public Comment:** R. Edwards announced the next work party for CCF will be held on Saturday May 13 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Volunteers will meet at the upper shelter at Fairhaven Park. Edwards will forward the PSA to Birsner for posting on our website. She requested that volunteers bring wheelbarrows.

**Motion:** S. Kaun moved to approve the March 22, 2017 draft meeting minutes. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 3-0 to approve the minutes as corrected, with two board members abstaining due to absence at the March meeting.

**Report:** M. Chiavario reported that the April COB Park Advisory Board meeting contained no information relevant to CCFPD.

**Report:** Counsel, on status of final version of the Baseline Report. Carmichael reported that A. Eissinger sent him the final version, and with the exception of a few typos which Eissinger's corrected, it's good to go. Biciunas reported that the signature page is inaccurate, with the former CCFPD board president's name. Carmichael will direct Eissinger to correct that, too. He also passed along Eissinger's suggestion that more eyes review the final product. Biciunas and McLaughlin will review the report and submit minor corrections (typos) to Carmichael next Monday.

**Report:** V. Biciunas reported on the progress of Parks Department developing a conservation easement amendment. She reiterated that L. Bryson is in complete agreement with the terms of the amendment; beyond that, Biciunas is unaware of the revision's status. Carmichael will check in with City Attorney Alan Marriner. S. Kaun suggested the students make their presentation to Bryson. Biciunas replied that R. Edwards will likely pass along her takeaways to Bryson.

**Report:** D. Birsner, legal defense costs are as follows:

2015: \$41,108.50

2016: \$40,915.15

2017: \$1,582.00 (as of Mar 31, 2017)

Total costs to date: \$83,605.65

**Monthly expenses and cash flow sheets:** Submitted by J. Brown and D. Birsner.

**Treasurer's Report:** As per the Mar 31, 2017, Whatcom Co. Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance was \$159,079.37, ending unencumbered cash balance was \$188,718.17.

**Petty Cash:** Heritage Bank account balance as of 03/31/2017: \$2,688.66.

**Filing Reminders:** Filing week is May 15-19, 2017 for the November election.

**Next meeting:** Wed. May 24, 2017, Fairhaven Library, Fireplace Rm., 6:00 PM.

**Motion:** S. Kaun moved to approve District Payroll Input Form, wages for Diane Birsner, 14.75 hours in March 2017, total gross of \$368.75. J. McLaughlin seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

**Consent Agenda:** J. Brown moved to approve the following payments. S. Kaun seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Payment on the March 15, 2017 Invoice #79377 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$447.00 for general counsel services.

Payment on the March 15, 2017 Invoice #79378 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$286.86 for legal defense.

Payment on the March 29, 2017 Invoice #26086 from Whatcom County Administrative Services for \$30.00 for Q-1 payroll fees.

Payment to Diane Birsner for for Q-1 mileage reimbursement, 126.60 miles, for \$67.73.

**Report:** Update from counsel on status of *Ferlin et al.* lawsuit. Carmichael reported that the plaintiffs have submitted their reply brief, and now the court will schedule a hearing.

**Motion:** The board determined Executive Session was not necessary.

**Old or New Business:** D. Birsner reported that CCFPD received a donation of \$100 from Stephen Carmean today. Birsner will deposit the check with the county treasurer's office tomorrow. J. Brown will send a thank-you note.

**Adjourn.** Time: 6:59 PM.