

Langley Parks & Open Space Commission

meeting of 5-9-18 minutes

present were:

POS board members - Gail Fleming, chair; Joann Quintana, Marianne Edain recording staff - Brigid Reynolds, planner; Kelsey Loch, assistant planner
public – Sharon Emerson, Seawall Park subcommittee; Guy Burneko; David Albright; Trilby Coolidge

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm

The minutes of the 4-11-18 meeting were reviewed and approved as read.

Seawall Park report – Sharon Emerson reported that she and Joann had met with Public Works director Stan and contractor Jay Davenny and that “all is well.” They will meet again next week. Sharon felt a need to check in regularly with Jay as he has so many ideas. The Seawall Park subcommittee is aiming for a public meeting in the fall, perhaps September. Sharon will be checking in with Main Street. Joann points out that they will need to have something legible to present to the public. People are asking about access to Seawall Park. That access is through “other” parks since the area is so divided on paper. The concern is that the Seawall Park subcommittee has no say over those other areas, which ties their hands. There is a need for coordination. There was also a question as to what might trigger ADA access requirements for Seawall Park. It is a given that the utility road must remain driveable. Sharon proposes an ADA subcommittee. This would give POS authority concerning Whale Bell park and Boy & Dog park, since those are the primary access points for Seawall Park. Work on all of these areas needs to be coordinated. This led to the conclusion that there needs to be broader scale planning than just for individual sub-unit parks. The issue was raised about potential for conflict between plans for Seawall Park and the Complete Streets project on 1st Street.

Guy Burneko asked why there was no pedestrian access between Seawall Park and the Langley marina. All parties laughed at the question because this is such a sensitive issue. Brigid pointed out that all of these plans are being made in the absence of funds to implement them. The Seawall Park subcommittee took on a single discreet task. Improving access to parks city-wide is important. It would be good to make such access a priority for POS.

This led to a proposal to create an access subcommittee, and several local sources of expertise were named: Chris Carlson, and access planner; Kyle Richardson, a wheelchair user and access advocate; Mel Trenor, president of Island Beach Access. It was concluded that POS would need council approval for such a subcommittee, and that it would be best to start small, with Seawall Park. Joann coined the phrase “little village sort of by the sea” as the image we want to get past.

Joann moved that POS forward a request to council for approval of a POS subcommittee to study universal accessibility to Seawall Park and further, to work in conjunction with the Seawall Park subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously. Brigid agreed to present the request to council. Gail asked POS members to contact potential subcommittee members and to solicit their participation.

Brigid left the meeting at 3:40 pm

Garden Tour grant proposal – Marianne submitted a grant proposal to the Whidbey Island Garden Tour in the names of WEAN and City of Langley. The application is for funds to do cleanup and weed control in the 8 acre “middle earth” city well site. The idea is to reconstruct several old trails and boardwalks, to remove noxious weeds in those areas, and to post informative signs. Long term maintenance would be the province of Public Works, but would include work parties for weed removal and trail maintenance. Stan, who is usually present at POS meetings was not present this time so could not be consulted. In the past there have been Public Works maintenance spreadsheets, and POS would like to see those again. Kelsey was asked to solicit regular monthly reports from Stan.

The question of drainage at the Highlands was raised. There is a small area there which is designated as a city park but actually functions as a stormwater collection site. If the site is not a park then the city is owed reimbursement. There is in fact a drainage problem, but that should have been corrected by the developer. The matter is now for his heirs to finish. The Highlands Homeowners Association believes that it has an insurance problem and proposes to donate a trail corridor along Al Anderson Road in exchange for the city dealing with the drainage issue.

Highlands resident David Albright would like a trail through Middle Earth. He was informed of the upcoming trails meeting on 5-17-18. Mr Albright offered to finance a bench at an overlook point along such a trail. Trilby Coolidge stated that she believes the presence of the heron rookery prevents any development in that area.

Trails Meeting – Gail distributed copies of the information flyer to be posted around Langley. There was discussion of how to publicize the meeting. Kelsey was asked to contact the Whidbey Record and to offer an article. All POS members were asked to contact their various assigned speakers and ask them to publicize the meeting to their outreach lists. It was discovered that Mayor Tim would not be available to open the meeting after all as there was a mayor’s meeting he had to attend. It was agreed that Gail would open the meeting in his stead. There was further discussion of the finer points of who would bring what and what handouts we would have available.

Kelsey announced a State of the Sound meeting, by the Puget Sound Partnership, at 6:30 pm on Thursday 5-10-18 at the Langley Methodist Church.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm