

MINUTES—Regular Meeting
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT
Wednesday, August 23, 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 V. Biciunas called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Introductions: Those acknowledged included Simi Jain, legal counsel, board secretary Diane Birsner, Charlotte Waller, WMBC Education Director, Bill Hasenjaeger and Michael Chiavario.

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

Motion: J. Hymas moved to approve the July 26, 2017 draft meeting minutes. J. Brown seconded. Vote was 4-0 with Kaun abstaining.

Public Comment: No public comments were made.

Report: Charlotte Waller, Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition, and Bill Hasenjaeger reported progress on the proposed quarry jump track. B. Hasenjaeger gave a PowerPoint presentation on the popularity of jump tracks for people of all ages around the country, and the positive impact a jump track in the CCF will have on the southside Bellingham community. His presentation included photos of similar bike tracks in Mt Vernon and Whatcom Falls Park. Hasenjaeger and Waller stressed the importance of careful planning and cooperation between the youth volunteers, the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition, City Parks, the City Arborist, and students of Fairhaven Middle School. V. Biciunas raised a concern for heavy equipment and then bike access into the quarry, which Hasenjaeger addressed, stating that the 16th St access would be sufficient. The project is time sensitive and involves two phases. Biciunas added that getting the city council to approve a budget line item for CCFPD's Master Plan soon would go a long way toward speeding this project along. Waller reported that today she submitted her final proposal for the quarry jump track to City Parks, which will focus on developing a smaller area in the quarry for now.

Report: S. Jain reported on the progress of City's development of an amendment to CCFPD's conservation easement, stating that the City's attorney is waiting for the WMBC proposal.

Discussion: J. McLaughlin congratulated Waller for her quarry jump track proposal, which appears to address the concerns presented by L. Bryson of City Parks, CCFPD commissioner J. Brown, and himself. McLaughlin then asked Waller how her assertion that self-policing and peer pressure might contain the bike jumps to the quarry, given the degradation observed in July. His concern is that a small jump track in the quarry might entice other users to develop tracks outside the specified area. Waller said it is her hope that a jump track would halt the vandalism. Biciunas added that the Park's current signage referencing the habitat restoration areas should serve as a deterrent. McLaughlin expressed skepticism about such signage as a signal deterrent. He proposed a possible temporary jump track that could be built now, prior to the approved conservation easement amendment. Waller and Hasenjaeger expressed enthusiasm about McLaughlin's proposal; however Biciunas pushed back, citing a potential liability issue and that it would put CCFPD's agreement with the City (i.e., the conservation easement) in jeopardy. McLaughlin said he'd like to see a simplified version of the proposed jump track embedded in legal language that would protect the park. Biciunas added that perhaps what is needed is for the city to approve WMBC's jump track and then build a smaller version of it first. Kaun weighed in, stating that the original presentation by the students (in the April 26, 2017 meeting) was great, and she'd hoped they would immediately submit their presentation as a proposal to City Parks. Kaun's sense is that CCFPD cannot jump ahead since the property belongs to the City and not CCFPD; however, CCFPD can support the City's desire to create such a facility for its cycling citizens. S. Jain, legal counsel, stated that creating even a beautiful bike jump isn't a guarantee that other cycling factions won't continue to build (illegally) inside the park; that it will take time to see how the public reacts to the development. She suggested the board stay the course and first make changes to the conservation easement.

Report: V. Biciunas reported no new degradation of the CCF parkland.

Report: J. Hymas stated that the August 2017 COB Park Advisory Board meeting agenda had no items pertaining to the CCFPD. M. Chiavario, CCFPD's Park Advisory Board liaison, concurred.

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

2015: \$41,108.50

2016: \$40,915.15

2017: \$15,905.86 (as of July 31, 2017)

Total costs to date: \$97,929.51

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

Treasurer's Report: As per the July 31, 2017, Whatcom Co. Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance was \$160,361.98, ending unencumbered cash balance was \$155,468.72.

Petty Cash: Heritage Bank account balance as of 07/31/2017: \$2,950.13.

Report: D. Birsner reported that the State Auditor's Office Box Audit for 2015-2016 would commence on September 21, 2017. Per Biciunas' request, Birsner will add to the September meeting agenda a review of the 2017 budget.

Report: D. Birsner suggested some documents posted on website to be archived. Biciunas provided guidance for additional documents.

Next meeting: Wed. Sept. 27, 2017, Fairhaven Library, Fireplace Rm., 6:00 PM.

Motion: J. Brown moved to approve the District Payroll Input Form, wages for Diane Birsner, 14.50 hours in July 2017, total gross of \$362.50. S. Kaun 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 July 15, 2017 Invoice #80670 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$373.00 for general counsel services.

Payment on the Aug 8, 2017 Invoice #1878 from Highwaters Media, LLC, for \$257.50 for website administrative and annual web hosting services.

Report: S. Jain and V. Biciunas reminded the board that oral arguments for the *Ferlin et al.* lawsuit would be heard on September 21, 2017.

Motion: The board and legal counsel agreed not to adjourn to Executive Session.

Old or New Business:

J. Brown stated he is currently one of two commissioners possessing CCFPD's safe deposit box key, and since he may be leaving the Board in the fall he asked for another commissioner to take his key. J. Hymas volunteered.

J. Hymas asked if there was any new information about the potential property donation. S. Jain said their office has heard nothing new about it.

Adjourn. Time: 7:07 PM