

Minutes—Regular Meeting
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT
Wednesday, March 23, 2016
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 Vince Biciunas called the meeting to order.

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

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

Introductions: Those acknowledged included legal counsel, Bob Carmichael, board secretary Diane Birsner, Bill Hasenjaeger, Peter McBride, and Bernie Walz.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion: S. Kaun moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2016, CCFPD meeting. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Report: John McLaughlin described disturbances found within and just outside the CCFPD boundaries including natural-made shelters, old trash, a tarp, a sacred site and "No trespassing" signs. V. Biciunas suggested COB Parks Maintenance be notified regarding those disturbances within the boundaries. S. Kaun suggested J. McLaughlin accompany maintenance staff to the disturbance sites, if possible. J. McLaughlin to follow up. Regarding the issue of reintroducing beavers to the large wetland along the Interurban Trail, J. McLaughlin reported he learned from WPWD that while translocating beavers is prohibited by law, the tribes are allowed to relocate them. His contact with WPWD did not recommend any particular tribe. The commissioners discussed whether beaver restoration would be beneficial to the park district. V. Biciunas recommended this be addressed in the Master Plan.

B. Hasenjaeger commented on encampments within park boundaries. He discovered two encampments last year and contacted Bellingham PD, which has the resources to remove and clean encampment sites. This process took about four weeks.

Report: J. Hymas met with P. McBride a few days ago to discuss the use of McBride's WWU-Huxley students to monitor critters within CCFPD park boundaries, as a follow-up to the baseline report. McBride stated he reviewed Eissinger's baseline report and is teaching J. McLaughlin's wildlife field methods course this spring. McBride can enlist his students to census the park's mammals, birds and reptiles, thus adding valuable baseline data.

Motion: J. Hymas moved that CCFPD endorse Peter McBride, instructor at WWU, and his students to collect data that will add to the species list of mammals, birds and reptiles found within the CCFPD park boundary, and improve the knowledge base as follow-up to A. Eissinger's baseline report. S. Kaun seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Report: B. Carmichael commented that Alan Marriner, COB legal counsel, reported that Director L. Bryson plans to complete her review of Eissinger's baseline report prior to CCFPD's April 27 board meeting. John Hymas, liaison to Park Advisory Board reported on the March 9, 2016 PAB meeting. The PRO plan was discussed, and the Parks is changing their LOS (Level of Service) to include the distance it takes a person to walk to a park via a trail. Hymas also reported on personnel changes within the Parks Dept. and a possible move toward a park district-format similar to our park district.

Report: Sue Kaun stated that A. Eissinger reviewed Dr. Rhoades' comments and mycology species list, and Eissinger recommended Rhoades' data be included in her baseline report. Eissinger will incorporate the data when she revises the study to include L. Bryson's comments. J. Brown voiced the concern that CCFPD hasn't approved future expenses incurred by Eissinger's revisions. [*Secretary's note: CCFPD allocated \$1000 for baseline study revisions in its 2016 budget.*]

Report: J. Brown, clerk, reminded the commissioners to complete their Public Disclosure Commission documents by April 15, 2016.

Report: J. Brown reported that CCFPD's 2015 report to the State Auditor's Office has been filed.

Monthly expenses and cash flow sheets. Submitted by Clerk, John Brown.

Treasurer's Report: As of February 1, 2016, Whatcom County Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance is \$165,419.30, ending unencumbered cash balance is \$157,546.54. V. Biciunas suggested the board consider making additional payments to repay the loan instead of sitting on this overage. B. Carmichael encouraged fiscal caution until the lawsuit is settled. The consensus was to table this discussion for a few months.

Petty Cash: Heritage Bank account balance as of 3/21/16: \$2,974.80, not reflecting payment of \$86.00 annual charge from Post Office for post office box, paid out of Petty Cash (Check #1016, on March 21, 2016).

Report: B. Carmichael had nothing new to report on the status of *Ferlin et. al.*

Next CCFPD meeting: Wed. April 27, 2016, Fairhaven Lib., **Fireplace Rm.**, 6:00 PM.

Motion: S. Kaun moved to approve the District Payroll Input Form, wages for Diane Birsner, 15 hours in February, 2016, total gross of \$375.00. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Consent Agenda: To approve following payments:

Payment of \$112.00 to Heritage Bank account, to bring petty cash funds to approx. \$3,000.00, starting amount.

Payment on the February 15, 2016, Invoice #75494 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$1,537.00, for regular legal counsel services, and Invoice #75495 for \$840.00, for legal defense.

Motion: S. Kaun moved to approve the consent agenda payments. J. McLaughlin seconded. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Motion: Legal counsel deemed it unnecessary to adjourn to Executive Session.

Adjourn. Time: 6:58 PM.