

4-20-16 Langley Parks and Open Space Commission meeting minutes

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

The meeting began shortly after 3:00 pm

Gail Fleming handed out copies of a new sale flyer for the Noble Creek property. The flyer listed a total price for the 2 parcels of \$700,000.00. It also listed a new selling agent, Ms Leanne Finlay, along with Mr Gary Piper. There was a short discussion concerning notice/acknowledgement by the property owner. Mayor Tim has not yet approached Ted Noble.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read.

There was a discussion of grants and grant options.

Whidbey Environmental Action Network has applied to the Whidbey Island Garden Tour for a grant of up to \$5000.00 to create a plant salvage program in Langley, with participation by the city. Marianne explained how the program would work and what part the city would play in it.

ESRP (Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program). This is a large program with significant funding opportunities. Relevant to Langley are programs related to:

- ~ return native plants and animals to the nearshore
- ~ create habitat for native plants and animals
- ~ remove non-native plants and animals

Grants range from \$50k to \$100k and applications must contain 2 or more project sites or types. Many types of projects are eligible. The schedule is fairly tight, with the first deadline being to register for a pre-application site visit by 5-15-16

RCO grant for acquisition of Noble Creek property. This application is being held up by the lack of an updated Parks and Open Space comprehensive plan element. RCO has already granted several deadline extensions. This latest deadline, 5-30-16, is firm. The application, with all its elements, must be submitted by that date.

Marianne agreed to write a first draft application and circulate it for review by POS members.

DNR forest grants via the DNR Community Forest Trust. Application deadline is 6-17-16. This one does not appear doable for Langley. The program purchases forest land threatened by development from willing sellers. The surrounding community writes a management plan and generates revenue from forestry on the land. That revenue is then shared with DNR. The local community must provide 50% of the purchase price.

The intent with these multiple grant applications is to use them as mutual support, so that one grant becomes the match for another. This requires some very careful coordination.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 to visit The Cedars, where the city owns a parcel of land with a trail easement. On the map, and even on aerial imagery, the trail appears to be clearly defined. The intent was to walk the trail and determine what needs to be done to make it accessible to the public.

The road at The Cedars is a loop. The trail more or less bisects that loop. The first challenge was finding the two intersections of the trail and the loop road. Stan showed us the two monuments marking the location of the city's water line, which also indicated the ends of the trail. The terrain is quite steep and there are many primitive trails all over it. It was basically impossible to determine which parts of which trail were "the" trail. It also appears that some private property owners may have fenced off parts of the city's land.

It was unclear, as we were trudging back to the vehicles, what our next steps should be. This will be the subject of a discussion at the next POS meeting.

The meeting adjourned about 5:15 pm.