

POINT ROBERTS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Contact: PRCAC.COMMENT@GMAIL.COM

Minutes: November 18, 2021 Regular Meeting

Members Attending:

Chair: Allison Calder (Point Roberts Registered Voters Association)

Vice-Chair: Kat Smith (Member-at-large)

Secretary: Grant Heitman (Member-at-large)

Annelle Norman (Point Roberts Tax Payers Association)

Bill Zidel (Member-at-large)

Prakash Sundaresan (Member-at-large)

Brian Hunter (Member-at-large)

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 PM

Agenda Approved: Yes:7 No:0

October 28, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes - Final Action: Approved with correction - Yes:7 No:0

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Email: Office of the County Executive: Appoints two new at-large PRCAC members: Prakash Sundaresan and Brian Hunter - welcome!
- Email: Office of the County Executive: Vice Chair Smith intends to apply for re-appointment to PRCAC at the end of at-large term - The County requests a formal application. The County is also accepting applications for a second at-large appointment to the CAC as of February one when Secretary Heitman's at-large term ends.
- Email: Office of the County Executive concerning broadband internet infrastructure grants: ACTION (unanimous vote): Chair Calder will reply to Exec's email - We need to ensure that the County supports an application for any infrastructure grant that included Point Roberts, whether the applicant is the Port of Bellingham or Whidbey Telecom
- Email: County Community Liaison Jed Holmes asking about ideas for disbursement of COVID relief (see OLD BUSINESS below)

OPENING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

County is considering disbursement of \$250,000 for COVID relief to County businesses and employees who have lost unemployment - options:

- 1) Direct grants to impacted individuals est. 50-60 Individuals: ~\$2,758.00 ea.
- 2) Grants to business of \$3,000 to business for each new hire retained for minimum of 8 weeks - some local businesses have informed Chair Calder that the amount is not a reasonable incentive level to absorb the other cost of hiring.
- 3) Grants to businesses who were ineligible for State grants or relief (gross annual rev more than 5 Mil) - few businesses would qualify

**4) Water District vouchers? International Market Vouchers? - Remainder to be distributed to essential service businesses
ACTION: PRCAC recommends option 4 to keep the funds in the local economy - Vote: Yes:6 No:0 Abstain:1**

Point Roberts MainStreet Program affiliate status starts January 1, 2022

Border Rules: No news - Pending further announcements on any changes by government of Canada.

Spring Community Clean-up Update: Chair and organizer Jennifer Hayden wants to use County Solid Waste Tax Funds - PRCAC members generally agree that these funds should be spent locally.

NEW BUSINESS:

Organizing to identify essential services and licensed, insured tradespeople who will work in Point Roberts: neighbors encouraged to connect & co-operate to book multiple clients for service provider visits across the border.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County: DVSAS.ORG - Confidential help available NOW for Domestic Abuse & Violence / Sexual Assault / Stalking / Harassment / Human Trafficking / Elder Abuse / Workplace Abuse. COVID19 Vaccine Locator - Trauma Survivor Advocacy - Physical & Mental Health Services -
Safety Alert: Computer use can be monitored and it is technically impossible to avoid. If you are afraid your internet usage might be monitored, **call the DVSAS 24-hour helpline at 1-877-715-1563**

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:09 PM