

MEETING MINUTES
Seawall Park Ad Hoc Committee
Monday, January 30, 2017
5:30 PM, Langley City Council Chambers

Attendees: Becky McLemore, Bernadette Aguiar, Frank Rose, Joann Quintana, John de Wit, Leanne Finlay, Marianne Edain, Sharon Emerson (chair), Moe Jerome, Jeannie Miller, Brigid Reynolds (staff)

Agenda, meeting minutes: The meeting agenda was adopted. Minutes from the December 14, 2016 meeting were approved with no changes.

Commonalities: A one-page description was distributed of the commonalities and areas of consensus in committee discussions thus far.

Practicalities: It was pointed out that it's unclear whether some of the desired improvements to the park are practical because of limitations, such as how narrow the strip of public land is, as well as the need for utility access.

Plan versus commonalities: It was pointed out that having commonalities in the discussion thus far does not mean the committee has developed a plan.

Bluff stability: The bluff is private property. It was brought up that planting native plants on the bluff would help to stabilize it. Also, there is a need to protect the bluff from children and others climbing on it. This could be done with vegetative barriers.

The need for understanding the stability of the bluff should be added to the list of commonalities. Planning Director Brigid Reynolds pointed out that there was a study in the 1980s. Whereas the study contents remain relevant today, more study is needed. The need for a geotechnical study of the bluff was discussed.

Property owners: Now that the committee has come up with some basic ideas concerning park improvements, it is vital that there be more dialogue with the private property owners, and that meetings with owners take place sooner rather than later. The committee's basic ideas thus far need to be shared with the property owners. And owners need to share their thoughts and concerns. It was brought up that many property owners are concerned that the public believes there is a greater amount of public land at the park than is the case. Owners could be consulted individually, as a group, or both.

Brigid pointed out that all property owners have been contacted concerning the park improvement effort. She also shared with committee members the intention to meet with the owners in the next few months, with initial meetings with the property owners being small, to include Brigid, the Ad Hoc Committee chair and secretary, and any committee members with a particular interest in attending.

Wayfinding signage: On the list of commonalities is the need for consistent wayfinding signage. Brigid pointed out that the city has some funding for, and is in the midst of developing, a wayfinding signage program for the town. Signage for the park will benefit from this effort.

Theme: A motion was made by Committee member (and Langley Arts Commission Chair) Frank Rosen to adopt a theme for Seawall Park improvements.

Following discussion, the committee voted to adopt the theme of “Northwest natural beauty,” with this theme encompassing, but not being limited to, Coastal Salish tribes, art, environmental stewardship and history.

Regarding Coastal Salish tribes, it was pointed out that the “tribal art totem poles” in place at the park now were not created by Coastal Salish tribal artists. Brigid spoke of the need for any future Coastal Salish “tribal art” at the park to actually be created by artists who are tribal members.

Photographs: Committee members reviewed and discussed a series of images from various locations depicting examples of the types of improvements the committee is considering for the park, e.g. promenades, iconic art in parks, Coastal Salish tribal art, play/exercise equipment, park shelters, benches, picnic tables, steps, natural landscaping.

ADA access: A plan concerning ADA access will need to be a long-term plan, with access improvements being made in stages and the ultimate goal being full ADA compliance. All options for improved access to the park should be scrutinized.

Working groups: It was pointed out that establishing some working groups would make sense. Three potential working groups mentioned:

- To develop more detail concerning possible “attractions” at the east end of the park.
- To develop a process for obtaining an actual design for the park improvements. Frank pointed out that the Langley Arts Commission could be tasked with coming up with a design for the park improvements and that the arts commission has some funds for such an effort.
- To obtain more information concerning potential grants and other sources of funding for park improvements. In regard to grants, Frank pointed out that the city has a grant funding computer program. You provide needs/parameters and the program suggests potential grants that are applicable to the needs.

The next meeting of the Seawall Park Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled for **Thursday March 9th at 6:15 PM** at Langley City Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.