

Langley Parks and Open Space Commission 7-13-16 meeting minutes

present were: Gail Fleming, Socorro Rodriguez, Shanti Loustaunou, Marianne Edain recording
staff: Brigid Reynolds, planner, Stan Berryman, public works
audience: Albert Rose, arts commission, Nathan Gilles, Fred Lundahl, Guy Burneko

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm.

The minutes were approved as read.

Frank Rose presented a proposal for Seawall Park. He reported on a workshop for 50 or more people hosted by the Arts Commission and the Economic Development Council. He has created an email post with more detailed information.

Brigid said that Seawall Park is in the Arts Commission's master plan. She then presented some background. The proposal is for a "Seawall Sculpture Park" with POS as the lead agency. They have yet to develop the actual plan.

Marianne asked what the order of procedure was expected to be, and who does what.

Frank Rose said there were ADA issues with Seawall Park and he was hoping to bring in Public Works and POS to address that. The Arts Commission is only looking at arts related matters, to include picnic tables and benches.

Brigid suggested forming a sub-committee to outline the basic work program. This group would also create a budget and find financial resources.

Gail asked Stan to locate existing surveys of Seawall Park. She asked staff to document the existing condition of the site. Between them Stan and Brigid were able to locate a "draft survey."

Socorro agrees that this is something in which POS wants to be involved, but points out that POS has its own work program, and does not want to drop other projects.

Guy Burneko wants to see POS return its focus to its priority of building the trail system.

Gail felt that if there is a subcommittee to do the work on Seawall Park, it would be possible to do both. The subcommittee would bring the results of its work to POS.

Frank Rose said he was looking for decisions and a work plan so the Arts Commission knows how to proceed. POS would have to lead the sub-committee.

Guy Burneko wanted to see some sort of public workshop on the subject. He would like to see this issue used as an exercise in community building.

Socorro felt that the options were too broad and needed to be limited to a reasonable number.

Shanti brought up the long-standing issue of a trail from Seawall Park to the marina.

Brigid said this would have to be put off to some future time as the intervening land is private property, and asks if POS would like to support this proposal or link to it.

Frank Rose offers to be on the sub-committee.

Marianne offered to be the POS/sub-committee liaison.

Socorro and Gail both offered to be back-up.

The next step will be to convene a sub-committee meeting.

Discussion moved on to how to connect two trail loops, in the Park Street and Goodell Lane area.

Gail pointed out that ADA access at Seawall Park would have to be coordinated with the owners of the Dog House, who had plans for a garage under the Dog House.

Frank, Nathan, and Brigid left at this point.

Gail brought up the issue of “functional art”, for example, a whale sculpture which doubles as a play space.

Socorro wants to push forward with Generation Park.

Gail reports that Susan Berta of the Orca Network has no funds for a whale sculpture at Generation Park and suggested placing something at Seawall Park instead. John Lawson was supposed to contact the sculptor. The question is where the money is expected to come from.

This led to a discussion of budget, which was put off to the August meeting.

Socorro asked what we could ask for.

Stan responded that POS should compile a list of what we want in the budget and present it to him.

Shanti proposes building a dog park at the fairgrounds.

Gail brings the discussion back to trails and says we need to debrief about Coles Road and whether to cut a trail parallel to the road.

Guy responds that any trail is better than walking on the road.

Gail says access to the PSE right of way would need to be acquired from PSE management.

Guy says to go out Brooks Hill to the PSE front gate, the road becomes a trail and can connect to Coles Road and a whole network of trails.

Gail says that Thomas Gill has offered 3 possible dates for a site visit to The Cedars. We will plan for July 19.

There was mention of RCO and the fact that other entities on the island have receive major funding from them.

It was pointed out that we need to review the Langley website to see how the POS element has been amended.

Guy proposes an unofficial POS workshop gathering to brainstorm ideas, which would then be brought to a monthly meeting.

Discussion moved back to trails. Guy is researching 'hold harmless' agreements as a means to obtain access to private property. Mayor Tim has expressed support for this option.

This led to a major discussion of trail easements, hold harmless agreements, and other elements of a trails package.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.