

MINUTES — Regular Meeting
CHUCKANUT COMMUNITY FOREST PARK DISTRICT
Wednesday July 26th, 2023, at 06:00 PM
 Online Meeting Through Zoom and
 In-Person at 1108 11th St, Ste 303, Bellingham
 Mailing Address: PO Box 4283, Bellingham, WA 98227

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

John Hymas jhymas1331@gmail.com
 Hue Beattie hue.ccfpd@gmail.com

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 John McLaughlin johnm.ccfpd@gmail.com
 Ed Grumbine egrumbine.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.

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: Welcome Commissioners and Citizens. Per Chapter 42.30 RCW (Open Public Meetings Act), CCFPD Board meetings are open to the public. 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: Frank James (President), Hue Beattie and Ed Grumbine. John McLaughlin is excused. John Hymas arrived a little after the start of the meeting.

Motion by Ed Grumbine and second by Hue Beattie to approve agenda. Approved 3/0.

Motion by John Hymas to approve minutes of regular meeting on June 28, 2023. Second by Ed Grumbine. Approved 4/0.

Introductions Legal counsel Bob Carmichael, Secretary Robyn Albro, Christopher Grannis, and Vince Biciunas.

General Public Comments

Vince Biciunas: I'd like to let you know I've been contacted by Pat Burnett, who is the new President of Happy Valley Neighborhood Association, suggesting that we plan a party or celebration of the 100 Acre Wood saving and so a few of us have been emailing about the idea, including the Presidents of South Hill, South, Happy Valley, Fairhaven and we haven't hit Edgemoor yet. But Brooks Anderson, the President of Fairhaven Neighbors, has asked me to be the person from the Fairhaven Neighbors Board who would be the liaison, and she also suggested that we include the business district, the historic people. So, we're still in the planning phases and this morning I went through my computer archives and I sent out the documents that I had from when we did the party five years ago and Hue Beattie was the instigator of that party, according to my records. I found the list of friends of the Forest and who to thank, I found the celebrate your neighbors, planned for that day, which was 2 to 4:00 PM music with the McHugh Boys, Prozac Mountain Boys, guided walks with Todd Ellsworth and Michael Chiavario, and then 4-5, Dean and Dudley. Keynote address by Mayor Dan Pike and then open mic. And 5-7 was a potluck supper with music and fun. During that open mic I prepared a speech, and I found the copy of that thing, June 2, 2018, where I just said two pages worth of thanks to everybody. I also found the timeline from 1990 up until 2018. I saved the PDF's and sent those out for the people who didn't remember the history. I suggested that we plan this party for after September 24th so that you Commissioners can participate and feel free to speak as private citizens as opposed to Commissioners who have to be careful what you say. If you want to add it to your meeting agenda later or whatever you feel.

Frank James: That's wonderful, Vince. Thank you so much. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for not just thinking of this party, but all the years of work you put into this, you're a force of nature in this effort. Thank you so much.

Vince Biciunas: Thank you. It wasn't my bright idea this time.

Frank James: I think we will all be willing to help in any way that we can. So, thanks and we'll certainly put it on the agenda for next time to see what we can do in terms of additional support. In the meantime, anything that you think we can do, please give us direction.

Christopher Grannis: I thought I'd come tonight out of loyalty. It's been a long slog and we're getting real close, so here we are. Thank you all for everything you've done.

Frank James: Well, much like with Vince, I think we have to say thank you to you too for your stalwart participation for many years. We're all here together as a team and it feels good to be moving towards a sense of closure.

Vince Biciunas: I have to say, Christopher's the one who twisted my elbow to run for Commissioner.

Christopher Grannis: Thank you for doing that.

Hue Beattie asked about endorsing candidates for local offices. Bob Carmichael confirmed that it is perfectly fine to endorse anybody you want to as an individual, but the Commissioners should not endorse anyone as a Commissioner of the CCFPD.

Old Business

Stewardship of 100 Acre Wood

Bob Carmichael: I did send you all a copy of an e-mail from Alan Marriner. I did speak with him today for two purposes, one to see if he had a feeling on whether we should wait for Gabe Epperson, the Land Trust Executive Director to return from vacation before signing the assignment. The Land Trust could sign the assignment with someone else, meaning we'd have to cross his name out, and Alan did indicate that he thought it'd be a good idea to go ahead and get that signed by the Land Trust without waiting. That's fine with me. So, at this point the remaining task is to have the assignment signed by the Land Trust and to obtain the funds from the County Treasurer's office.

As to the issue of whether or not the Park District Board has the authority to enter into a third party contract with an outside environmental group or a scientific group to study or monitor something like water quality or vegetation, or do an amphibian study, which I think were the three things that we talked about at the last meeting, I do believe the Board has the legal authority to do that. Having said that, I strongly recommend that the Board only do that in cooperation with the City, and if the City is not interested in that, then my recommendation would be not to enter into such a contract because any contract will end up with the City, based on not only state law but also our interlocal agreement and the agreement we just entered into with the City and the Land Trust, all assets and liabilities of the district will go to the City of Bellingham upon dissolution of the district. Any contract that we enter into would be under that category of probably both an asset and liability in terms of the rights and obligations under the contract and it makes little sense to enter into a contract that would probably have to be administered by the City if they didn't want to do that. So that's my recommendation.

Frank James: Bob, I don't think we were considering doing that, so I think that's a fine recommendation, but I think we can move on with the discussion.

Bob Carmichael: That is my recommendation and if the Park District does want to reach out to the City, I think it's probably best done informally, and I don't think my office needs to be involved in that discussion with the Parks Department. I'm also thinking that it's the sort of understanding that could be reached informally.

Frank James reached out to Nicole Oliver (who was on vacation). He also talked to Emma Norman who does the environmental sciences program at North Indian College about monitoring the water in the wetlands. The process of approval within the Northwest Indian College is complex and the Park District would need to write up a proposal they would need to take to their Board. They would need to plan a budget and carry it out and they are interested in doing that.

Bob Carmichael made the point which he addressed with Alan Marriner, which is that if data is collected and it shows that there is an adverse impact to water quality, that could be important information for deciding maybe to build a boardwalk or move a trail. Also, could possibly apply for grant money if there is data to support requests for things like that.

Frank James and Hue Beattie discussed who from the Institute of Watershed Studies to talk to about water sampling, either Robin Matthews, Professor, or Angela Strecker, Director.

Hue Beattie suggested it might be nice to take a sample of the wash that comes off the streets due to the deposits that tires leave.

Ed Grumbine reached out to Vicki Lawrence, who is an expert on herptiles and amphibians and has done work in the woods when she lived in Bellingham. She is currently retired and lives in Arizona. She was asked if she was interested in doing a survey of unknown design on the key amphibian species. Good chance she would be interested next February when the breeding season occurs. She's considering it and will get back to us by the end of August at the latest.

Motion: Ed Grumbine moved that that the Board approves that the Chair and any other Board member that is willing to join the Chair in meeting with Nicole Oliver and other City staff to discuss potential monitoring that may occur in the woods after Commission dissolution, in an effort to search out potential pathways for partnership on a certain number of issues to be determined in conversation and any cost to be covered by the funds that we still have in our budget going forward. Seconded by Hue Beattie.

Discussion that in the conversation the City might have some ideas that the Board hasn't thought about. Potential examples to be brought up by the Park District include water quality, trail issues, amphibian study.

Motion approved 4/0.

Press Release re Conservation Easement

Frank James will work with Robyn on drafting a press release when everything is finalized with the conservation easement. Hue Beattie offered to read through it and offer input. Discussed putting out the press release could be combined with publicity about the celebration. Vince will send the documents about the last party out to the Board and Robyn.

Dissolution of CCFPD

Robyn Albro met with Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director for the City of Bellingham, and Karen Thomas, Chief Deputy Treasurer of Whatcom County, to review the Dissolution Plan. She noted that a lot of the meeting was informational and they will have another meeting on August 21st.

Discussion about where Park District documents will end up going.

Bob Carmichael: This is such a rare event that there's no real road map developed for it. What I would suggest is that we turn over as many documents as we can to the City of Bellingham and let them take responsibility for the custody and care of them. I would recommend to Robyn for that to be one of the agenda topics that you raise when you meet with Andy next time and be specific about documents and see what they're willing to take and what they're not willing to take. The documents they're not willing to take, maybe you can let me know and then if I think they should take them, I can talk with Alan Marriner. Alternatively, if there's something left over, we can send it to archives, but I think that the City is the one that's going to be responsible for what we have, and we'll just have to work our way through that.

Vince Biciunas mentioned she has documents from the early days.

John Hymas mentioned talking to the Fairhaven Library as they have southside archives and they may be interested in retaining copies of some of our records.

Frank James will be donating documents from responsible development for 20 years to the archive at the University. There are a lot of documents that he didn't think the City would want, such as the full baseline study that was never published.

Hue Beattie mentioned that he'd like to send copies of whatever goes to the City also to the Goltz-Murray Archives Building, so there is more than one copy of things out there in case of fires or other events.

Discussed the archiving of the website to somewhere else as well, besides the City.

Frank James: There are many of our records that have a legal standing and I think those definitely need to go to the City and if we want to make a copy for someplace else, I think that's certainly within our purview to do that. It's not an exclusive thing that they're the only ones that get it, so I think it would be appropriate if we believe there's documents that could be better archived or differently archived, access to different people, we should have that in mind.

Discussion on what needed to be done for dissolution paperwork for the State Auditor's Office. Bob Carmichael recommended that a Resolution on the dissolution be prepared closer to the date of dissolution so that the Board can vote to dissolve on a certain date. It doesn't have to be September 21st as long as it is by then. Then there will be an official record.

Other Old Business?**New Business****Baseline Report by Whatcom Land Trust**

Motion by Ed Grumbine to approve the Whatcom Land Trust baseline report. Seconded by Hue Beattie. Approved 4/0.

Monthly expenses and cash flow sheets.

Petty Cash: WECU Bank account balance as of 06/30/2023 was \$2,917.11.

Treasurer's Report: As of June 30, 2023, Whatcom Co. Treasurer's Monthly Report, beginning unencumbered cash balance (06/01) \$284,029, ending unencumbered cash balance (06/30) \$275,644. We received tax revenues of \$369 and paid out \$8,754 in operating expenses.

Motion: by Hue Beattie to approve District Payroll Input Form, wages for Robyn Albro, 23.5 hours in June 2023, total gross of \$587.50. Second by Ed Grumbine. Approved 4/0.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Hue Beattie to approve following payments. Second by Ed Grumbine. Approved 4/0.

- Payment for June 15, 2023, Invoice #04094 from Carmichael Clark for professional services for \$8,318.50.
- Payment for July 11, 2023, Invoice #35423 from Whatcom Co. Administrative Service for 2nd Quarter 2023 Payroll Services for \$30.00.
- Payment for July 13, 2023, Invoice #L155957 from Washington State Auditor's Office for 2019-2023 Audit for \$320.25.

Reminder: Robyn Albro will send an email to three Board members right after the meeting, John Hymas, Hue Beattie, and Ed Grumbine. Please respond confirming that you approve the paying of bills as listed in the consent agenda and payroll.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 6 PM. This meeting will be held on Zoom as well as in-person at 1108 11th St. Suite 303 above Fairhaven Bicycle. If the door is locked downstairs, a phone number will be posted on the door for you to call and be let in.

Anyone attending the in-person portion of the meeting is required to wear a well-fitting mask per the Commissioners of the Chuckanut Community Forest Park District as voted at their October 26, 2022, meeting.

At this time the final scheduled meeting is set for September 13th, 2023, at 6 PM.

Park Advisory Board Meeting Report

John Hymas attended the first in-person meeting that's been held in a couple of years.

John Hymas: Everybody was totally thrilled that we are coming to the end of this project, and it coincided with the vote on putting the greenways on the levee too. There were still a few faces on the Board that recognized me and I'm going to keep going.

Adjourn. Time: 7:16 pm