

Minutes—Regular Meeting  
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT  
Wednesday, April 27, 2016  
Fairhaven Branch, Bellingham Public Library  
1117 12<sup>th</sup> 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 John Brown (Clerk) presiding for President Vince Biciunas, called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** Susan Kaun, John Brown, Vince Biciunas (President) excused, John McLaughlin (arrived at 6:15PM), John Hymas.

**Motion:** S.Kaun moved to approve the Agenda for today's meeting. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 3-0 to approve.

**Introductions:** Those acknowledged included legal counsel Bob Carmichael, Bill Hasenjaeger, Sean Keyes and board secretary Diane Birsner.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Motion:** S. Kaun moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2016, CCFPD meeting. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 3-0 to approve.

**Report:** John Hymas, liaison to the April 13, 2016 Park Advisory Board meeting, reported that Parks Director L. Bryson connected him with Julia Burns who is reviewing the City Tree Ordinance. Apparently the ordinance has no teeth and Hymas had expressed concern to the city council about tree removal on the South Side. He learned that no one has ever been fined for removing trees. The Urban Forestry Advisory Committee to the park board, along with J. Burns, are working on this. The City Comp plan, which includes the PRO plan and anything related to CCFPD, is online. Bryson said the city is actively considering replacing the existing Park Department with a metropolitan park district plan. Bryson said it would cap assessed home values at \$.75/\$1000. The Parks Dept will also actively pursue removal of homeless camps in parks. Hymas will give the parks advisory board an update on CCFPD including the lawsuit at next month's meeting. S. Kaun posed a question to legal counsel: if the city passes a metropolitan park district, how would it work for CCFPD constituents who'd be assessed for two park districts for the same property, or would CCFPD just go away? Carmichael thought that perhaps the CCFPD, if subsumed by the greater metropolitan park district, would hand over the debt to the new park district, which would take on the debt. Hymas expressed concern over the managing of the conservation easement by a third party: how would that work? Carmichael posited the transfer of the conservation easement management would have to be concluded prior to the establishment of the metro park district. Hymas said, and Legal agreed, that CCFPD cannot be disbanded prior to the approval of a Master Plan. B. Hasenjaeger said that he'd asked Bryson about the timeline for the new metro park district; Bryson's guess is two to five years. Hymas also reported that Greenways 4 seems to be moving along. Hasenjaeger asked if it is appropriate for him to comment, in the monthly CCFPD board meeting, on information relating to the Park Advisory Board that would be valuable to CCFPD. Board consensus was that his input is welcomed.

**Report:** S. Kaun raised the question about the WDFW permit required of WWU to conduct studies on the CCFPD site. She was going to suggest that the board pay for the permit, but J. McLaughlin stated that WWU has already paid the fee.

**Report:** Legal counsel gave a report about the City's review of the Eissinger Baseline Report. Carmichael recommended the wording in the introduction, which clarifies CCFPD's purposes including monitoring the conservation easement, be reinserted. With regard to the city removing all of the report's recommendations, the board agreed that those recommendations should be reinserted. Kaun stated that Eissinger has comments about the City's review. Carmichael said he will talk to Eissinger, and will return to the City with CCFPD's requests to reinsert portions of the report that it removed.

**Report:** John Brown and Diane Birsner gave the monthly financial reports.

**Report:** John Brown. Stephen Carmean donated \$100.00 to CCFPD; it was deposited April 7, 2016 and a thank-you note was sent to Mr. Carmean.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of March 31, 2016, Whatcom County Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance is \$157,546.54, ending unencumbered cash balance is \$171,572.54.

**Petty Cash:** Heritage Bank account balance as of 4/25/2016: \$3,000.80.

**Report:** Legal reported on the *Ferlin et. al* lawsuit. Carmichael stated that a special set hearing was requested, and that June 21, 2016 is the tentative hearing date.

**Next meeting:** **Wed.** May 25, 2016, Fairhaven Library, **Fireplace Rm.**, 6:00 PM.

**Motion:** J. Hymas moved to approve the District Payroll Input Form, wages for Diane Birsner, 18.75 hours in March, 2016, total gross of \$468.75. S. Kaun seconded. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

**Consent Agenda:** To approve the following payments:

Payment to Highwaters Media of \$120.48, on Invoice #1574 (March 31, 2016), for website domain renewal, files zipped for mailing to State Auditor, updating of website.

Payment on the March 15, 2016, Invoice #75769 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$481.00, for regular legal counsel services, and Invoice #75759 for \$1,251.00, for legal defense.

**Motion:** S. Kaun moved to approve the consent agenda payments. J. McLaughlin seconded. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

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

**New Business.** J. Hymas reported that City Council member Michael Lilliquist will propose that the city add the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association's green infrastructure plan to the City Comp Plan and make it citywide (HVNA's goal is 40% canopy cover). S. Kaun said that Fairhaven has been dealing with camping in the city's parks and greenways, which is illegal. Kaun said the City needs to be aware of any such disturbances in the CCFPD area. J. Brown suggested it be added to next month's agenda to discuss what action the board can take. Kaun suggested including photographs with a possible letter to the mayor. Hasenjaeger stated that the mountain bikers have been picking up trash on and near trails.

**Adjourn.** Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.