

Langley Parks & Open Space Commission meeting minutes 3-15-16

present were Gail Fleming, Socorro Rodriguez, Marianne Edain recording
staff: Stan Berryman public: Guy Burneko

The meeting was held in the upstairs meeting space.

The minutes of the February 11, 2016 meeting were read and approved.

There was discussion of the Parks and Open Space element of the comprehensive plan, and how that was to be presented to the Planning Advisory Board. Stan provided copies of an updated capital facilities financing chart, to replace the outdated version on page 28.

There was a major discussion of how to proceed with the grant application to the state Recreation and Conservation Office. There is a tight deadline for submission of the revised and approved comp plan element, 3-31-16, and then the actual grant application will be due 5-1-16. The commission worked its way through the requirements of the application and how to fulfill those.

The matter of The Cedars was raised. It has been discovered that 1) there is a public trail owned by the city running through The Cedars. That trail is overgrown by blackberries and not accessible by the public. There is also a plat condition that homeowners pay \$100.00/year toward maintenance of a playground and retention pond. That has not happened in some years and the question arose as to whether the fee could be shifted to maintenance of the trail. Ms Rodriguez, an attorney, immediately read the dedication on the plat and opined that such a transfer would not be allowed.

At the last meeting it was agreed that Stan would notify homeowners of the existence of the trail. He had not yet done so. He asked for specifics of what he should tell the homeowners, and proposed to post notes on their doors. This was strongly rejected. Stan then pointed out that the city's police chief lives at The Cedars and knows the residents. Stan proposed to speak with the police chief and have him speak with his neighbors.

It was concluded that the POS, with city staff, need to make a site visit to study the feasibility of re-opening the trail.

The status of the 4 projects on the POS agenda this year had to be cut short for lack of time. There was a fair amount of discussion about Noble Creek, the property and the history of negotiations. One of the conditions of the RCO grant is verification that the landowner is aware of the city's intentions. Contact with landowner Ted Noble will require Mayor Tim's approval. Gail agreed to speak with the mayor about that. RCO grants generally require a local match. The master at such grant packages is Pat Powell of Whidbey Camano Land Trust. Marianne agreed to speak with Pat. Gail agreed to contact former planner Jeff Arango to solicit from him what public comment had been received on the Noble Creek property when it was first proposed for acquisition.

Put off until the next meeting was discussion of bluff management and the plant salvage project, although Marianne did report that a grant application had been submitted by Whidbey Environmental Action Network to the Garden Tour, with the city listed as a cooperator in the project.

In closing, Marianne agreed to post a Word version of the Parks and Open Space element of the comp plan to: pab@langleywa.org, with cc to mayor Tim, Stan Berryman, the POS commission members, and Mr Burneko.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2016.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 5:00.