

present were:

POS board members: Gail Fleming, chair; Joann Quintana, Marianne Edain recording staff: Kelsey Loch, assistant planner; Stan Berryman, Public Works director

audience: Peter Morton, city council liaison; Sharon Emerson, Seawall Park subcommittee; Ross Chapin; Guy Burneko

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

The minutes of the 5-9-18 meeting were approved as read.

Seawall Park report – Joann reported that two days before she met with Jay Davenny, Sharon Emerson and Stan at the Seawall. She reported that Jay had “interesting ideas” including a proposal to change the extension of Anthes. Stan needs to review this. Jay has proposed a “burning man” with a propane flame associated with a warming shelter which would be visible from Anthes. The design is being refined. Jay is coordinating with the owners of the Dog House. There is to be a Seawall Park subcommittee meeting in July, and that information will be presented to POS. The July POS meeting might be an appropriate time to have Jay present.

Concerns have been expressed about the lights currently shining on the water from the seawall as they are shining all night. This interferes with the functions of the ocean ecosystem.

This led Peter Morton to announce that there will be a Dark Sky presentation at the next city council meeting. The question was raised if there had been any further reports of drugs at the seawall. POS had requested and council agreed to hold off closing the park at night for 6 months to evaluate the situation. This seems to have fallen off the table but there have been no complaints or reports in the interval.

Sharon reported that the Seawall subcommittee intends to report to POS at its August meeting, particularly concerning cost estimates. With POS approval, the proposal would go before the council in late August and hopefully go to a public meeting in September. The contract with Jay ends in October, but can be extended.

Accessibility Subcommittee - Brigid has asked for greater clarity in what this subcommittee would do. Brigid asserts that committee members must be approved by the mayor. Joann has contacted Mr Chris Solomon, a planner, who is interested in the subcommittee. She is planning to have coffee with Mr Solomon to discuss what the subcommittee would or could do. POS is agreed that we need to have a clear statement of the intended goal. POS is further agreed that this committee would extend beyond just Seawall Park. To begin we need to understand what laws and standards apply.

Goosefoot grant application – Marianne presented the ‘letter of inquiry’ submitted to Goosefoot by WEAN in cooperation with the city. The intent is to restore the old trails in the ‘Middle Langley’ area, to rebuild boardwalks and bridges as necessary, to remove invasive species, and to post at least 3 information signs.

While working on this application Marianne was informed that at least one beaver had returned to the ‘Middle Langley’ area. Area property owners are evidently quite happy with this but are concerned that the beaver(s) might want to take down heron nest trees. They have contracted to have at least some of the trees protected.

Trails meeting follow-up – Ross Chapin reports that he may be working with the owner of land on Coles Road (the former Trillium property south of the treatment plant) who would like to see a connecting trail from their property into the rest of the city. Ross asks how we can make this happen, and asks POS to follow up. There may be funds available. He asks that POS ascertain the ownerships of properties between the two ends of the proposed trail. All of this led to a general discussion on how to proceed, and how to move from a general idea to a specific program. Sharon was asked to report on her experience with granting a trail easement. She said she had been deeply involved in the campaign to protect the Saratoga Woods, and the easement grew out of that. She pointed out that the easement language contained an escape clause.

The general conclusion was that POS would examine maps, aerial images; walk the existing trails; and finally approach intervening landowners.

2018 Work Plan – Kelsey provided a list of all the various things POS could be doing. The question became where to begin. One suggestion was to pick a single project and finish that before going further. The opposite was to start more broadly and then to narrow down. It was agreed that if either of the 2 grant applications is approved, then Middle Langley will become the #1 project.

Kelsey pointed out that the work plan is just a list of potential projects, with potential end dates, but does ask for guidance from POS to be able to set staff priorities.

All agree that trails are a priority. There is concern that increased development will foreclose the option for some trails, so best to work on those now. There has been a trails map in the Comp Plan for some years. It was pointed out that the city has authority to require connections to trails with new development. This led to the realization that any project at Coles Road would be required to provide trails, as well as Upper Langley.

There was a proposal to specify the purpose of individual trails, both existing and potential, both official and unofficial. This would require a protocol for establishing trails and for identifying potential trails. The question becomes how to convince property owners.

Kelsey asked for a plan, a continuing document which would identify various trail types: connectors, loops, and neighborhood trails. These need to be inventoried, photographed, and GPSd.

It was agreed that the next POS meeting would be a workshop devoted to this subject. In particular it is important to set priorities for trail acquisition and/or construction, and for trail locations. This would integrate with the city's comp plan.

There was a proposal to consider using the sewer utility easement through the Coles Road area as a trail corridor.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to: 1) schedule a workshop session 2) to categorize potential trails 3) to prioritize trail possibilities 4) to identify a pilot project.

Following the workshop it is proposed to schedule a site visit/walk to the chosen site.

It was further agreed that the next meeting, 7-11-17, would be the workshop session.

Joann agreed to post notes of today's meeting to Chris Solomon.

Other business – Peter Morton requested to be added to the POS distribution list as he is city council liaison. Agreed.

Kelsey reported that the city had hired Chris Baldwin to work on the Wayfinding. A meeting with Chris has been scheduled for 6-28-18 to discuss issues and preliminary design for the signs. There are to be 1 to 2 additional meetings and then a public meeting to present the various options.

Gail inquired about the application process for membership on POS. The process is that an applicant fills out the application form, meets with POS, which forwards a recommendation to the mayor. The applicant then meets individually with the relevant city staff and finally with the mayor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.