

Minutes
Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting, October 17, 2019

Attendees: Stephen Falk (SF) — At Large
David Gellatly (DG) — CoC
Linda Hughes (LH) — At Large
Tessa Pinckston (TP) — PRRVA
Steve Wolff (SW) — PRТА

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

2. Review of Minutes

The Minutes for the September 19, 2019 regular meeting and the September 28, 2019 special meeting were approved by e-mail, submitted to the County Executive's office and posted on the PRCAC website.

3. Public Comment

LH noted that the PRCAC will hold a special meeting on WCC 20.72 on October 24, 2019 at 6 pm at the Community Center and that 20.72 will not be on the agenda for the current meeting.

* Scott Hackleman - Mr. Hackleman, president of the Point Roberts Garden Club, spoke on the issue of continued Tax Benefit District (TBD) funding to support the landscaping along Tyee Drive. He started by thanking the PRCAC for the funding in 2018 and 2019. He noted that these funds allowed the Tyee Drive work to continue while enabling the PRGC to use the proceeds of its fundraising efforts to support other initiatives. He asked that the PRCAC approve the request for TBD funding for 2020. It was noted that the next general meeting of the PRGC will take place in February 2020.

* Rhianon Allen — Dr. Allen, secretary of the PRGC, expressed surprise at the very high administrative costs reflected in the statement the PRCAC had received from Whatcom County Public Works. She noted that 75 cents went to WCPW for every \$1 spent on the project. DG noted that he met with County Executive Jack Louws earlier this year to inquire about getting interest in the TBD funds credited to that account. The County Executive said interest could be credited to the account if the fund picked up administrative costs. Now, it seems we get no interest and still pay administrative costs. (Later added note: Mr. Louws may have been referring to administrative costs for managing the TBD account, rather than administrative costs associated with projects paid for with TBD funds. (SF))

* Allison Calder — Ms Calder, as president of PRRVA, suggested that the PRCAC put off voting on the issue of approving the 2020 expenditure of TBD funds for Tyee Drive landscaping work until the PRRVA, PRТА and CoC can meet and determine their positions on this matter in view of the exorbitant administrative costs imposed by WCPW. SF questioned whether the amount of these administrative costs in 2020 would ultimately lead to the groups opposing this use of TBD funds. Mr. Hackleman noted that there was some urgency in reaching a decision so that the matter could get on the County Council agenda.

4. Correspondence

LH noted that correspondence was received from Judson Meraw concerning allowing businesses to have multiple storage containers on their property would be attached to the Minutes.

5. Old Business

Reef Permit Application for Expansion of 153 sq.ft. Storage Space — LH opened the discussion by asking the applicant's agent Allison Calder to make any comments regarding

Minutes
Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting, October 17, 2019

Permit Application COM2019-00058 concerning The Reef at 1334 Gulf Road; namely, internal changes to create a 153 sq.ft. storage room for the liquor store from space currently within The Reef restaurant. Ms Calder noted that the planned changes will be entirely inside the building and have no affect on the exterior of the building. SW identified each element on the PRCAC's checklist for evaluating permit applications. Each element relating to exterior aspects of a structure, each was marked on the form as "not applicable"; copy attached.

At this point, DG made a Motion that the PRCAC convey its agreement with the scope of, and its approval of, Permit Application COM2019-00058. (Seconded by SF). The PRCAC members voted 5:0 to approve the Motion.

DG urged that the Minutes be drafted promptly after the end of the special meeting and that they be reviewed and approved by the members by e-mail. Once approved by e-mail, DG will forward the Minutes to Nick Smith of PDS. Mr. Smith earlier noted that he would use the Minutes as evidence of the PRCAC's position on this Permit Application.

Request for Continuation of TBD Funds to Support Tye Drive Landscaping Maintenance — Because the issue came up first in Public Comments, it was addressed early in the meeting. It was noted that in 2019, \$5217 of TBD funds went to the Tye Drive landscaping work and \$4026 went to WCPW administrative fees. For 2020, the data from WCPW identified \$8920 in proposed expenditures for Tye Drive landscaping and an estimate of \$4500 in WCPW administrative costs.

In view of the concerns by the PRCAC member and the public, DG said he would speak to WCPW to see if anything can be done about the high costs, particularly when the administrative work seems to involve dealing with one contractor and its monthly invoices. Mr. Hackleman suggested the invoicing could be changed to bi-monthly or quarterly. SF raised the question whether WCPW has minimum administrative costs which take up a large portion of small projects, but which would appear fairly low for projects costing \$100,000 or \$1 million. The PRCAC agreed to add this to the agenda and review the issue again at the special meeting on October 24, 2019, hopefully with new information from DG's inquiry and with input from the PRRVA, PRTA and CoC, if they have any comments on this use of TBD funds in view of the high administrative costs imposed by the County.

Status of Maple Beach Storm Wall Project — Ron Laporte of the Maple Beach Residents Association asked whether the PRCAC had taken any action regarding the need of Maple Beach residents with respect to problems with the existing storm wall (flooding, beach erosion). DG noted that he had a meeting with Joe Rutan, but got no support for County action. DG suggested that TBD funds should be available to protect the road above the storm wall. (In that connection, DG also noted the Washington State Parks project to install a floating dock at Fort Warden, a point on the Olympic Peninsula where waters of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca meet, comparable to the conditions in Point Roberts. It was noted that, if State Parks can engineer a floating dock that is sea-worthy, County Parks should be able to do the same here.)

Olav Grabi, also of the Maple Beach Residents Association, asked whether TBD funds could be used for interim measures that residents have been financing themselves, such as the cost of sandbags to prevent flooding on Bayview Drive. Ms Calder noted that both WCPW and County Parks could be involved since the road is maintained by WCPW, but the beach is a County Park. DG suggested the issue should be discussed with WCPW to get their staff to review it and get it put on County Council's agenda. Mr. Calder suggested seeing whether a beach morphology study was done by Canadian authorities in advance of beach maintenance

Minutes
Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting, October 17, 2019

work that has just taken place. The results of such a study may be applicable to the contiguous portion of Maple Beach. Mr. Laporte said he would explore that.

Status of APA Canopy Restoration — SW said there is nothing new to report, and that Arlene Bellis is working on a budget for the trees and tree planting. DG said he would ask WCPW whether any FEMA funds could be available to support Tree Canopy restoration.

Discussion on “Community Plan” — After the September meeting, both LH and SF contacted Dr. Flavia Montenegro to let her know of the communities interested in developing the so-called Community Plan. Based on her responses, she is expected to be present at the November meeting of the PRCAC.

6. New Business

SW commented that PRTA has requested that PRCAC write a letter to the County about the floating dock debacle and solutions. In response, DG said he will continue to follow up with the County on solutions. According to Pat Grubb, publisher of the All Point Bulletin, County Parks has apparently reversed its earlier statement that it would support Race Week 2020 with a temporary dock at Lighthouse Marine Park. Mr. Calder noted that Race Week may leave Point Roberts at the first opportunity under its contract if there is no floating dock at Lighthouse Marine Park. DG noted that County Parks meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month, the same time as the PRCAC, and that the PRCAC members should consider attending one or more County Parks meetings to seek greater participation in County Parks’ decisions regarding Lighthouse Marine Park and the other three County parks in Point Roberts.

7. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm. (Motion by SF; seconded by SW)