

RECORD OF PROCEEDING OF
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Held at: Fairhaven Branch, Bellingham Public Library
1117 12th St, Bellingham, WA
In the Fireplace Room
7:00 to 9:00 PM

Our Mailing Address: PO Box 4283, Bellingham, WA 98227

Official email addresses for the Commissioners, where the public may send comments (subject to public disclosure):

John Hymas	hymas@fidalgo.net
Vince Biciunas	vbici.ccfpd@gmail.com
Cathy McKenzie	cmckenz.ccfpd@gmail.com
Sue Kaun	skaun.ccfpd@gmail.com
John Brown	jbrown.ccfpd@gmail.com

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.

Called To Order The meeting was called to order by President John Hymas at 7 pm.

Commissioners and Citizens were welcomed and thanked for attending, and informed that per Chapter 42.30 RCW (Open Public Meetings Act), all CCFPD board meetings are open to the public.

Roll Call:

Cathy McKenzie
Susan Kaun
John Hymas, President
John Brown—Absent--
Vince Biciunas, Clerk

Quorum Present

Motion was made to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Vince Biciunas moved and Cathy McKenzie seconded to approve the agenda. Add discussion of November and December meeting scheduling. Add discussion of letter from

Christopher Grannis. Add discussion of a Public Hearing for park naming. With John Brown absent, vote was 4 to 0 to approve tonight's agenda.

Attending, in addition to Commissioners, were Legal Counsel Simi Jain and Bill Hasenjaeger.

There were no public Comments.

Report was presented by Bill Hasenjaeger on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting held since our last meeting, supplemented by John Brown, who also attended their meeting. Bill reported on the naming of the park at the foot of Cornwall Avenue. He also brought a publication about bikes on trails for our information.

Motion: To approve minutes from April 24th made by Sue Kaun and seconded by Cathy McKenzie. Minutes approved without changes, 4 to 0, one Commissioner Absent.

Discussion of letters received of tax payments made under protest, from nine properties, four owners/persons/entities: John and Donel Griggs, William T. and Ruthie M. Geyer, John Ferlin, and Dwayne Carter. The Property ID#'s, Assessor Parcel Numbers, addresses, assessed values, and tax amounts, were provided by the Clerk in a spreadsheet, so that we could see the totality of the grievances. We were advised that no action needed to be taken at this time, although we could expect future legal action.

Discussion on the Planning Commission Meeting where a Public Hearing was conducted on the re-zone of approximately 114 acres, including the Chuckanut Community Forest, from Multi-family Residential to Public. John Hymas spoke to remind us that the zoning to Multi-family Residential caused such of an uproar that it became the starting point of the Greenways movement. He also credited Mayor Dan Pike for purchasing the property when it became available, and called the land and 'ecological jewel.' Sue Kaun submitted a letter with focus on the importance of the wildlife corridors for two separate watersheds. Vince Biciunas wrote quoting our Mission Statement.

Motion: To compose a letter from our District to Bellingham City Council, authorizing John Hymas as President on behalf of this Commission to recommend support of the re-zone of approximately 114 acres, including the Chuckanut Community Forest, or Hundred Acre Wood, from Multi-family Residential to Public. Motion made by Sue Kaun, seconded by Cathy McKenzie. Clerk will create a draft letter available to send as soon as the City Council Public Hearing date is announced. Motion passed 4/0, one absent.

Discussion: May 18th Trail Work Party with Parks Department and Recreation Northwest, cancelled by the Parks Department, and now re-scheduled for June 18th and July 16th, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Cathy McKenzie will take over as liaison with our web master, John King of Highwaters..

Motion: Made by Sue Kaun and seconded by Cathy McKenzie to amend our 2014 Budget to include \$10k expense for Baseline Study and to lower projected levy revenue per Treasurer Steven Oliver's information provided at our April 24th meeting. Discussion of the budget and potential litigation ended with the intention to defer this budget correction to our November meeting. Motion to amend the budget failed, 0/4, one absent.

Treasurer's Report: Our balance as of May 5, 2014, is \$216,454.92, including April 30th first Half Taxes Paid.

Motion: To authorize the payment to Whatcom County Auditor's Office of \$53,042.42 to cover Invoice for Election Cost, dated February 12, 2013 Special Election, made by Sue Kaun and seconded by Cathy McKenzie. Discussion. Approved 4/0, one absent.

Motion: To authorize the re-payment of the \$100,000.00 Promissory Note, entered into on August 8, 2013, plus \$1,775.34 Interest. Motion made by Vince Biciunas, seconded by Sue Kaun. Discussion. Motion passed 4/0, one absent.

Motion: To authorize the first payment to the City of Bellingham Greenways Levy Fund for \$50,000.00. Motion made by Vince Biciunas, seconded by Sue Kaun. Discussion. Since we have a potential threat of litigation, and in case we need funds for any land trust agreement, and this is the one time we have discretion in spending, it would be prudent to keep back some funds for potential unforeseen legal or conservation expenses at this time. Future payments to the City, by our contract, will always be a set percentage of taxes collected (50%, 80%, and 90%.) Motion passed 4/0, one absent.

Discussion: Direction given to Clerk to reserve this room for November and December 2014 meetings. Commissioners will consult their calendars.

Clerk's Report: Petty Cash status: \$3,000.00 less \$15.00 to John Brown and less \$7.30 to Vince Biciunas for expenses, paid from our new checking account.

Consent Agenda: Sign warrants to pay Zender Thurston PS on Invoice #69673, \$1,409.00 for legal services and to Highwaters Media, Invoice 1272, for \$225.00, for web site services. Sue Kaun moved and John Hymas seconded. Approved 4/0, 1 absent.

Report: John Hymas reported on his discussions with Leslie Bryson of Parks Department for our Baseline Study, Request for Proposals. We should just do it ourselves, with legal counsel's help, since the City isn't likely to help. We should ask the City for the documents that they already have regarding studies already conducted, and for a list of potential candidates for future study. Cathy McKenzie will assist John Hymas with written requirements, and John will make the daytime calls.

Motion: Made by Vince Biciunas and seconded by Sue Kaun, that Cathy McKenzie will assist John Hymas in collecting baseline study candidates and will consult with Leslie Bryson at the Parks Department, by our June meeting, so that we can have candidate qualifications to discuss by our July meeting. Motion passed 4/0, 1 absent.

Discussion: Our response to a letter from Christopher Grannis, dated May 16, 2014, requesting support for spending CCFPD funds for stewardship, with acknowledgement of our jurisdiction of trail sections. Bill Hasenjaeger added to the discussion, about ADA compliance and other raised gravel access either from Fairhaven Park or from 18th Street. Grannis asked us to consider awarding a Grant towards trails. Commissioners agree it is premature at this time, and might not be legally possible. Vince Biciunas responded by telling Christopher that I would bring the issue to this meeting. She will respond again, formally, to Mr. Grannis, with a report on this discussion, and our constraints.

No further business.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 PM.