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City of Langley
PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
LANGLEY CITY HALL
112 2nd Street, Langley WA

ATTENDANCE

Board: Gail Fleming, Chair; Joann Quintana, Marianne Edain

Regrets: Shanti Loustaunou

Staff: Stan Berryman, Director of Public Works; Jill Needham, Planning Assistant; Rose Hughes
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 PM

2. Approve agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approve minutes of

The minutes of the 8/14/2019 were approved with minor amendments

Discussion Items:

a. Outerloop Trail Update

Jill reported she met with Phil Simon, who verbally agreed to a single buildable lot in exchange for the trail easement and the remainder of the land west of the easement. The land east of the easement but outside the buildable lot will go in a critical area tract. The entire parcel would be annexed into the city. Feasibility is likely to be costly.

Gail pointed out that we need to find a suitable route around the treatment plant since it is a secure facility not open to the public.

Gail also reported that there is resistance from other neighbors in the vicinity, so a trail to 6th St across private property may not be possible. Ross Chapin had suggested that widening a small segment of Coles Rd near Third St may be a viable alternative as long as funds are available.

Gail suggested that Kent Hanson and Jill speak with the Fosseks regarding Segment 1.

b. Wishing Whale

Peter reported that there will be a Wishing Whale meeting tomorrow. There have been several site visits and a meeting with Ross Chapin, artist Georgia Gerber and other stakeholders. Other considerations include potential future lift/elevator, daylighting of Brookhaven Creek, soils analysis, and SEPA and SMA. Peter reports that the project is more than 80% funded and the project may soon go public. Parenthetically, Peter mentioned the issue of climate change and the 50th Earth Day and suggested the future wishing whale site could host a celebration. He met this morning with Mayor Tim, Vicki Robin, and Christy Korow about how to coordinate.

c. POS 5-year Plan

Jill handed out copies of the Trails Vision Plan and the 2019 POS Work Plan. Rose provided the draft spreadsheets. Joann suggested that POS use the spreadsheet format to prioritize projects. This led to discussion of the spreadsheets as presented, and how they would work for the purpose. Some refining work was necessary.

Rose said that this is a tool trying to quantify and rank things hierarchically, and then walked us through it. The purpose of the tool is the ability to rank decisions by disparate criteria. First one has to identify the criteria and divide those by the over-riding priorities. It comes down to the biggest bang for the buck. One is able to rank principles and values. One can decide which criteria area is of over-riding concern, i.e – how time-critical and how many people are affected. She picked 10 project items from the Trails vision. The first page is a summary. Each project is ranked based on values. The second page is the criteria to be applied. Rose asked that POS members use the template individually, and then work together. She will do some calculations on her own. She stressed that this is an iterative process.

Joann raised the issue of a grant consultant and where that fits into the template.

Gail said that in order to accomplish actual projects we first need the grant writer to help secure the funding, so this item should rise to the top.

Rose mentioned that projects are attractive because they are specific and concrete. The over-riding value POS provides is valuable.

Joann said we need project development oversight/bird-dogging.

Rose then went on to the budget. The first draft, the Mayor's budget, will be presented 10-1-19. The council then amends that budget. POS needs to write up a budget request to the mayor or, after 10-1-19, to the council.

Joann points out that any request will require council approval, so we need to show how our projects meet council's priorities.

Jill suggested adding items from the 5 year plan.

Peter handed out a paper with his thoughts.

d. Cascade Walkway Bluff Management

Marianne read her questions to consultant Elliot Menashe and his responses. Peter pointed out that a bluff study and vegetation management plan would require significant funding, most likely through a grant.

Joann mentioned the proposed 'creative district' to connect between the library/2nd Street and WICA.

Peter asked POS to present a 'plan for a plan.' Marianne agreed to write up such a plan.

Joann suggested that the Port should be involved, as a bluff failure would block the entire lower Langley area.

e. RCO

Stan is still waiting for word.

4. New Business

There was no new business.

5. Citizen comments

There were no citizen comments.

6. Announcements

There were no announcements

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM

8. Next Regular Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 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.