

# Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee

(PRCAC)

## Regular Meeting of the Board Members

May 8, 2018

### MINUTES

#### In Attendance:

Jeff Christopher, Chairperson (representing the Point Roberts Taxpayers Association)

Joel Lantz, Chairperson (representing Point Roberts Voters Association)

Dee Gough, (representing Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce)

Keith Glading (at large)

Linda Hughes (at large)

#### Guests:

Steve Woolf

Allison Calder

Kim Glaser

Deb Solberg

Bill Meursing

Annette Loewen

Jeff Butts

Barbara Bradstock

Pat Harper

Dave Lee

Ralph no surname provided

Kimberly Butts

Sheriff T. McCarthy

Lynell Vaughan-Jones

Larry Talson

Heidi Baxter

Beejay Kish

Jordan Strub

Francis Talson

Tamara Hansen

Mrs. Lee

Nicole Lewis

Ramona Smith

Donna Gillespie

Rick Sande

Samantha Scholefield

Harry Kish

Michael McLendon

Bennett Blaustein

Michelle Wallace

Pat Grubb, APB

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chairman Jeff Christopher, who welcomed everyone and said that this meeting is being audio/visual recorded for posting on YouTube as has become the recent tradition of PRCAC

Chairman Christopher announced that the next regular meeting of PRCAC will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 6:00 pm.

Chairman Christopher noted that there is a sign-up sheet at the front door, which is not mandatory unless you wish to address the board.

**MOTION:** Keith Glading moved that the Agenda be approved. Dee Gough seconded. **MOTION PASSED 5-0**

**MOTION:** Keith Glading moved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13th, 2018 be approved as presented. Dee Gough seconded. **MOTION PASSED 4-0** Joel Lantz abstained as he was absent for the April meeting.

### Old Business

Chairman Christopher indicated that the topic of Solid Waste Initiative is likely why there are so many in attendance this evening, and announced that in order to honor everyone's time, each speaker will be allotted three minutes to speak, and may be granted more than one opportunity to speak, time permitting. He requested that everyone show common courtesy to those speaking, specifically requesting no outbursts, interruptions, name calling, etc. He stated that we intended to make this a positive and constructive meeting and welcomed input from all.

Keith Glading, as a point of order suggested that the Open Session of the meeting be moved to the end of the Agenda.

Chairman Christopher suggested that speakers be woven throughout the conversation for continuity and relevance. Chairman Christopher also said to the audience that we have a lot of topics on our Agenda tonight, and invited everyone to stay and fully participate in the process.

Chairman Christopher then asked Joel to summarize the Town Hall Meeting that had been held on the Solid Waste Initiative.

Joel Lantz started by saying that he sees a lot of the same faces here at tonight's regular meeting that had attended the Solid Waste Initiative Town Hall meeting. He reported that it appears tonight be the best attended PRCAC meeting on record, and similarly, the All Point Bulletin newspaper reported that the Town Hall meeting attracted nearly 100 attendees. Joel reminded everyone that a video had been taken of that Town Hall meeting and was available for viewing for anyone that may have missed it.

Joel continued his summary by saying that he did not moderate that meeting, he simply provided introductions and turned the floor over to Jeff Hegedus, whom he felt was informative, patient and efficient in his handling of the meeting. Joel's personal assessment is that there was a lot of support "for" the solid waste initiative proposal, and also some "against" the proposal, inviting everyone to view the video to gauge the support for themselves.

Joel feels that the All Point Bulletin reporting of the meeting was well-written and accurate and he encourages everyone to read that article in the April issue. He reported that the meeting was 90 minutes in length, and that everyone who had wanted an opportunity to speak had been provided the opportunity. Joel reiterated that he felt Jeff Hegedus did a great job of presenting factual, informative responses to all of the questions presented.

Chairman Christopher then spoke about the opportunities for PRCAC to become better listeners to our Community's needs, small business and residents alike. He announced that as a result of some of the input we have received throughout this process, that he had earlier spoken with Jeff Hegedus and learned that Public Health has developed a revised proposal where the 26 can proposal could be modified from pickup twice monthly to variable pickup times throughout the

year. Any resident or seasonal visitor could choose when and how many cans to put curbside as needed. He agreed that this is a sensible solution for seasonal residents, offering the flexibility that we have been hearing was desired from many of our Canadian friends.

Allison Calder stated that she had spoken to Coop at the UTC and she reported that he had commented about his concern for the 26 pickups per year on behalf of the elderly and seasonal residents.

Chairman Christopher reminded everyone that PRCAC is here to receive public input and promised that anything we are asked to consider will be directly passed along to Jeff Hegedus at Public Health.

Several members of the public began sharing their opinions on the number of residents, the amount of revenue that they believed would be generated to the Vendor, and suggestions for how to completely revamp the Solid Waste Initiative in ways they had developed at home.

Jeff Christopher reminded everyone that UTC controls the rates based on the size of the community, service levels, etc., and that the Vendor must submit to an exhaustive auditing process, after which the rates are established.

Samantha Scholefield asked about the outstanding debt of the Transfer Station, incurred as a result of litigation between the County and the previous Vendor, saying she believes the end of the re-payment program should be near, which should alleviate some of expenses of the current Vendor.

Jeff Christopher began responding but a series of interruptions, ended with Keith Glading stating (again) at the tariffs are set by the State agency and then audited at 6 months, and then annually.

Jeff Butts comments that the UTC didn't notice that the current Vendor has not been charging for mandatory recycling or hosting a website, saying that he is not servicing the needs of the community.

A further series of random comments, re-allocation of a speaker's time to another, and another random proposal from a seasonal visitor that he should only be charged for the months that he is in Point Roberts.

Elizabeth Lantz responded, pointing out the unfairness of that suggestion on so many levels, just one being that as a full-time resident she will be paying for twelve months of service whether or not she is here full-time or chooses to go on a 6 month vacation.

Samantha Scholefield indicated that she was happy about the revised 26-can solution, saying it shows good progress; is a "big win" but she still believes that a less than 26 can mandate would be better. She also commented on the need to continue to self-haul to deal with green waste and other services not offered curbside. She offered a few suggestions for "green tags" or self-hauling consideration.

Jeff Christopher remarked that Samantha Scholefield has been the source of a great many good suggestions throughout this process, and has contributed to an excellent dialogue on the topic. He agrees with Samantha on the issues of composting, green waste, heavy items and thanked her for her positive input.

Jeff Christopher also mentioned that County Council is meeting tonight as well and will be introducing this topic, which would then either (a) go to a public hearing on May 22, or (b) determined that there is not enough information or Council is not ready to vote and would send it back to Public Health for more input. He said that we will be transparent in announcing all meetings and opportunities for public input. He added that he will be bringing a Motion to form a sub-committee to continue this discussion on Waste Management.

Heidi Baxter stood up to comment that she was being prejudiced against, not being allowed to her make her presentation which she had prepared, including posters, visual aids and dioramas. She accused the Chairman of using up all the speaking time and prohibiting her from her presentation. She began to collect her things and depart the meeting, which took a few minutes. Linda Hughes tried to speak to Ms. Baxter to correct her misunderstanding about the protocol of speaking at this meeting

Deputy Sheriff McCarthy commented that he felt it might be the right time to provide the legal definition of Disorderly Conduct, which he then stated and confirmed that it is a crime, subject to penalties of 90 days imprisonment, a \$1000 fine, or both.

Linda Hughes commented that she wanted the record to show that although Ms. Baxter was vocally insistent that she had not been allowed to make her presentation, she had indeed been afforded a couple of opportunities to speak already at tonight's meeting and that while she was disrupting the meeting with her exit, she was advised that she absolutely was not being denied an opportunity to speak and that further opportunities for her to speak would become available during the Open Session, currently on the Agenda as scheduled for the end of the meeting.

When order was restored, Chairman Christopher went back to the Motion he wanted to bring forth to appoint a sub-committee.

**MOTION:** Jeff Christopher moved that That PRCAC establish a Waste Management sub-committee of no fewer than five and no more than nine residents. PRCAC would place a representative on the committee, (to which I volunteer to be first up). The committee will periodically report back to PRCAC once a committee frame of reference is established. The committees objective will be to research, borrow and ultimately impliment ideas from other like-minded jurisdictions towards the establishment of a "Made in Point Roberts" solution to these issues that compliment curb-side collection. Dee Gough seconded.

There were some interruptions from the public and after a bit of discussion and reminder that there was a motion on the table, the vote was taken. **MOTION PASSED 5-0**

Chairman Christopher asked Samantha Scholefield if she would please agree to participate on that committee.

Allison Calder announced that people have a problem with David Gellatly (the Vendor).

Jeff Christopher asked to finish his comments by saying to Samantha that he wanted to thank her for her professional presentation style.

Allison Calder continued to say that her family is currently enrolled in the curbside collection program that exists now. Her family of 5 only generates 1 can per month. She reports that in her conversation with UTC, they admitted that they have never done an audit on the current Vendor, Cando. She also announced that Barbara Brenner advised her that she would be asking County Council to postpone the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting until an audit has been conducted. She continued that 6% is the maximum profit that the Vendor is allowed, extrapolating that with more users the proposed \$20 per month is too high. Mrs. Calder supports waiting for an audit of the vendor before proceeding further with the Initiative. She likes the sub-committee idea and feels that it is in the best interest of the County for PRCAC to support Councilwoman Brenner.

Jeff Christopher responded that it would be best to allow Council to take its course.

Keith Glading responded that PRCAC is an advisory body only. He continued to say that UTC and Council is the appropriate venue for hashing out the details. He concluded by saying he felt that lobbying one particular Council member is not right.

Joel Lantz said that he personally, not in his capacity as a representative of PRRVA, believes that the Council meeting of May 22<sup>nd</sup> is not likely to include discussion of minimum level of service.

Samantha Scholefield commented that the financials of Cando are for two separate businesses, the curbside business and the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station is under authority of County Council. She reiterated that Jeff Hegedus' proposal includes removal of the opt out clause and full participation in mandatory curbside collection.

Larry Talson commented that the Solid Waste Questionnaire at the early stages of this process received 314 responses. He notes that 56% of respondents were residents and claims that renders the Questionnaire results useless.

Jeff Christopher responded that he disagreed the results were useless and that some respondents were expected to be residents. He continued by saying that this topic has been on PRCAC Agendas for more than 18 months, has been reported upon, and should come as no surprise to anyone.

Larry Talson continued to say that he understands the Vendor needs to make money but feels that growth from 300 to 2300 is forced and onerous.

Steve Wolff commented that it is important that everyone understand the rate two-step process. First is to get the concept up and running and second to assess the tariff rates. He also feels that additional services need to be considered as necessary in the tariff, such as dealing with the garbage littered on the side of the roads and in empty lots.

Rick Sande commented that he is a full-time resident and he self hauls his trash to the Transfer Station. He states that he was not aware of the amount of power that PRCAC has and he is unhappy that David Gellatly has been allowed to serve on the Committee with the bias he brings to the decision-making process. He wants PRCAC to “reverse its decision and let County run its course.”

Jeff Christopher responded by saying that we are not going to reverse all of our hard work to date. Further, he stated, regarding David Gellatly he said that before serving on this committee he didn't know the guy and that he judges character of people based on facts only. He stated that Mr. Gellatly has recused himself from these discussions and feels that his integrity is beyond repute. He reiterated that Gellatly has never initiated, discussed, or voted on this issue. Jeff then asked fellow committee member to please review the by-laws of PRCAC to determine whether David Gellatly was in conflict of interest or in a position of undue influence.

Dee Gough, Chamber of Commerce President, and sitting on the Committee today in place of David Gellatly announced that she is representing Chamber of Commerce at tonight's meeting for the sole reason that David Gellatly is currently undergoing surgery. She wants it known that he is not absent due to any suggestion that he be removed as the Chamber representative from this committee and she states emphatically that she feels David Gellatly has represented Chamber of Commerce on PRCAC in a professional manner. She stated that this Initiative has been discussed at Chamber meetings and its members are fully in support of this initiative without any input from David Gellatly at those meetings either.

Keith Glading again states that PRCAC is an advisory committee only and has no power to make policy.

Michelle Wallace asked for clarification on the County Council meeting of May 22 – if they vote no then what happens?

Jeff Christopher responded that Whatcom County Council has a sub-committee on trash, and clarified that tonight is a general council meeting, at which they will decide whether to move forward to a public meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> or decide that they need more time/information and send this proposal back to Public Health for more information/answers.

Jeff Christopher asked Pat Grubb to clarify his understanding of the 26-can proposal going before County Council for the audience here tonight. Pat Grubb responded that the 26-can proposal is not set in stone, and that Council, and UTC, will ultimately decide on the number of cans, the level of service, frequency, etc.

Samantha asked about the removal of the opt out exemption and Jeff Christopher read the proposal to County Council as submitted by Jeff Hegedus of Public Health.

Kimberly Butts said that she has lived here since 2014 and says that she requested about service when she moved here, about tags, pickup service, can sizes, etc.

Michael McLendon stated that he has recently returned to Point Roberts as a full time resident and so is not up to speed on the conversation that has been going on about this matter. His personal opinion is that the service levels discussion is confusing but he feels that the discussion surrounding composting are positive.

Deb Solberg is a Canadian seasonal resident and has been coming to the Point for 20 years. She says that her friend cannot afford the proposed garbage service. She is personally angry about all the trash generated by consumers at the Parcel pickup outlets and suggests a tax for parcel packaging. She stated that she self-hauls to the Transfer Station but experiences difficulty with its limited hours of operation. Also, she wants to participate in these discussions but fears repercussions from crossing the border too often.

Dave Lee asks if there is a curbside or nothing option.

Jeff Christopher responded by saying No, this proposed initiative would make curbside collection mandatory.

Kimberly Butts says that tonight's Council meeting is just to fix two ordinances, so eventually they can change the service.

Kim Glaser asks if this initiative moves forward, will self-hauling to the Transfer Station be free?

Jeff Christopher responds No, the Transfer Station is a separate business.

Bill Meursing says that there have been many good comments here tonight. He agrees that the sub-committee will be good, and recommends 2 or 3 more meetings like this one.

Ralph (no surname provided) says that he has lived all over the world, including Canada, and says that Canadians pay all year round for trash collection whether the service is utilized or not. He feels this should no argument at all.

Steve Wolff says that one of the services proposed in the Initiative if the long-driveway added service which has not been talked about yet tonight.

Samantha Scholefield says that the reason for a Tag system is for people like her, to be used at her convenience. She also feels the proposed initiative should not have any parameters set, that UTC should set the parameterse.

Allison Calder says that at a recent SWAC meeting, Jeff Hegedus indicated that there is a lot of money available for Transfer Station improvements (\$50,000 to \$100,000) and that it should not be Cando's responsibility to pay for improvements made by the previous Vendor.

Jordan Strubb is a full time resident and just wants to express his full support for the currently proposed initiative.

Jeff Christopher commented that Jeff Hegedus has put a lot of work into this initiative and has been here in Point Roberts many times. He also said that some people have made comments about him, and here he read aloud an excerpt of an email complaint: this is a private scheme between Hegedus and Gellatly dreamed up years ago... Jeff Christopher continued that this type of defamatory language is odious, mean-spirited, and uninformed. It is also unfair, inaccurate and casts all of us in a shade. He read it aloud so that everyone would know that uninformed people are spreading inaccurate stories, creating confusion and anger wherever their slanderous comments are heard.

**MOTION:** Keith Glading moved that we ask for Sub-Committee Volunteers now while there are engaged residents in attendance. Jeff Christopher seconded. **MOTION PASSED 4-0** Joel Lantz had departed from the meeting during one of the periods of audience interruption and disrespect for the Committee's attempts at restoring order.

Volunteers that raised their hand to serve on the Sub-Committee are: Samantha Scholefield, Allison Calder, Kimberly Butts, Bill Meursing, Jordan Strubb and Barbara Bradstock

**MOTION:** Keith Glading moved that the balance of tonight's Agenda be tabled to the next scheduled meeting of June 12<sup>th</sup> Dee Gough seconded. **MOTION PASSED 4-0**

**MOTION:** Keith Glading moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Linda Hughes. **MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

Samantha Scholefield added the comment regarding the use of TBD funds to maintain the gardens along Tyee Road, saying that if Canadians are the main "culprits" of garbage, they are also the majority of the contributors to the TBD fund, evidenced by the long lines of Canadian cars at our local gas pumps.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.