

February 11th, 2025

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, JoAnn, Sarah and Chris

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Dustin, Bob, and Nicole

Call to order: 6:00pm

January minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board is starting to review the first draft of the Forest Plan. This review will go through spring at the meetings. Public comments will be taken for this round of review until March 2nd at 5pm.

Jonn reported that there was no Parks Foundation meeting this month.

Spring Projects & Events Update:

Staff shared updates on various projects happen now or starting soon.

Nicole spoke about the SHIP boardwalk repair project. She shared a 15% drawing concept of the trail and how it would connect to the ferry holding area. This is the favorite of staff as it will help direct pedestrian traffic and protect the wetlands. This plan would repair the boardwalk and add viewing platforms. This plan will be shared with the Port and Samish as all will collaborate. There is no funding at this time but staff will look into grants through various sources.

Nicole also reported that she has met with the school district about the tennis courts by the middle school. Staff from the district and City are looking into repair of the courts as well as adding lines for pickleball play. This will add value and improve the courts for all users. Staff is waiting on quotes from a court specialist company.

Bob spoke about the West end park, at W 6th and Minnesota. Staff held a neighborhood meeting recently to get input on what features they would like to see at the park. Ideas were shared such as open space, basketball court, climbing toys, and swing set. The City has now allocated \$50,000 for the initial planning for the park. Bob is working with HLN Engineering to come up with an artist rendering and estimate.

Bob also reported on the Forest Board and the hope to have a draft plan approved by the Board by the May meeting.

Darby shared that Staff is working on updating the Cemetery policies. The biggest change will be the addition of green burials as members of the community are asking for a more eco-friendly burial option.

Dustin announced the upcoming events for the spring and summer: Daddy Daughter Dance, Egg Dash, Kids Fishing Day, Bark in the Park and Kids-R-Best Fest. Staff is also working on the ATown which will have all of the programs and events listed for the community. This will be a smaller publication due to budget constraints.

Jon reported on the Cap Sante Rotary look out project. This is expected to be complete in about 6 weeks with a ribbon cutting in April. Staff has been working to improve the trail on the east side of Cap Sante, now called the Maritime Stadium trail.

The Depot Plaza expansion project is in process with Staff waiting on construction and storm water plans.

The Tommy Thompson trail study is finishing up and will be presented to Council soon.

Department Reports:

Bob shared that there is no news about the Whistle Lake dam. The skate park restroom and parking lot is looking to be a fall project as Staff is waiting for RCO evaluation and approval. Bob attended a legislative meeting with Amanda Hubik and spoke about the Heart Lake improvement project. He also attended a meeting with a team from WRPA and Rep Ramel.

Nicole reported that the Samish are asking to host an event at Storvik Park on May 17th, focused on mental health and wellness.

Dustin shared that girls basketball is wrapping up. April will be Eli's one year of working for the City and he has brought a fresh perspective to the team.

Other Business:

Brad asked how things were going at Washington park. Nicole shared that things had held up well over the winter.

The snow event did not cause any Parks Staff to be called out as Streets was able to handle the removal.

A question was asked about Storvik and the changes happening there. The courts are on hold due to budget, but the team will be demo-ing the concrete soon. There are several projects that take priority over Storvik.

Laurie Gere will be at the April 12th meeting to speak about the Community Center.

Discussion was had about Q'elech'ilhch Park and the fact that the Port has closed through access in this area. This limits the pedestrian traffic and eyes on the park, a cause for concern for Staff.

Adjourned at 6:43pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan