

Minutes  
City of Langley  
Planning Advisory Board  
October 1, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 3:03PM

**Attendance:**

Members present: Roger Gage, Aaron Simpson, Gail Fleming, Sue Walsh

Members absent: Dominique Emerson, Paul Goldfinger

Staff present: Jeff Arango, Cheryl Knighton

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Aaron to approve September 10, 2014 Minutes. Second, Roger  
Approved unanimously.

**Public Comment for items not on the agenda – None**

**Langley Lift View Assessment**

Jeff briefed the board and the audience on the View assessment. He gave the history and noted that it is online and he offered copies of other comments that he has received in writing. Currently it is in the process of public input. He displayed a slide show depicting the history as far back as 2004. He noted that the \$500,000 grant moneys came from Island County for Economic Development. He said there is still opportunity it add more transparency to the bridge. He walked through the assessment along Cascade. The plan would be to get more public input, present it to DRB, get advise from the PAB, and then present the recommendation to council.

Concerns from the audience:

Many were concerned about the parking. Who will benefit from this project? Pam Schell noted that there is no timeline on the project, but regardless of the outcome, she wants an elevator to be installed.

Also a concern was maintenance of the lift. Who will pay for it, who will provide the maintenance?  
What hours will it be open?

Brian W said that before continuing there should be a cost analysis done, most everyone agreed.  
Warren B asked what will it really going to look like. Charlie P is concerned about the view, the parking the maintenance and the cost. Nell A. agrees with Charlie, she is a long time sailor and says that the people who are boaters will not use it. There is no need for it. The marina staff offers transportation to town for those who cannot walk the hill. Feels there should be a survey done from the boaters. Eric L. suggested an alternative idea he found in a Hill Hiker brochure. Charles S. feels there is an emotional hit when he drives along Cascade and sees the view.

It was asked what happened to the funicular idea, why was it scrapped. Jeff said there is no reason why a funicular couldn't go in. Ann S. spoke about the aesthetics of the project. Thinks it could be shorter so that it wouldn't block the view at all. Brian W. said there needs to be public vote that it is public money and they should have a right to vote on it and asked how the city could get it on a ballot. Jeff said he would research it. Sharon E. thinks it is ugly, agrees that it is useless as far as boaters are concerned. Said she walked the distance both routes, and feels it is actually longer. It makes more sense to develop more vehicle access. Ryan is concerned about the view and does not like the idea of ruining it.

Aaron S. said that the city has benefited in many ways with grants they have obtained. Pam S. says the Port feels it is worth doing. Others feel there needs to be a second exit from Wharf Street before an elevator is installed. There was some concern about cruise ships coming into Langley. Langley is a small sleepy town and it would not be appropriate to have large ships coming here. Many feel the golf carts should stay. The money that the seasonal boaters bring does not make a major impact on the economic development of the city.

Aaron said the biggest problem with the golf carts is finding volunteers to run them. They have advertised for help, but at this time it is 60% of the employees of Main Street who operate them. Gail proposed an alternative to golf carts, why not a trolley? A moveable sidewalk, says that other alternatives should be looked at first. She read a memo from Parks and Open Space Commission, that will be presented to the council recommending that everyone should step back and take a breath. Look at the Shoreline Master Program that states "development, uses and activities on or near the shoreline should not impair or detract from the public's visual access to the water". Also asking the city to document the need for such access, including documentation of any measurable gain and research into why this is a priority, including whether it is still a priority. To be included in this would be collecting information from boaters about their preferred method of moving to and from the marina.

Sue asked if there was a timeline, Jeff said he would like more input from the public and from the different boards, maybe a couple of months before any direction will be taken. He learned a lot today from the public comments. He wants to make sure all avenues are looked at before taking anything to the council. Aaron moved to end the discussion and the audience left.

### **Comprehensive Plan Updates:**

Jeff took out the Vision statement from the Review Executive Summary. Roger feels it was well written. Gail would like to propose adding another goal and reordering the presentation. Jeff agrees and will make the changes. Move environmental Stewardship to #1 and there should be a preservation goal from land use added. There was some discussion about attracting Knowledge Based workers and the vision is about the island and protecting the economic development as much as possible. Aaron asked if there could be the revenue source for the city added to the next packet. Some discussion on how the city is always "teetering" back and forth, and that it needs to be protected so that it doesn't "tip over" with large projects that could run over budget.

Some discussion on what do we really want versus what we have done. Preserve the plan more than making many changes, but to remain proactive. Charles P. mentioned that item #2 does not mention

preserving views, and it should be considered. The board agreed. It was mentioned that the Shoreline Management needs to coincide with the Vision Statement. Item #1 needs to not only include attracting people but to retain them.

Jeff said he would like to complete the Comp plan before moving forward with any other projects. Gail would like verbiage on the water statements in the future about the tree ordinance, Cheryl said she would get it info from Jeff and would include it in the January billing.

Motion to adjourn – Roger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gail.

Meeting adjourned 5:00PM