

present were:

commission members: chair Gail Fleming, Shanti Loustaunou, Joann Quintana, Marianne Edain
recording

staff: Kelsey Loch

seawall subcommittee members: Sharon Emerson, Pam Schell, John DeWit, Frank Rose

planning advisory board member: Burt Beusch

public: Guy Burneko, Jay Davenny

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 and the minutes of the 2-14-18 meeting were reviewed and approved as read.

Seawall Park report.

The POS had invited Mr Jay Davenny to present his ideas for Seawall Park, which he did. He said the site was hard to get to and needs to be enlivened. Access is a major hurdle. It is his intention to create the essential parts and to let others come up with various specifics.

There was discussion of the lack of funding, but the idea was expressed and supported that a good plan would help to generate the funds for implementation, which could be done in stages.

Jay presented ideas for generating income, including kiosks which could be leased out for sales of coffee, or the proposed shelter which could be rented for wedding events. He expressed his intention to design the site to generate revenue without impacting aesthetics.

Jay said that he expected everyone to do their homework, and that he saw himself as a facilitator, although he does have ideas for buildings and landscaping. He would prefer that the Arts Commission deal with sculptures.

Jay said he thought it would cost "a couple of thousand" to do the necessary engineering for any structures. In response to a question about designing paths compatible with other uses, Jay said that he knows the area is continually active and that its all about access. Any building below the cliff will require a major impact on the area. He would not use any paving but go with crushed gravel for paths.

John DeWit expressed skepticism and repeated the long history of the process. He wants to start with the most important and pressing needs, beginning with maintenance of the stairway, the picnic tables, and weed removal. He points out that people visit only on sunny days. He pointed out that the only other bidder had pulled out because the funds available are insufficient. He feels we need to show how we can pay for these plans or reduce our expectations to something very simple. He repeats his concerns about maintenance of the stairs, which are slippery, and the thorns which overhang them.

Gail agrees with the need to focus on maintenance and says that the city should be doing this.

Frank Rose agrees, saying that parts of the stairs are falling away; the creosote pilings need to be replaced. He is asking for a palette from which to work so there is no conflict with the city.

Discussion continued, and it was concluded that an overall concept plan is necessary in order to proceed with fundraising. It was agreed that POS would ask Public Works to take on the necessary maintenance, and if that fails, to bring the issue to the city council.

John DeWit proposed beginning with picnic benches, tables, the path, and the stairs, and when those are done, going on to other elements.

Jay agreed with John's priorities, but felt that a long term plan also needs to be in place. This would delineate the path, one or two shelters, then further steps. He pitched strongly the idea of a sand volleyball court, saying that it would draw activity and is inexpensive as well as a lot of fun. He sees Whale Bell Park as a "classroom"/shelter with a translucent roof, roughly 12' x 12', with heated rocks, enclosable, partly bermed up. There could be a display area. It would be a place to sit with a cup of coffee. It would be illuminated from below. He further proposed pods off the stairs from Boy & Dog park. At the end of the park he proposed a steam room, independently operated.

John DeWit objected to this, saying that he wants the end of the park to be the wild edge, not a money hustle.

Jay responded that they could create bird viewing platforms, and maybe a tunnel at the base of the bluff. He would consult with Mark Fessler and Barbara Kolar on bluff vegetation.

It became clear during this discussion that Jay does not yet have all of the facts in hand which will be necessary to design this project. He said that he would not be available until May.

There was discussion of a formal motion to hire Jay, who said he was very flexible.

Marianne expressed concern that Jay was not aware of the specific constraints on this site. Jay responded that he understood there were problems and would consult with Stan. He loves the plan to daylight Brookhaven Creek, and thought it would be a great place for a water powered funicular.

At this point Jay left.

Shanti moved that we hire Jay. Joann seconded, and specified that the motion is to make a recommendation to council to hire Jay.

Sharon said she wanted to work with Stan and POS to revise the contract.

The question was called and the motion to hire Jay Davenny passed with 3 yeas and 1 abstention.

Joann agreed to represent the Seawall Park subcommittee in discussions with Stan and Jay.

Stan will need to inform Jay of POS's decision.

Trails Meeting report.

The date of the public meeting has not yet been set. It depends on the availability of the various proposed speakers. Doug Coutts is available 5-17-18. Kent Hanson is available 5-23 and 24, and maybe 5-16 and 17. Joanne had looked into Washington Trails, but found that they work with and through local groups. They suggested examples such as the Clear Creek Trail, the Kitsap Task Force, and the Baker to Bellingham trail.

Marianne reported that she had spoken with Jessica Larsen of Whidbey Camano Land Trust and that she was enthusiastic to participate. **Marianne agreed to get back to Jessica to find what dates she would be available.**

It was proposed that Brian Wood, who leads Island County's non-motorized trail planning, be invited. **Marianne agreed to invite him, first to meet with POS and also to speak at the public meeting.**

There was discussion of kayak access to Langley's shorelines and the possibilities for kayak storage and camping.

The POS passed a resolution: RESOLVED, to request mayor Tim to request the South Whidbey Port District to provide safe and secure kayak storage at the Langley marina. The resolution passed unanimously.

The POS agreed tentatively to the following panel of speakers at the proposed event:

Ken Hanson re revocable trusts
Doug Coutts, South Whidbey Parks & Rec
Jessica Larsen, WCLT
Brian Wood, Island County non-motorized trails plan
Guy Burneko, local walker
Gail Fleming, POS, moderator

It was moved that Joann amend the draft handout she has produced, and that POS approves the flyer and proposal as amended. These will be forwarded to council. The date will be one of the 4 mentioned above, depending on speaker availability. This will be forwarded to Kelsey and Stan, to be included in the information packet for the next council meeting. Kelsey will speak with mayor Tim. This is proposed for the first council meeting in April. The motion passed unanimously.

Urban Forestry Plan

Kelsey provided a handout "Goal Setting – Tree Ordinance Update". Because time was running out she asked POS members to work through the questions in the handout and to provide her with our answers. Gail agreed to provide hard copy of the ordinance and pamphlet from Woodside, California.

There was discussion of tree protection vs inventory. The point was made that an Urban Forest Strategy provides the supporting documentation for a tree protection ordinance. We were referred back to the Tree City USA program.

It was proposed that we start with an outline, using the SMART handout provided by Kelsey.

1. define our goals
2. specify strategies, including an inventory

Joann asked if Kelsey could provide us with a figure for what % of Langley is a critical area – steep slopes, wetlands, etc.

Gail raised the issue of enforcement and Kelsey responded as so many planner do, that she lacks both time and funds to pursue enforcement.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.