

present were: Gail Fleming, Shanti Loustaunou, Marianne Edain recording
staff: Stan Berryman, Brigid Reynolds
public: John Lawson, Guy Burneko

The meeting was called to order at 3:00.

Minutes of the 12-14-16 meeting were approved as read.

Parks updates:

John Lawson presented a full-scale mock-up of the sign proposed for Generation Park. There was a good deal of discussion which led to a consensus that it was perhaps a bit large for the site. It was proposed to see a 20% reduction in scale, as well as different border colors.

There was discussion of Seawall Park. Marianne, the designated liaison to the ad hoc committee was not able to attend the last meeting, so was not able to report. There has been a fair amount of discussion on line concerning the possibility of using native plants to prevent people from climbing the bluff to the undersides of the buildings on 1st Street. This was discussed, including how this would happen, what it was likely to cost, what volunteer efforts would be involved, and how the 1st Street property owners might view this. The plan as outlined was to plant native shrubs which would grow at least 6 ft tall, thus blocking the view uphill from the seawall area. The preference would be for spiny, thorny, prickly native shrubs which would make pushing through them very uninviting.

It was reported that at least 1000 people attended the glass float hunt at Seawall Park.

There was discussion of the proposed off-leash dog park at the fairgrounds. Shanti and Gail visited the site and found that the fairgrounds manager had withdrawn the offer of that site as the fair board has other plans for that area. While all agree that an off-leash dog park is a good idea, the plan is on hold until another site can be identified. FETCH has offered its help in this, but is not yet available.

The commission agreed to meet at 1:00 on February 8 to walk the Middle Earth area in preparation for hiring a consultant to map wetland boundaries for purposes of laying out a trail. All are reminded to bring rubber boots and to meet at the middle school parking lot.

In relation to creating a trail system, now that the school district is closing the middle school, Marianne asked if the city could somehow acquire trail easements on the land associated with the middle school, especially as it is in such close proximity to Middle Earth.

Guy Burneko reported that walking off pavement has become progressively more difficult. There is informal use of the treatment plant area access, leading through the Fossek farm. He reported that Cary Peterson had said the trails in Upper Langley would be available to the public.

Gail and Shanti worked with Brigid to complete a street inventory, assessing walkability for all streets in Langley. A final version of that inventory should be available at the February 8 meeting.

There was a major discussion on the issue of Sunrise Lane and the fact that the few owners there are preventing connecting Seawall Park with the marina. It is a private road with a public sewer easement and a water line easement. The question became: what rights are attached to those easements?

Guy Burneko reported that he had approached mayor Tim about sustainability initiatives in the city. Guy wants to see the sustainability element of the city's comprehensive plan reviewed, and the ordinances and regulations which should then be consistent with that comprehensive plan element.

The issue of grants and how the city can apply for them was raised once again. In order to be eligible for RCO grants, the city must complete its comprehensive plan and submit that to RCO well before January 2018. In particular the Parks & Open Space element and the Transportation element need to be completed and adopted.

Gail asked if the Parks and Open Space commission could request tourism tax funds. Stan responded that it could. As the hour was growing late, discussion was suspended at that point, to be taken up again later.

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space commission will be February 8, 2017.