

**MINUTES — Regular Meeting**  
**CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT**  
**Wednesday, February 24, 2021 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.

**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.**

This meeting will be recorded. A visual and audio recording of this meeting will be posted on the CCFPD website. If your camera is on during the meeting, your voice, likeness, and surroundings, will be publicly available and viewable on the CCFPD website. If you choose to speak with your camera off, or by calling on a telephone, only your voice will be recorded.

**Call to order:** Frank James. Welcome Commissioners and Citizens. Per Chapter 42.30 RCW (Open Public Meetings Act), CCFPD board meetings are open to the public.

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

**Motion:** Moved to approve agenda by John Brown. Seconded by John Hymas. Approved 4/0.

**Election of Slate of Officers:** President and Clerk. Motion by John Brown to re-elect Frank James as President and John Hymas as Clerk. Seconded by Hue Beattie. Approved 4/0.

**Introductions:** Bob Carmichael, legal counsel and Robyn Albro, secretary. Also attending Vince Biciunas, Nicole Oliver, and Laine Potter from Bellingham Parks Department, Karleena Burdick - Western Student Intern, John Blethen, and Tip Johnson

**Masterplan Discussion with Nicole Oliver and Laine Potter of Bellingham Parks & Recreation District.** Detailed discussion between Nicole Oliver and the Park District Board about the master planning process, specifically the incorporation of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District master plan to be one aspect of the Fairhaven Park master plan.

Commissioners' concerns:

- The focus of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District is primarily conservation and restoration, which seems incompatible with a normal park.
- The Conservation easement contemplates restoring features of the park that have been adversely impacted.
- The nature of the park is unlike any other park the City manages.
- The board has spent time looking at restoration options (Resolution 16 which will be sent to Nicole Oliver). These will not be in a typical masterplan, which is why the board is concerned that by having the master plan also be for Fairhaven Park, that it will take away from the environmental priorities the Park District has for the Chuckanut Community Forest.
- The understanding was, when negotiating the Interlocal Agreement and the Conservation Easement, that the Forest would be the spotlight. Education component is also a part of all this.
- The Draft baseline study included recommendations for the Forest, that were not included in the final plan, by the insistence of the city. These can be provided to the Parks Dept.

- There was also concern about including similar areas around the Forest, such as Hoag's Pond and surrounding Greenways' areas.

Nicole Oliver agreed that the process needs to be rethought and only focus on the Chuckanut Community Forest and not try to include Fairhaven Park. The entire project would focus on the Forest and the boundary is going to have to include how we access it. Doing it this way would mean that we would be able to fulfill much more of what you all have felt is the intention of the Park District and it will be easier. Can look at surrounding areas, such as Hoag's Pond, and decide what else needs to be included.

Frank James: The Forest is something very deep in our hearts and we really want to help. The board are partners with the Parks Dept. We want to support you and bring more resources to support the Forest's master plan process.

Steering Committee is being convened and needs to include members from the Park District. It will meet more often than once a month and will have longer meetings.

Tip Johnson: There is a district of citizens that have eight million reasons to preserve and restore and educate re the Chuckanut Community Forest.

John Blethen: Greenways bought a bunch of property that needs to be included in this master plan, including Hoag's Pond. Think they need to be included so that they not become a park, but a conservation area.

Frank James: Let's hold those ideas in our thinking and see if there is some way to make that happen.

Tip Johnson: Re trails: one reason I like the express route, from Fairhaven Park to Old Samish to the potential future suspension bridge, is you are going through the conservation area, not using the conservation area.

Hue Beattie: Important to mention the site inventory, the adjacent land uses, the neighbors, zoning, and the new density up on View Crest – these should all be remarked upon in the master planning document. Those things will impact on the forest as density increases. Also, it seems the fire department should weight in on a forest fire plan.

### **No Public Comments.**

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the January 21, 2021, meeting minutes made by John Brown, seconded by Hue Beattie. Approved 4/0.

Hue Beattie made a point that was not in the minutes, but he will just make it again. The Zoom idea is a big energy saver for the average citizen, and he thinks in the future we should keep Zoom as one method to attend meetings, even when we can go back to in-person meetings.

### **Old Business:**

- **It was moved to postpone the following items until later meetings:**
  - Discussion of Trail Plans Evaluation Criteria (March).**
  - Invasive Species Meeting (April):** With South Neighborhood Association, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board, County Public Works Noxious Weed Program (Laura Baldwin), Analiese Burns, Habitat and Restoration, City Public Works, Gerry Wilbour.
  - Restoration Process and Potential Public Hearing (to May or June?).**
- **Update on Posting Recordings of Meetings.** Robyn Albro reported this will be done after this meeting.
- **Interlocal Agreement for Payroll Service** Still waiting on this agreement from Whatcom Co.

### **New Business:**

- **Letter of Appreciation from Fairhaven Neighbors.** Read into the record. Will be posted on the website.

**Monthly expenses and cash flow sheets.**

**Petty Cash:** WECU Bank account balance as of 1/31/2021 was \$2,967.11.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of January 31, 2021, Whatcom Co. Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance (1/01) \$229,859, ending unencumbered cash balance (1/31) \$226,977. We received tax revenues of \$1,176 in January. Paid out \$873 in operating expenses, and \$3,184 was paid on our loan to the city of Bellingham.

Current debt outstanding as of 1/31/2021: \$648,259.

**Motion:** by John Brown to approve District Payroll Input Form, seconded by Hue Beattie for wages for Robyn Albro, 20.25 hours in January 2021, total gross of \$506.25. Approved 4/0.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion by John Brown to approve following payments, seconded by John Hymas. Approved 4/0.

- Payment on the January 15, 2021, Invoice #93816, from Carmichael Clark PS for \$146.50 for regular professional services.
- Payment on the January 15, 2021, Invoice #93817, from Carmichael Clark PS for \$4,901 for Horowitz Public Records Request.
- Payment on the January 29, 2021, Invoice #INV65882936 from Robyn Albro for Zoom Membership for the next year for \$118.27.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday March 24, 2021.

**Chuckanut Community Forest Naming Process:** Discussion of naming process for the CCF. John Brown made the Motion, and it was seconded by John Hymas. Approved 4/0.

"We, the Board of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District, request that the Director of the Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department undertake the park naming process for the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District per Policy – PAR 01.00.01 Naming of Parks, Recreation Areas And Facilities, as part of the master planning process. We request that the naming topic be the subject of a public meeting held as part of the park master planning process."

**Steering Committee for the Park Master Plan.** Bob Carmichael recommended that two board members be on the steering committee, for continuity and in case one cannot attend a meeting, the other one can. John Brown recommended Vince Biciunas to be on the Steering Committee. Vince said she would be on there as a citizen participant, with historical knowledge. Bob Carmichael recommended that there should be two board members on the committee, plus one alternate. The board could legally appoint Vince Biciunas as an honorary emeritus to represent the District on this Steering Committee.

John Brown moved, and Hue Beattie seconded that Vince Biciunas be elected as an honorary emeritus to represent the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District on the Steering Committee. Approved 4/0.

Moved by Frank James that John Brown and Frank James be appointed to the Steering Committee with Hue Beattie as an alternate. Approved 4/0.

Vince Biciunas asked John Blethen about a list of the adjoining properties, so the Steering Committee has that data. John Blethen: Parks has a list of the properties. If we can get it under the umbrella now, then that can all be conservation and it would be hard to change that later. John Blethen is going to apply to be on that steering committee. He will bring it up with Greenways.

John Brown will let Nicole Oliver know who has been voted to represent the Forest on the steering committee.

**Adjourn.** Time: 7:29 pm.