

present were: Gail Fleming, chair; Shanti Loustaunou; Marianne Edain recording; Stan Berryman, Public Works; Brigid Reynolds, Planning; Roxy Taylor, Fairgrounds manager; Dominique Emerson, City Council

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm
2. The minutes of the 11-9-16 meeting were read and approved as read.
- 3.a. There was no update on Generation Park as Mr John Lawson was not present.
- 3.b. Shanti presented the results of her research concerning Seawall Park and a potential trail connection to the marina. She found that of the 6 properties between the park and the marina, #132 was not in the county's records at all. Because the deeds to these properties are so old she was not able to see them on line . All of these properties include the tidelands to the mean low tide. There is a separate agreement among the property owners forbidding the sale of any tidelands. Dominique reported that all the property owners have been asked whether they would grant a trail easement and all have refused. Shanti will do further research on the old deeds to determine the extent of tideland ownership.

The Seawall Park ad hoc committee met again this past Monday. Marianne was not able to attend. Brigid reported that the focus of the meeting was on narrowing down from the broad vision of a month ago to some more specific ideas. The attempt is to generate new ideas. The focus was on access, aesthetics, and amenities.

Dominique reported that she had been to Seawall Park and found a local woman hanging swags and wreaths on the posts and poles. Dominique was very favorably impressed by this spontaneous act which made it clear that Seawall Park really is a part of the city. She did not take the woman's name and no one seems to know who she is.

- 3.c. Shanti and Gail visited the fairgrounds to inquire as to the possibility of siting a dog park there. Fairgrounds manager Roxy Taylor was enthusiastic at the idea. The potential site has not been measured but is significantly less than 0.5 acre. The fairgrounds offers many amenities not otherwise available, such as bathrooms, running water, parking, and shade. The site will require some fencing but not much. There will also have to be some research into what surfacing is acceptable. Dominique recommended approaching FETCH for advice, information, and support. She proposed a 3 way partnership. FETCH is a 501(c)3 organization, which means donations are tax deductible. She offered to help with fundraising for the project and gave her opinion that locals are likely to be quite supportive. She was operating on the assumption that this would be designated a city park.

Roxy said that the Port Commission was most likely to be supportive, but that such support needs to be solidified. Also, the relationship among the proposed 3 partners needs to be clarified. Roxy asked for numbers about the cost of fencing, gates, and maintenance. She would expect a tenant agreement, with the City paying a monthly rent equal to the cost of maintenance and repair.

Dominique agreed to contact Mr Ron Mikkelson of FETCH. She reported on negative feedback she had received, to the effect that this was not needed, but that it came mostly from residents of The Cedars, who thought their open space area was being considered and were suffering from a serious case of NIMBY.

She made the further point that the fairgrounds are centrally located, so people would not have to get in their cars to bring their dogs there.

Roxy asked how many hotels, B&Bs and other accommodations in and around Langley allow pets. She proposed to let those businesses know that a dog park proposal was being considered, and solicit their statements of support.

Shanti and Dominique agreed to circulate a petition, which Gail and Shanti will compose. Roxy specifically asked to be included in any/all communications with the public on the subject.

Dominique reported that Whidbey Camano Land Trust does not allow dogs off leash because their lands are dedicated to protecting wildlife and some dogs actively chase and harass wildlife. Dominique asked the POS members to post questions to her, for her to pose to the FETCH representative.

4. Middle Earth trail. Gail proposed a group walk in the area, a site visit. She asked Stan to provide a map with property boundaries shown, and with ownerships. This led to a long discussion about who owns what in the Middle Earth area. Stan reported that the city owns water line easements across private property, but he did not know the specifics and limits of what could be done on those easements.

5. POS element updates. Brigid asked the POS to help map streets and roads with and without sidewalks. The intent is to be able to inform the public about where it is safe and comfortable to walk and ride a bicycle. The group worked on a list of categories under which to list the streets/roads.

1. roads with sidewalks or walkways separated from the driving portion
2. roads with shoulders
 - a. with fog line/ paved shoulder
 - b. unpaved shoulder
3. streets lacking pedestrian amenities
 - a. safe (usually dead-end streets with little traffic)
 - b. unsafe
4. off-road trails
 - a. existing
 - b. future potential

It was agreed that the spreadsheets listing parks on South Whidbey were not complete, but that it was not critical to the POS element that they be.

Shanti brought up the fact that NAS Whidbey has caused contamination of wells in the Coupeville area with PFOA and asks that Langley weigh in on this situation. Brigid suggested that Shanti contact Debbie Mahler and ask to be included in the City Council's next meeting agenda.

Gail raised the matter of the South Whidbey Garden Club and its request for proposals for grants of up to \$500.00. She asked if POS wanted to apply. There were no ideas of how to use such funds within the scope of the Garden Club's requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00