

Langley Parks & Open Space Commission meeting minutes 9-10-15 3:00 pm

present were commission members Nancy Rowan, chair, Gail Fleming, and Marianne Edain, recording. Staff: Stan Berryman. In the audience was Mr Guy Burneko

There was discussion of a booklet of images of Langley's parks created by Mr Harrison Goodall. It is well done and useful, and could use some updating.

Nancy reported that the end of Park Street, at the bluff, has been taken over by a neighbor who is denying public access.

Gail reported on work by Kathleen Landel concerning the former trail easement through The Cedars. Gail asked planner Davolio to find the original plat conditions for The Cedars. Mr Davolio declined to do so.

ACTION ITEM: find the conditions of approval for The Cedars, and find if there are any trail easements on properties outside the city limits. Gail wishes to continue work on the existing and potential conceptual trail system plan.

There was discussion of the review and update of the comprehensive plan element. We agree that the opening is very good, but is not being followed by city staff.

Nancy announced that on 9-17-15 at 6:00 pm there would be a special joint meeting of the city council and the Planning Advisory Board at which it is important that the POS be represented. Planner Davolio will be presenting his alternative proposal to that which the PAB approved. Mr Ron Kasprisin complains that the Design Review Board is approving signs and is not being taken seriously.

Nancy read the minutes of the 8-13-15 meeting, which were approved as read.

Stan Berryman followed up on the city's Conservation Futures grant and on the POS budget request in general. He reports that Mayor Fred is handling all budget requests and that Island County has not yet responded to his inquiry about the Conservation Futures funds.

Gail reminded the POS that Mr Frank Rose of the Arts Commission had asked for notice of POS meetings and for agendas.

There was discussion of the issue of the shrinking UGA, the designation of the JPA and how that would affect the language in the comp plan element. Once determined, language referring to the UGA will need to be amended throughout the element. The list of park names needs to be verified and updated. The chart currently on page 7, showing publicly owned tracts in Noble Cliff, Woodside, and The Cedars also needs to be verified and updated. There was some discussion of mapping anomalies and how to deal with them. The question was raised as to the status of Noble Creek north of Edgecliff.

Gail reported speaking with realtor Gary Piper concerning the price of the Noble property, and was told that the piece fronting on Edgecliff is listed at \$350k and the part behind the park & ride is listed at \$650k.

There was detailed review of the comp plan element, which resulted in many notes on that document. Those will be recorded separately.

A question was raised about the Coles Road natural area. Guy Burneko reports that he used to hike from Coles Road to Brooks Hill via the PSE property and offers to walk people on any of the trails in that area. He also offered to be part of a 'seminar' on what is happening elsewhere around public trail issues.

**ACTION ITEM:** ask Elliott Menashe for his opinion on thinning the Coles Road property, and contact Linda and Leonard Good about the trail.

Nancy proposed that the comp plan element be revised to include a set of priorities and a long-term schedule for achieving those goals. She further suggested that we are being too specific and wants us to focus on an overview with major themes.

The PAB intends to review the POS comp plan element at its 12-2-15 meeting.

Nancy asks a fundamental question: are we just editing the existing document, amending the existing document, adding to the existing document, or starting from scratch?

This led to a discussion of different types of parks – active vs passive. In this regard Nancy asked for greater specificity in the comp plan element.

And this led to a discussion of the relationship between staff and advisory boards. There is a feeling of dissatisfaction with staff, who seem to ignore and even disrespect some boards. (should this be included?)

Nancy proposed presenting the final draft comp plan element to the PAB and then to co-present with PAB to the council.

Nancy agreed to create an outline of her preferred comp plan element.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm