

**Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
(PRCAC)
Regular Meeting of the Board Members
June 12th, 2018
MINUTES**

In Attendance:

Jeff Christopher, Chairperson (representing the Point Roberts Taxpayers Association)
Joel Lantz, Vice-Chairperson (representing Point Roberts Voters Association)
David Gellatly, (representing Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce)
Keith Glading (at large)
Linda Hughes (at large)

Guests:

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| Steve Woolf | Louise Cassidy | Chuck Norbert |
| Allison Calder | Sheriff T. McCarthy | Mark Robbins |
| Heidi Baxter | Annette Loewen | Grant Heitman |
| Barbara Bradstock | Bennett Blaustein | Ken Calder |
| Dave Lee | Mrs. Lee | Andrew Grubb, APB |
| Vic Riley | Judson Meraw | Meg Olson, APB |
| Shelley Damewood | | |

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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, as a method of engaging more of the community who may not be able to attend in person.

Chairman Christopher announced that the next regular meeting of PRCAC will be held on July 10th, 2018, at 6:00 pm.

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

Chairman Christopher announced that the Minutes of the May 8, 2018 regular meeting had been approved by the members of the Committee via email, as has become the recent method of approval, in order to provide the Minutes to the public in a more timely fashion than by waiting each month to post them after approval at regular monthly meetings.

MOTION: Jeff Christopher moved to dissolve the existing PRCAC Special Committee on Waste Management Issues and reconstitute it without prejudice to the existing members in case they wish to

re-apply. The committee will mirror the PRCAC format of one member from each of the Voters Association, Taxpayers Association and the Chamber of Commerce. Two at-large members will be appointed and further moved that the two incumbent PRCAC at-large members undertake this task. It is further requested that undertaking be completed within 60 days.

Discussion of the Motion ensued, beginning with Chairman Christopher saying that he wanted to offer his reasoning for the Motion, being that he believed his idea to implement the special committee had been rushed, and now he sees that it really needs improvement. He feels that an important rule of any special committee established by PRCAC is that the committee should not come between PRCAC and Whatcom County Council. He believes the special committee did this, effectively impeaching themselves when members of the committee attended before Council to request that the recommendation of PRCAC before Council be set aside.

Joel Lantz asked Chairman Christopher what the intent of the special committee was, and after some discussion he replied that the original intent of the special committee was to appoint concerned residents of Point Roberts to provide the opportunity to look all of the other elements, beyond the question of mandatory curbside collection, in progression to becoming a no-waste community. Joel Lantz agreed that this was also his recollection of the original intent of the special committee.

MOTION PASSED 4-0 David Gellatly abstained

Grant Heitman commented that he felt this meeting was not being run in an orderly fashion, with members of the audience speaking out during Committee discussions. There was more discussion from the audience, generally clarifying for Mr. Heitman that this type of fluidity and informality is rather normal for Point Roberts meetings, where inclusion and participation is generally encouraged, until such time that a committee determines that it must halt public input for the purpose of discussing an issue amongst themselves.

Keith Glading reiterated the general purpose of PRCAC.

Old Business

Chairman Christopher reviewed the very busy schedule and list of topics to be addressed by PRCAC over the next six months, including use of TBD funds, small business development, PRCAC administrative tasks, cellular coverage, and other agenda items that now require this Committee's attention.

Chairman Christopher reminded the committee that the July meeting has been projected to focus on PRCAC administrative tasks and issues, and further suggested that we add discussion of PRCAC meeting format (formal v. informal) to the July agenda.

MOTION Joel Lantz moved that the topic of meeting format be added to the PRCAC July Agenda.

MOTION PASSED 5-0

New Business

The PRCAC Special Committee on Waste Management Issues was not in attendance to present their expected report on activities undertaken to date.

Joel Lantz reviewed the history of WCC 20.72 and the former Character Plan, including the reasons why there was so much support from the community to phase out the Plan and move the “guidelines” into an appendix to the Code. He reviewed that modifications can be simple but we need to focus on those changes and move forward with the development of a full packet of suggested changes, to provide to the County, and specifically to avoid piece-mealing changes. These types of changes are usually quite costly, but Planning and Development Services has offered to accept the guidelines into an appendix to the code and consider a packet of desired changes to the guidelines without cost as a gesture of goodwill to the community. Joel reiterated that offer from PDS should not be taken for granted nor abused and we should make a concerted effort to engage the community in this process to develop a comprehensive one-time change plan.

There was discussion of the Taxpayers Association and the Voters Associations “merge and purge” lists already developed as good starting points.

Chairman Christopher revisited his 80/20 proposal for use of TBD funds, being 80% of the accruing funds should be reserved for large-scale transportation projects, and 20% should be released for expenditure on smaller, localized projects, such as the recent decision to use a small portion of those funds for beautification of the Tyee corridor, specifically to augment the efforts of the volunteer members of the Garden Club to beautify and care for the main entry roadway in Point Roberts. He also reiterated councilwoman Brenner’s suggestion for a continued sidewalk along Tyee, where it is currently a graveled walkway. He said that Brian Walker is working to obtain a quote on the cost of that proposed sidewalk extension.

Joel Lantz reminded the Committee that we need to be diligent in choosing projects to be funded by TBD funds to be sure that we do not choose projects that should rightfully be covered by Public Works funding.

MOTION Jeff Christopher moved that PRCAC establish an 80/20 accrual fund policy, whereby 80% of existing and forecasted TBD income be accrued and tracked for leveraging a large scale project or projects on the Point, and further, that these projects be identified and tracked whilst the balance of existing and forecasted funds be utilized on smaller-scale projects, each of which to come under the recommendational scrutiny of PRCAC ongoingly.

Joel Lantz asked that this Motion be tabled to provide the opportunity to discuss it with the Point Roberts Voters Association before voting on it.

David Gellatly suggested that the Motion be re-worded to include language that addresses Joel's earlier concern about careful scrutiny of projects to assure they are not ones that should rightfully be covered by Public Works funding. Jeff Christopher agreed and said he will re-write the Motion for proposal at the next meeting.

Keith Glading opened discussion of the proposed PRCAC by-laws. Several sections of the draft by-laws were reviewed, changes were suggested and noted. Further discussion of the by-laws will be held during the PRCAC July "admin" meeting.

Discussion ensued of the suggestion to hire a transcriber of PRCAC Minutes to lift that responsibility from Linda Hughes, to allow for her greater participation in meetings. Suggestion was made to ask Chamber, Voters and Taxpayers to source the funding to hire this proposed transcriber. This topic was tabled to the July admin meeting to allow the three organizations an opportunity to discuss the proposed commitment of funding for that position.

Jeff Christopher then talked about the meetings and preparations he has been involved in regarding small business development in Point Roberts. Discussion ensued about possibly holding a Special Meeting on a Saturday in October to allow for greater participation by members of the community. Jeff Christopher and David Gellatly agreed to find some time together in July to discuss the Port of Bellingham's assistance with economic development.

Jeff Christopher then broached the topic of cellular coverage in Point Roberts and his efforts made to date in that regard. He said that Fire Chief Carleton has indicated that he would like to participate in an ad-hoc committee on this topic of "4-bar service."

Jeff Christopher announced that Suzanne Bosman, head of Code Enforcement for the County, was here in Point Roberts last week. There was also some discussion of Councilwoman Brenner's suggestion to increase fines for littering.

Open Session

Louise Cassidy began by referring to her tenure in Point Roberts and asking the Committee what the nature of the solid waste initiative "pilot program" was all about, and whether the decision to dissolve the special committee had been presented to the three represented organizations of PRCAC for consideration. Jeff Christopher provided the answer to the latter question, saying that it had not, but

then neither had the proposal to implement the special committee either. Discussion ensued about the nature of the “pilot program” when Joel Lantz asked Ms. Cassidy what her question is trying to establish? Ms. Cassidy replied that she wanted to specifically to know what was the objective of the pilot program.

Joel Lantz reviewed the history of the solid waste initiative, saying that when Public Health took over responsibility of garbage collection from Public Works, Jeff Hegedus and John Wolpers contacted PRCAC and this community to discuss a potential pilot program to improve the current solid waste system. He continued to say that this process evolved over that last couple of years with various levels of input toward the current situation.

Ms. Cassidy suggested that “pilot program” implies that Public Health always intended to build a model here to their own liking so that they could implement it in other communities, saying further that she felt PRCAC had been “used” and “duped” by Public Health into an arrangement that was intended to figure out how to get more money from the community.

Heidi Baxter began with her concern over establishing another special committee when PRCAC is already comprised of representation of Chamber of Commerce, Voters Association and Taxpayers Association. She continued by switching to her presentation on the garbage and recycling systems used on Lopez Island, including a brief history with photos, and suggestions for Point Roberts to become more concerned about how to reduce garbage and care more about recycling.

Chuck Norbert commented that he has been a business owner in Point Roberts for 20 years and that he and his family of 3 only generated enough garbage to cost him \$56.00 last year. He feels the fee is a tax because it will be on his tax bill, and wants to know why there was no vote conducted to levy such a tax. Some discussion ensued about the difference between fees and taxes.

Mark Robbins commented that it has always been a pet project of his to have ballot box representation of all Point Roberts citizens, including Canadians. Mr. Robbins continued by referring to the committee’s earlier discussion of use of TBD funds and the revised Motion, saying that it is good to have guidelines and to make sure the Motion is fine-tuned to be sure that the use of TBD funds does not subsidize County obligations. He further submitted his feeling that TBD funds should be used for general improvement for the entire community.

Ken Calder started by disclosing that he is a member of the Voters Association but was speaking as a private citizen and not a member of any organization. He feels that most meetings in Point Roberts are not inclusionary, but rather the opposite. He feels that when private citizens attempt to share their viewpoints, they are often put down, resulting in reduced motivation to participate. He feels specifically that the recent Solid Waste ordinance is not good for Point Roberts and pointedly asked PRCAC member

David Gellatly if he “had Point Roberts best interests at heart.” David Gellatly responded that although he would not comment on the ordinance, he absolutely did have Point Roberts best interests in his heart. Jeff Christopher addressed Mr. Calder by saying that he personally took issue with the Petition that Mr. Calder had composed and circulated that suggested the community had not been heard. Mr. Calder responded that the signers of his Petition had not been heard. Mr. Calder continued to say that Voters Association had not supported the garbage initiative and neither had the Taxpayers Association. Mark Robbins and Barbara Bradstock, members of the Taxpayers Association, corrected that statement.

Judson Meraw offered his comments on how most people come to the decision making process with their own personal limited focus on issues that are important to them, without consideration of the larger community. He said that the results of the solid waste initiative are so much better than any one person or group could have accomplished. He said that collaboration is difficult but beneficial. He feels that although unfortunate, it is important to invite controversy, saying that is where great ideas come from. He feels the survey was great but then was derailed by late-comers. Then he concluded by saying that we didn't get the improvements we wanted. Keith Glading responded by saying that we will only see actual improvements after implementation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.