

MINUTES—Regular Meeting
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT
Wednesday, January 25, 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: At 6:00 PM President V. Biciunas called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: John Hymas, Susan Kaun, John Brown (Clerk), Vince Biciunas (President), John McLaughlin (arrived at 6:10).

Motion: J. Brown moved to approve the agenda. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 4-0 to approve, with one excused.

Introductions: Michael Chiavario, Charlotte Waller, Bob Carmichael, legal counsel, and board secretary Diane Birsner.

Public Comment: M. Chiavario reported that he and C. Waller will meet with Rae Edwards of Parks and Rec in the lower quarry on January 27 to discuss blackberry removal. C. Waller reported that some students are interested in participating in this project.

Motion: The board decided to defer approving the draft minutes until next month's meeting, which will allow time for the board to address and incorporate S. Kaun's Dec. 16 comments on the minutes.

Motion: S. Kaun moved to elect the 2017 slate of officers: V. Biciunas as President and J. Brown as Clerk. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Report: J. Hymas reported on the Jan. 10, 2017 Park Advisory Board meeting. L. Bryson has returned the Baseline Report to CCFPD's legal counsel.

Report: B. Carmichael reported on the status of the Baseline Report. He sent material and directions to A. Eissinger. Her questions have been regarding the wetlands, that it is not one wetland but two. However, Eissinger stated this is not supported by field data. Carmichael suggested that in Eissinger's changes she refer to Sarah Cook's original assessment (2009-10) that there is one wetland, based on her sampling at the time. Carmichael also advised Eissinger to complete the baseline report as a final product, to be forwarded back to the City. Per M. Chiavario's query, J. McLaughlin clarified that the wetlands in question are CC and JJ.

Report: J. Brown and J. McLaughlin reported on the progress of developing a conservation easement amendment with City stakeholders. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Report: D. Birsner reported that in early Jan 2017, CCFPD received an \$800 anonymous donation. The donation was acknowledged by email and in writing.

Report: D. Birsner reported that the annual Auditor's Incumbent List has been updated and will be delivered to the County Auditor's office. Also, Birsner reminded the commissioners to submit their annual Public Disclosure Commission's F-1 reports by April 17, 2017.

Report: D. Birsner reported that the legal defense costs to date (Dec. 31, 2016) are \$82,023.65, broken down as follows: 2015's costs were \$41,108.50. 2016's costs were \$40,915.15. C. Waller raised questions about the costs, which were addressed by the board and legal counsel.

Treasurer's Report: D. Birsner reported that the County Treasurer's report for Dec. 31, 2016 was unavailable as of today's meeting, so the December 2016 treasurer's report is deferred until next month's meeting.

Petty Cash: D. Birsner reported that the Heritage Bank account balance as of 12/31/2016 is \$2,884.29.

Next meeting: Wed. Feb. 22, 2017, Fairhaven Library, Fireplace Rm., 6:00 PM.

Motion: J. Brown moved to approve the District Payroll Input Form, wages for Diane Birsner, 17.25 hours in December 2016, total gross of \$431.25. S. Kaun seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Consent Agenda: J. Hymas moved to approve following consent agenda payments. S. Kaun seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Payment on the December 15, 2016 Invoice #78410 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$4,039.50 for general counsel services.

Payment on the December 15, 2016 Invoice #78411 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$186.00 for legal defense.

Payment to Whatcom County Admin Services on Invoice #25631 for \$30.00 for 2016's 4th quarter payroll services.

Payment to Highwaters Media, LLC on Invoice #1724 for \$157.50 for website administrative services.

Payment to Oltman Insurance & Financial Services on Invoice # 10436 for \$1622.00 for D&O insurance.

Payment to Oltman Insurance & Financial Services on Invoice #10438 for \$875.00 for insurance bond.

Motion: The board agreed not to adjourn to Executive Session at this time.

Old or New Business.

J. Hymas responded to M. Chiavario's question to him about eventually reintroducing beavers to CCF parklands. Hymas reported that he's conducted some preliminary research on successful beaver reintroduction efforts in Eastern WA, and volunteered to research the possibility of future beaver reintroduction in CCF Park. B. Carmichael suggested this could be incorporated into the City's Master Plan for CCFPD.

S. Kaun asked that the discussion of changing meetings in 2017 be tabled for now.

J. Brown added Joe Yaver's *In Memoriam* to CCFPD's home page. D. Birsner pulled it up on the website and read it to the board.

Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

APPROVED