

MINUTES—Regular Meeting
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT
Wednesday, March 22, 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, Vince Biciunas (President). John Brown (Clerk) and John McLaughlin both excused.

Motion: S. Kaun moved to approve today's meeting agenda as amended. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 3-0 to approve.

Introductions: Bob Carmichael, legal counsel, Eric Brown and Charlotte Waller of the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC), and board secretary Diane Birsner.

Public Comment: No public comments.

Motion: S. Kaun moved to approve the Feb 22, 2017 draft meeting minutes. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 3-0 to approve.

Report: Park Advisory Board meeting (March 8, 2017). J. Hymas reported that there were no CCFPD related topics discussed at this meeting.

Report: B. Carmichael reported that L. Bryson approved the Baseline Report with some clarification on wording regarding recommended additional studies. Alan Marriner and Carmichael created language that Bryson ultimately approved.

Motion: S. Kaun moved to adopt the Baseline Report with the approved language as stated in the email exchange between Marriner, Carmichael and Bryson that Carmichael submitted to the CCFPD board and D. Birsner, Board Secretary, which reads as follows: "Species and habitat verification recommended herein is not binding on the City or any permitting agency and not required to be completed prior to the City's development of the Chuckanut Community Forest as a City Park, unless otherwise mandated by applicable city, state, or federal laws or regulations." J. Hymas seconded. Discussion: Carmichael will direct Eissinger to create a final version of the adopted report, hopefully prior to the April board meeting, and Birsner will have a dozen copies made, hopefully to bring to the April meeting. Vote was 3-0 to approve the motion.

Report: V. Biciunas on the progress of developing a conservation easement amendment. Biciunas attended the meeting with J. Brown and Leslie Bryson on March 15, 2017. In the meeting Bryson stated she will direct Alan Marriner to draft the amendment and include CCFPD's parameters. CCFPD's legal counsel will review it prior to adoption by the board.

Presentation: Charlotte Waller and Eric Brown, on proposed restoration of damaged CCFPD trails. Waller reported that she, Rae Edwards, Nicole Oliver, Michael Chiavario and Vince Biciunas met in the park to walk the trails and the quarry area. The group also discussed restoration plans involving the youth bicycle riders, and the newly awarded grant. With their guidance, Waller and Brown proposed to have the children present their reparation plans to the board at our April meeting. Biciunas queried Waller about the grant WMBC received a \$10,000 grant from the Whatcom Community Foundation. Waller stated it's to assist with WMBC's efforts to involve the kids in conservation, conflict resolution, trail restoration and trail building in the CCF park. Waller and Brown hope to channel the students toward a more proactive than destructive approach to the park. Waller suggested CCFPD first present the students with the background story of the formation of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park. Key points that Waller hopes the children's presentation will incorporate: 1) restoration of the trail they created that includes a one-bank turn that goes into the wetland area; 2) planting in the central area to restore it to its natural form (with guidance from R. Edwards), and; 3) identifying one trail they believe is likely to stay, and why (e.g., no wetland). In turn, Waller and Brown expressed hope that the conservation easement amendment will include a provision for the children to build a bike trail in the quarry area. Biciunas said that Bryson's stated parameters include the lower quarry only. Biciunas then expressed concern about bike access to the lower quarry area since almost all trails lead through the wetland area. Biciunas said she would like the kids to look at this issue. Biciunas directed the board to block off thirty minutes for next month's student presentation, which will follow Introductions in the agenda.

Report: J. Hymas, on beaver reintroduction investigation. Hymas reported that he connected Michael Chiavario with Tami DuBow, beaver reintroduction expert.

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

2015: \$41,108.50

2016: \$40,915.15

2017: \$186.00

Total costs to date: \$82,209.65.

Monthly expenses and cash flow sheets: Submitted by Diane Birsner.

Treasurer's Report: As of Feb. 28, 2017, Whatcom Co. Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance was \$164,906.60, ending unencumbered cash balance was \$159,079.37.

Petty Cash: Heritage Bank account balance as of 02/28/2017: \$2,778.66.

Filing Reminders: D. Birsner: 1) to board members to submit their annual Public Disclosure Commission's F-1 reports by April 17, 2017; 2) to the board members (J. Brown, J. McLaughlin, S. Kaun) whose terms expire in 2017 that their filing week is May 15-19, 2017.

Next meeting: **Wed.** Apr 26, 2017, Fairhaven Library, Fireplace Rm., 6:00 PM.

Motion: S. Kaun moved to approve the District Payroll Input Form, wages for Diane Birsner, 19.0 hours in February 2017, total gross of \$475. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 3-0 to approve.

Consent Agenda: S. Kaun moved to approve the following payments. J. Hymas seconded. Vote was 3-0 to approve.

Payment on the February 15, 2017 Invoice #79044 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$1,539.00 for general counsel services.

Payment on the February 15, 2017 Invoice #79045 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$14,145.50 for legal defense.

Report: From legal counsel on the status of *Ferlin et al.* lawsuit. Carmichael reported that the new deadline for the plaintiffs' reply brief is April 17.

Motion: The board determined adjourning to Executive Session was not required.

Old or New Business.

There was no old or new business.

Adjourn. Time: 6:46 PM.