

MINUTES—Regular Meeting
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT
Wednesday, July 26, 2017
Fairhaven Branch, Bellingham Public Library
1117 12th 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: President Vince Biciunas called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Introductions: Those acknowledged included Simi Jain, legal counsel, board secretary, Diane Birsner, Michael Chiavario, Frank James and Kirk Gulden.

Motion: J. McLaughlin moved to approve today's meeting agenda. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Public Comment: K. Gulden discussed the issue of dogs in CCF park. He's observed that about 90% or more of the dogs in CCF are off-leash, and that the owners seem to be responsible with regard to picking up after their pets and keeping their dogs on the paths. Gulden stated, however, that two signs posted in the park refer to the park's on-leash policy. He would like the Board to commit to changing the policy to an off-leash one within the park boundaries.

Motion: J. Brown moved to approve the June 28, 2017 draft meeting minutes. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 3-0 to approve as corrected, with Biciunas abstaining due to her absence at the June meeting.

Report: M. Chiavario reported on the July 2017 COB Park Advisory Board meeting. He said nothing that was discussed pertained to the CCFPD. He then passed around a mailer from City Parks that went out to South Side households regarding the recent degradation of the CCF, and added that Parks Department has posted signs in the park.

Report: J. Brown reported on the progress of City's development of an amendment to CCFPD's conservation easement. He and J. McLaughlin met with L. Bryson after last month's board meeting. Apparently the conservation easement amendment is stalled until City Parks and the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC) can agree on a plan for the quarry jump. Once a plan is approved, City Parks will proceed with creating the amendment. Char Waller of WMBC is scheduled to present an update on the quarry jump at the August 23,

2017 CCFPD board meeting. J. McLaughlin added that in the meeting with Bryson, he concurred with Bryson's efforts to limit the bike jump to the upper quarry only. He said that Bryson voiced her concerns about the WMBC's initial plans presented to her, regarding the spatial extent and the development within the quarry area. It was encouraging, McLaughlin stated, to hear Bryson's sensitivity to the ecological condition and potential impacts to the area, and her desire to limit the footprint. Finally, McLaughlin said, Bryson expressed concern that the bike jump should be appropriate to the site and not become a "destination" development that would lead to additional impacts to the park.

Report: V. Biciunas reported on the recent degradation of CCF parkland and subsequent emails from City Parks. She believes that the City will manage the restoration efforts and informing the public about the city's law against park property destruction.

Report: Simi Jain reported that Bob Carmichael has heard nothing more on the donation of land to CCFPD for 28th St. access since June 28.

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

2015: \$41,108.50

2016: \$40,915.15

2017: \$15,897.86 (as of June 30, 2017)

Total costs to date: \$97,921.51

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

Treasurer's Report: As per the June 30, 2017, Whatcom Co. Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance was \$201,288.68, ending unencumbered cash balance was \$160,361.98.

Discussion: Biciunas, in response to K. Gulden's email requesting financial information and the monthly financial reports provided to the board, suggested the board webmaster create a financial section on the website that would include data such as CCFPD's current balance of the amount owed to the Greenways Endowment Fund. Additionally she'd like to direct the webmaster to archive old information on the site, such as those pertaining to creating the park district.

Motion: J. Brown moved to include on CCFPD's website two lines: the amount of the original park district's obligation to the city and the annual amount that is left to pay (the balance). J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Petty Cash: Heritage Bank account balance as of 06/30/2017: \$2,010.48.

Next meeting: Wed. Aug. 23, 2017, Fairhaven Library, Fireplace Rm., 6:00 PM.

Motion: J. Brown moved to approve the District Payroll Input Form, wages for Diane Birsner, 13.75 hours in June 2017, total gross of \$343.75. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Consent Agenda: J. Brown moved to approve the following payments. J. McLaughlin seconded. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Payment on the June 15, 2017 Invoice #80376 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$562.00 for general counsel services. (no June legal defense charges)
Payment on the June 27, 2017 Invoice #26511 from Whatcom County Administrative Services for \$30.00 for Q-2 payroll processing fees.
Payment to E. Diane Birsner for Q-2 mileage reimbursement of 142.60 miles for \$76.29.

Report: S. Jain, reporting on the status of the *Ferlin et al.* lawsuit, said that oral arguments have been scheduled for September 21, 2017 at 9:30 AM at Division 1 Court of Appeals in Seattle (at One Union Square). The panel will be Judges Appelwick, Mann and Becker. It is open to the public.

New Business. Biciunas' new business item, simplifying the web page, was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reflected in these minutes. Regarding Gulden's new business item about an off-leash area for dogs, Hymas expressed his desire to maintain and enforce the on-leash ordinance currently in place. Gulden maintained that, while the concern is for wildlife and environmental degradation, his experience with his dogs and observing others is that dogs prefer to remain on the trails, and the overwhelming majority of dogs are off-leash and their owners conduct themselves responsibly while in the park. McLaughlin inserted that in the CCF park, the trail system is expanding which reduces vegetation, so dogs can travel more widely and wildlife's more exposed. McLaughlin suggested that this issue could be addressed in the park's Master Plan.

Motion: J. Brown moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss *Ferlin et al.* J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 4-0 to approve. Session is estimated to last five minutes. Time now: 6:47 PM. Expect to return at 6:52 P.M.

Return from Executive Session. Time: 6:51 PM

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.