

present were:

commission members: Gail Fleming, chair; Joann Quintana; Marianne Edain recording  
staff: Kelsey Loch, assistant planner; Brigid Reynolds, planner; Stan Berryman, public works  
public: Guy Burneko

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 and the minutes of the 3-14-18 meeting were reviewed and approved as read.

Urban Forest Strategy – Kelsey presented a map she had prepared of trees which had been removed with city permits from 2015 to date. Gail reported that some landowners complain about the minimum cost of \$200.00 to consult an arborist. Those parties ask to be relieved of this obligation. Kelsey's map showed that +/- 10 trees/year are removed with permits. She reviewed as far back as 2008 and found that there are regulations around street trees but no management plans. Kelsey believed management plans were necessary.

Gail asked what protections there were for trees on private property. Kelsey said she had read Jeff Arango's report, which discusses those protections. Brigid said there is code in existence and that it was being implemented.

Joann asked what regulations applied to tree trimming and topping. Brigid and Stan both said that no permits are required. *Brigid suggested instead that POS develop recommended strategies, a good list of recommended trees, and review power line easements. She asked for a framework for POS's concerns and intentions.*

Gail brought up the "I don't like it" amendment to the tree protection ordinance and asked that the reasons for cutting trees be limited. Brigid responded that there were problems with trees related to bluffs, Cascade Avenue, and views in general. She said the code requires removed trees to be replaced but that there is no follow up. *She asked POS to focus on what changes are wanted or needed.*

Joann asked how the city maintains its trees. Stan responded that it doesn't. Joann asked if the city has a site map of its trees. Stan responded that there was no inventory.

This led to discussion of the potential for planting trees in rights of way. Marianne asked what set-aside requirements there might be in rights of way. Stan responded that there were issues of sight distance, sewer lines, power lines, water pipes, and more. *Joann repeated her request for mapping of rights of way in order to be able to identify locations appropriate for planting trees. She would like to see a program of tree awareness and tree care and asks how to motivate people to plant and care for trees. She proposed one or more public event(s) to inform and motivate people.*

Brigid repeated her request that POS focus on 4 goals.

Joann proposed: *1) sketch in ROW and other potential city owned property. Brigid proposed 2) a rough canopy cover map. Kelsey complained that the system for creating such a map is dysfunctional. 3) generate a list of appropriate trees – and the situations for which they are appropriate. 4) education for awareness and care of trees.*

Gail asked if there were any consequences for violations of tree protection ordinances and Brigid said that mostly the city was not aware of violations, so there were no consequences. She said it was a major issue.

Joanne said she preferred education to enforcement. *Gail proposed a fun, educational public meeting.* Joanne agreed and thought it could be *coordinated with the library to have an exhibit in conjunction.* She offered to *sketch out goals for tree protections in Langley.* She asked Marianne to *create matrix of conditions in Langley and trees which would serve in those conditions.* POS agreed to move forward on this, but that it is not an immediate priority.

Brigid pointed out that it would be good to *have a framework in place in time for the fall budget discussions.*

Marianne asked what reasons landowners gave for wanting to remove trees, and Brigid responded with the usual list of 'mostly dead, diseased, or hazardous.'

Seawall Park – Sharon Emerson not being present, Joann was asked to report on progress. She reported that Jay Davenny had gotten the contract. As Gail was not available, Joann presented the report to council, but she only reported on trails, and not on Seawall Park or Jay's contract. She reported that there have been two meetings to date, one which involved Jay, Stan, Sharon, and herself. Jay reported that he had cleared his calendar and was now well prepared. Sharon and Joann informed Jay of work

already done around Seawall Park. Jay announced that he was ready to begin work and would be using the services of Mark Fesler and Barbara Kolar to advise him about plants.

Joann further reported that the Langley Public Arts Consortium is working on fundraising for functional art at Seawall Park. Ross Chapin had previously proposed to daylight Brookhaven Creek from First Street to the shore. This led to discussion of the possibilities for a terraced switchback path parallel to the daylighted creek.

Kelsey reported that she had applied for a stormwater grant to study options for daylighting the creek. Bob Herzberg, who works at the front desk, reported on historic events which determined the location of the creek between the visitor center and First Street.

Gail raised the question of how to integrate Whale Bell Park and Seawall Park. Kelsey agreed that design and work plans needed to be integrated. Joann pointed out that Ross had done preliminary sketches. Kelsey responded that Ross's work referred only to First Street.

It was proposed that POS request council to integrate Whale Bell and Seawall parks. This led to the conclusion that it would interfere with the contract just signed with Jay Davenny and that for now it was best to leave well enough alone.

Kelsey said she would know about the feasibility grant in May or June, and that would cover engineering and the biological and geological condition of the area. It was agreed to wait for more information before integrating the two parks.

Gail raised the issues of maintenance, particularly at the Boy & Dog stairs. Stan said that the blackberries had been cut and that the wood surfaces were scheduled to be pressure washed soon.

It appears that a resident of Cedar Circle has complained about a lack of maintenance at the city's park there. That person has asked that the playground equipment be upgraded and that a dog park be installed. Stan agreed to inspect the playground. All agreed that a dog park at that location was a non-starter.

Trails meeting. The meeting has been set for May 17, from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Methodist church. There was discussion of what equipment the various speakers might need, and it was concluded that *POS needs to contact the speakers and ask what they need. Kelsey agreed to create a large map and proposed mounting that on foamcore and using pushpins to note locations.*

Joann proposed two separate maps, one to show places people like to hike at present and another showing where they would like to hike in the future. It was agreed that the area of concern would be limited to Langley's Joint Planning Area. It was further agreed to *ask Doug Coutts and Kent Hanson what maps they would like to have present*, to include the Island County trails map. The point was reiterated that we are soliciting information from the public via these maps and that the overall goal is connectivity. *Presenters will be asked to bring whatever handouts they may have available.*

Joann proposed *providing forms for people to suggest trails.*

Gail proposed *tables or stations for each speaker*, so people could engage in individual conversations.

Joann said that mayor Tim would open the meeting and announce that the city attorney has approved the concept of revocable licenses. Kelsey pointed out that Island County had quite recently held a series of open houses about trails, one of them on south Whidbey.

The outline of the event to date was: Langley would provide 2 maps, Kent Hanson 1. Doug Coutts would mostly just talk about connectivity between Langley and Parks & Rec lands. Island County would provide 1 map. WCLT would discuss their projects and probably bring a map.

It became obvious that an interim meeting is in order to iron out the many details and loose ends. It was agreed that *Kelsey would open up the hall at 5:00 pm* and that speakers should arrive at least by 6:00, or earlier if they have a display to set up. *All parties agreed to poke around for free standing easels or other supports for large maps.* It was agreed that there would be no food at this event. *Kelsey agreed to consult with the church about sound equipment. Joann agreed to contact the Whidbey Record, and that we need to post flyers and notify Drew's List. Kelsey agreed to post the notice at the library, city hall, and post office. Joann agreed to write a press release or short article for Kelsey to post to the press. Joann also agreed to post the notice to the Record calendar.*

Guy said that his family was making plans of which he was not yet sure, and that while he hoped to be present as a member of the hiking public, he could make no promises.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.