

Minutes of the Meeting: October 5th, 2023

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Tabb Stringer, Kit Gerwels

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Darby Jordan

Meeting held in person and via Zoom and called to order at 6:01PM

Minutes: September minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

Friends of the Forest Update:

Ellie will attend Forest Board meetings until a new Executive Director is hired. She reported that they are prepping for the benefit event on November 4th. They are in the middle of school partnerships for 3rd grade students and starting the kindergarten classes soon. The Friends will partner with the City for the fall volunteer work party on October 14th. Ellie presented a request for the December stewardship hike. She is hoping to make the hike an invasive holly pull. This may require hikers to take a step or two off trail to pull the holly and ensure the entire root is removed. The hikers will then haul it out. The Board was in full support of this project.

Staff Reports:

Bob shared that the parks crew removed a large homeless encampment as reported. City staff does have cameras in the ACFL to help ID people breaking the rules and to watch for any issues. There are several people making unauthorized alterations to trails. The Parks crew is also fixing bridges on trail #220, Tabb mentioned he had seen one and it looks great.

Kit asked about a replacement for Steve and where that is in process. Bob shared that there should be an announcement next week.

Brian asked about an update to the toilet that was blown up at the base of Mt Erie. There has been no update from the police.

Tabb asked about the camping along Heart Lake road and if that is classified as the ACFL or a road. Bob noted that it is a road, and that is a good thing as far as enforcement by the police with the new parking ordinances passed by Council.

Kit asked about climbers on Mt Erie and Bob shared that Lake Erie store and camping has changed hands. There have been no major complaints or issues this past summer near the power lines trail.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board meeting. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing what park projects are a priority while also able to qualify for grants. There was a \$25,000 donation to the parks department from the estate of a local resident. Also, the Samish and DOT are working on the Trestle replacement study. This has a timeline of 12-16 months for the drawings and study.

Other Business:

Bob reminded everyone that submitted written comments on the Forest Plan will be posted routinely on the City website.

Adjourn at 6:20pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan