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City of Langley
PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 2019
LANGLEY CITY HALL
112 2nd Street, Langley WA

ATTENDANCE

Board: Gail Fleming, Chair; Shanti Loustaunou, Marianne Edain

Regrets: Joann Quintana

Staff: Stan Berryman, Director of Public Works; Jill Needham, Planning Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM

2. Approve agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approve minutes of

The minutes of the July 24 special meeting were approved, with minor grammatical errors fixed.

4. Discussion Items:

a. Outerloop Trail Update

The matter of the proposed development south of the sewage treatment plant was raised. Jill responded that Council has not voted to invite the City to explore the preliminary plans yet. Brigid plans to attend the September meeting to brief POS on the preliminary plans. The City plans to meet with Phil Simon to discuss his proposal since only 1 single family lot is likely possible. The survey estimate for this project is \$15k.

b. LAC/POS collaboration

POS motioned to recommend to Council to request \$5k in collaboration with LAC for the purpose of hiring a grant writer. It was mentioned that the budget is extremely tight.

This led to a discussion of the proposed infrastructure expansion project, to which Island County has committed \$3 million. Peter provided POS with copies of the PowerPoint presentation from the Infrastructure Committee, which consists of Mayor Tim and three Council members.

The question was raised as to whether POS has adopted a 5 year plan, which led to the question if such plan is even needed. Jill pointed out that POS has a vision plan, and a workplan for 2019, both of which were approved by the Council. Gail proposed that the matter be put on the September agenda.

Gail reported on the LAC meeting. Based on what Debbie and Rose had said, the funding had to be for specific projects and needed to be defined before funding is allocated to seek grants.

Shanti expressed concern about the Middle Earth trail reestablishment disturbing the herons and proposed a simple observation platform rather than the trail.

Gail conveyed that the ADA portable restroom for Seawall Park should qualify as a project. She reports that Mayor Tim had suggested an artistic “shell” to camouflage it. Such a project would involve both POS and LAC.

Peter suggested that Gail create a presentation to Council outlining these projects. He suggested using Jay Davenny’s plan to show the overlap with LAC. Then Diane Divelbess, on behalf of LAC, can report on which projects do and do not overlap.

Gail noted that there were more projects she’d like to see included, though they don’t necessarily qualify as “large” capital projects. Gail reported on her research regarding ADA porta potties. All septic pumping on the Island is now controlled by the Gabeleins. She spoke with Mr. Rob Gabelein, who declined to install a porta potty at Seawall Park. She then contacted Honeybucket, a large regional company, that quoted a price of \$212 per month and an \$80 one-time installation fee.

Marianne prompted Jill to prompt Rose to provide POS with the principles she referred to at the 7/24 special meeting.

POS moved to request its Council liaison, Peter Morton, to introduce a joint POS/LAC budget item of \$5000 for the purpose of soliciting a grant writer. Motion carried.

Gail reported that Ross Chapin was concerned that the Wishing Whale project has moved forward without coordinating with the First Street Redesign group, particularly on how to deal with the incline and daylighting of Brookhaven Creek. Peter responded that LAF invited Ross to their incoming site visit, planned for 8/19/19 at Whale Bell Park. Gail reported that Ross has been wondering why no one has proposed buying the private land adjacent to Seawall Park to expand and consolidate it.

Marianne asked what happened to Brookhaven Creek at the upstream end of the culvert. Stan explained a beaver had taken up residence and began blocking the culvert and removed several trees. Marianne agreed to conduct a site visit to make recommendation for stabilizing the streambanks.

Marianne raised the issue of the bluff and view management near the Cascade Walkway. Stan explained that he hires Pioneer Tree Service to do annual trim of the bluff vegetation for a cost of approximately \$5-6k. Gail proposed that the City hire a new arborist. Stan replied that POS make a formal recommendation to Council.

POS formally moved to recommend to Council that city solicit bids from to hire a bluff management consultant to create a management plan for the bluff near Cascade Walkway. POS will create criteria for such a plan before approval by Council. Criteria proposed to be included will include:

- Bluff stability
- View for tourists
- Long term, low maintenance
- Restoration with native plants

Jill asked where funding for a consultant to draft this plan would come from.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Citizen comments

There were no citizen comments.

7. Announcements

There were no announcements

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM

9. Next Regular Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2019.

Guiding Principles for Citizen Committees and Boards.

- All advisory board and committee meetings are to be conducted in public session and noticed in accordance with state law, unless otherwise advised by the city attorney.
- Individual committee members and the collective group will be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, staff, and each other.
- Committee members will respect the limitations of their individual and collective authority. The role of the committee is to advise the city council and/or staff. Please keep in mind that committee appointment does not empower you to make final decisions, unless authorized by state law or the group's enabling ordinance, or to supervise staff.
- Members will strive to appreciate differences in approach and point of view, whether from each other, the community, the city council, or staff.
- Each member will participate in the group's discussions and work assignments without dominating the discussion or activity of the committee.
- The committee chair will ensure that all members have a fair, balanced, and respectful opportunity to share their knowledge and perspectives.
- The committee will attempt to reach consensus on issues. If consensus is not possible, strong differing opinions, such as "minority" opinions, should be recorded and acknowledged in the committee's report to the city council.
- There should be "no surprises" from the committee, either in the nature of the work being undertaken by the committee or the method and timing for conveyance of recommendations to the city council. The staff liaison fulfills an important role in assisting the committee in this regard.

When presenting recommendations to the Council, it is essential that advisory group members keep the following in mind:

- all recommendations should be in written form;
- all ideas should be expressed in clear and concise language;
- proposed solutions should be viable and cost-effective;
- recommendations should identify the reasons for the changes suggested;
- the advice should reflect a consensus of a majority of the group members.