

**Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee**

**(PRCAC)**

**Regular Meeting of the Board Members**

**September 11, 2018**

**MINUTES**

In Attendance:

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

Joel Lantz, Chairperson (representing Point Roberts Voters Association)

David Gellatly, (representing Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce)

Keith Glading (at large)

Linda Hughes (at large)

**Guests:**

Louise Cassidy

Asche Rider

Annelle Norman

Mark Robbins

Ramona Blaustein

Steven Falk

Ramona Blaustein

Annette Loewen

Barbara Bradstock

Alison Calder

Bennett Blaustein

Pat Grubb

Bill Meursing

Ken Calder

Dwayne Hunt

Judson Meraw

Bill Meursing

Steve Wolff

Campbell McCluskey

Pat Harper

Hugh Wilson

Sheriff McCarthy

Dee Gough

Barbara Wayland

Plus 2

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chairman Jeff Christopher.

**MOTION:** Keith Glading moved that the Agenda be approved. Linda Hughes seconded.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

The Minutes of the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting have been circulated and approved via email.

Chairman Christopher reported that in keeping with discussions at previous meetings, PRCAC meetings would no longer be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, as that conflicts with the Whatcom County Council Meetings also on Tuesday evenings, and forthwith will be moved to the third Thursday of every month. The next regular meeting of PRCAC will be held on October 18th, 2018, at 6:00 pm. He also reported that the November meeting will be dedicated to discussion of communication issues in Point Roberts, and that he proposes the regular meeting in December be suspended in favor of a Town Hall type meeting regarding the election of PRCAC At-Large members going forward. December 3<sup>rd</sup> was chosen for the Town Hall meeting.

Chairman Christopher advised that this meeting is held under the auspices of regulation 42.30 of the Washington State Public Meetings act. Further, he that mentions we do our best to follow Roberts Rules of Order, as we are compelled to do so under the Act. Additionally, this is consistent with our by-laws, and usually points out that the videos and meeting minutes can be found at the PRCAC page of the Whatcom County website at

<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/563/Point-Roberts-Community-Advisory-Committee>

He also announced 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. This is not obligatory but is done as a courtesy. Joel Lantz reported that he had determined the reason for difficulty in uploading some of the larger meeting video files was due to a faulty Router. He was working with Whidbey Tel to resolve the router issues and anticipates that meeting videos will be uploaded without issue in the future.

### **New Business**

Chairman Christopher introduced our Guest Speaker, Asche Rider, Small Business Advisor, with Western Washington University's Small Business Development Center.

Ms Rider gave a brief overview of her history, beginning with growing up in a family Nursery business in Iowa. She has extensive experience in the various aspects of running a small business. Additionally, she has worked in the financial industry. St attended WWU and attained her MBA.

She then talked about the Small Business Development Center, its mandate, how it is funded (WWU/Federal/Whatcom County/Port of Bellingham) and the objective of the rural outreach program, for which she has been hired to bring advice and services to small businesses in Whatcom County. Essentially they offer free consulting to Small Businesses owners to help them develop a Business Plan, and all the steps necessary to effect that plan, whether just starting out, currently in business, or seeking to expand.

Ms. Rider then took a series of questions from the audience.

Chairman Christopher thanked Ms. Rider for coming to Point Roberts and encouraged any small business owners to connect with her and avail themselves of the invaluable service offered by this program.

Chairman Christopher mentioned a request received from Planning and Development regarding Lorne Nielson's storage facility, and said this topic will be deferred to the October meeting. Another project (Big Dog?) is also being deferred to the October meeting.

The status of advertising for a Recording Secretary is to be discussed between Linda and Joel, who will work together to develop proper advertising for the position that Joel's company, Point Septic LLC intends to fund as a donation to the community.

Chairman Christopher said that he will contact Executive Jack Louws for definition of the ordinance language that states the County will provide staff assistance.

Steve Wolff asked if PRCAC can accept donations. Chairman Christopher answered that it can, but all funds have to be County administered.

There was some discussion of the changes still to be made to the PRCAC Bylaws, regarding the election of At-Large members, and whether PRCAC hires a Recording Secretary, then the addition of a Treasurer will be necessary.

Chairman Christopher announced that Brian Walker will be in attendance for the October meeting to talk about TBD fund potential projects, in particular the Lighthouse Park circuit and the completion of the mini sidewalk on Tyee, at Umpqua Bank.

### **Old Business**

None at this time

## Open Session

Annelle Norman announced the upcoming Apple Festival, along with a concert on the evening of October 7<sup>th</sup>, a craft fair as well as apple pressing. She encouraged everyone to participate and/or sponsor some of the planned events.

Barbara Bradstock announced that her trees had produced a bounty of fruit, which she had brought to tonight's meeting and invited everyone to help themselves.

Louise Cassidy thanked PRCAC members for all their time and effort, and mentioned that at the County Council meeting in progress at the same time as this meeting, there was a planned vote on a budget for the Lighthouse Park playground. She continued that they would also be voting on a \$138,000 budget for the Transfer Station and she asked what that was for. David Gellatly responded that he had been approached about that and advised he understood they wanted to do some paving and replace the 1961 trailer that currently serves as the office.

Jeff Christopher recalled an earlier conversation wherein he learned that there was a favorable balance and he thought this may have been the inspiration for this improvement project. He said that he will get clarification on this.

There was some group discussion about the dock at Lighthouse Park, a miserable failure and one that Jack Louws indicated was an embarrassment but would be repaired one more time. David Gellatly said that this type of project was one that should be brought to the Port of Bellingham, as some funds might be available for a proper dock and its installation, although it is Whatcom County Park property and that may be an obstacle to the Port being able to participate.

Jeff Christopher reported that the Taxpayers Association taking on the "sliver tax" project and is writing to Olympia. Jeff will be in Olympia later this month and plans to try and meet on this topic.

There was some discussion about how to reach community members who are not reachable by traditional methods, email notification, etc. It was suggested that posting notices on the available Notice Boards in Point Roberts, at the Store and Library, could be helpful. Also, the Seniors often make community announcements and even allow presentations on some issues to the Seniors Lunch crowd.

Chairman Christopher asked if anyone had a list of the "invisible people" who do not get out much, are homebound or otherwise out of touch with communication. He asked Circle of Care member Annelle Norman if their group does but she said they do not.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.