

**MINUTES — Regular Meeting**  
**CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT**  
**Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 6 PM**  
Online Meeting Through Zoom  
Mailing Address: PO Box 4283, Bellingham, WA 98227

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

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**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:** John Brown. Welcome Commissioners and Citizens. Per Chapter 42.30 RCW (Open Public Meetings Act), CCFPD board meetings are open to the public. This meeting is being voice recorded. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the Governor's "Stay At Home" Order, this meeting of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District will be conducted online on Zoom.

**Roll Call:** John Brown, John McLaughlin, and Hue Beattie. John Hymas (Clerk) excused. Frank James excused.

**Introductions:** Bob Carmichael, legal counsel, Robyn Albro, secretary, Vince Biciunas, and Tip Johnson. Three other people also attended.

**Motion:** Moved to approve agenda by John McLaughlin, seconded by Hue Beattie. Approved 3/0.

**Motion:** Moved to approve the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes by John McLaughlin, seconded by Hue Beattie. Approved by 3/0.

**Park Advisory Board Meeting Report:** John Hymas, liaison to Park Advisory Board, report deferred as John Hymas was not able to attend.

**Old Business:**

- Discussion of the Parks Department Trail Design. The Parks Dept is still calling the Chuckanut Community Forest Fairhaven Park. John McLaughlin expressed that we should not cede the naming of this Forest as it is a Community Forest. It was only created due to the community supporting it.  
John Brown brought up that Nicole Oliver said that the naming was a bureaucratic convenience, and the ultimate naming would be part of the master plan. There would be public input then.  
Vince Biciunas, when we have a public hearing next month, could the Board make that announcement at the outset, that the name is to be determined. Fairhaven Park is a convenient name from the City's point of view, but the board feels it is important to acknowledge that the Forest is not Fairhaven Park. The Board members agreed.

John McLaughlin: In the Park's plan, some of these trails cross over some hydrologic areas. There are a few places where it would be good to restore the hydrologic connection. They have done a good job of removing some of the trails that cross wetlands, but there are a few that are retained that provided important connections between different access points and

provide trail connectivity. That connectivity conflicts with some of the conservation and ecological functions of the place and that conflict can be mitigated by boardwalks and bridges. Good example is what Recreation Northwest did at wetland BB on the north part, that bridge mitigates that conflict.

John McLaughlin: When we have a public meeting, even if we say that it is about trails, there will be comments about dogs, dog waste, bikes, and signage, and we ought to be prepared to address those, even if just to say those are important considerations and they are beyond the scope of this meeting.

Tip Johnson was wondering what date public comments need to be in by for the Parks Plan and the Park District's trail designs. All this work is being done to get ahead of the master planning process and there are no specific deadlines at this time.

Hue Beattie on the Park's Plan: I like the circle idea and getting rid of the two steep areas.

John McLaughlin: The X's are to get rid of trails. At the lower right corner of the map is supposed to be wetland JJ. The X's are on dry land and they are talking of removing a pretty important access point to the Interurban.

John McLaughlin: If we consider the input from the last public hearing, the main thing people wanted was a major loop trail that accessed all of the major access points, but they also wanted secondary trails where you could feel like you were alone. It seems the Park's Plan does both objectives fairly well. Overall, there are a few changes I would like to make, but it is fairly good.

John Brown: How do we want to frame this at the meeting? John McLaughlin: We have some student designs, we got public feedback on those designs, then we came up with revised designs and the City came up with their own design. We now have a wealth of ideas and design. I think it is important to get public feedback on these designs at this stage, so it doesn't get too far along ahead of public input.

Hue Beattie: Tip, could you give us the history of Hoag's Pond? Tip Johnson: Hoag's Pond was a barrow pit. Mr. Hoag had a contract to fill a wetland up on campus and that is where he dug it up. There was a private mink farm (years ago) up above off 30<sup>th</sup> that had a pond and that sort of helped keep it full. The City attempted to vacate all the streets and make it a private pond for the benefit of a retiring public works administrator. That did not happen and now it is a city asset. The X's leading down to the southeast in the Park's Plan is a critical connection to Hoag's Pond.

John McLaughlin: That gets into the tradeoff / conflict between recreational access and conservation. I would like to know the criteria they used, why they are keeping some trails and removing others. Every time I take a class there, I use that trail.

Bob Carmichael: I don't think that it is the best idea for the Commissioners to explain the Parks' plan. It is particularly important for Parks Dept. to have a representative at the meeting so they can explain their plan.

John Laughlin: Many of those central area trails are new, some were pre-existing, many of them do encroach upon wetlands. It looks like they are looking at removing some of those trails. That kind of thing is precisely what a public hearing is for. They could keep them all or remove them all so it would be good to get input on them. Do the other secondary trails on the map allow people to have the solitude they want?

Vince Biciunas: That top trail coming off of D leads to a high point that looks over Happy Valley, a scenic viewpoint. Seems like it might be hard to keep people from the overlook.

Bob Carmichael: Recommend that Robyn Albro, and Frank James or whoever the host will be potentially have a practice session before the meeting where they can work in concert and fine tune everything. Robyn Albro will research how best to host the meeting.

- Trail Designs Public Hearing (set for September 23<sup>rd</sup> on Zoom). John McLaughlin will present on the students work. John Brown will call and invite Laine Potter and Nicole Oliver to the meeting so they can answer any questions that come up.

**New Business:**

- Restoration Plan components. Bob Carmichael: how would you feel if the board were to adopt the priority list for restoration plan as a resolution? John McLaughlin: I would like to get input from the Commissioners and legal counsel before we approve it. The list is not in any particular order. These items are appropriate for the park master plan and we would be staying out in front of the master plan. Bob Carmichael: Maybe we could publish it as a proposal now so the public can see it, then the board will act on it in the future to approve it or make any changes. This list could be the official priority list of the board and sent to Parks Dept. It could be an especially important document going into the master planning process. The board members agreed to this  
John McLaughlin: Some of Edelstein's contractors had their trucks running over some wetlands and there might be some impacts that need to be restored. I haven't taken a close look at some of those places, so I am not sure. We can talk about this more at some point after the public hearing.
- Ideas for potential projects that CCFPD can fund. John McLaughlin: My list of restoration priorities would mesh with Frank James' ideas and we can defer this to a later time when Frank is present.
- Treasurer's Report about Loan: Robyn Albro asked the Treasurer's office about when the loan would be paid off. Karen Thomas of Steven Oliver's office said the pandemic has not really affected taxes at this point. It looks like 2021 is when things may be paid off. They will have more specific information for us and can report on it then. We will postpone this till October.

**Monthly expenses and cash flow sheets.**

**Petty Cash:** WECU Bank account balance as of 7/31/2020 was \$2,905.72.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of June 30, 2020, Whatcom Co. Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance (7/01) \$235,564.76, ending unencumbered cash balance (7/31) \$217,424.73. We received tax revenues of \$21,498.45 in July. \$3,157 in operating expenses, and \$21,498.45 was paid on our loan to the city of Bellingham (Debt 4,795.11 and Interest 16,703.34).

Current debt outstanding as of 7/31/2020: \$944,258.13

**Motion:** To approve District Payroll Input Form, wages for Robyn Albro, 25 hours in June 2020, total gross of \$456.25 by John McLaughlin. Seconded by Hue Beattie. Approved 3/0.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion to approve following payments by John McLaughlin. Seconded by Hue Beattie. Approved 3/0.

- Payment on the July 15, 2020, Invoice #92027 from Carmichael Clark PS for \$491.00, for regular professional services.
- Payment on the August 1, 2020 Invoice for mileage for June and July from Robyn Albro for \$43.25.

**Reminder:** R. Albro will send an email to three board members right after the meeting. Please respond confirming that you approve paying of bills as listed in the consent agenda and payroll.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

**Adjourn.** Time: 6:54 pm.