

Minutes
Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting, May 16, 2019

Attendees: Stephen Falk (SF) — At Large
Linda Hughes (LH) — At Large
Steve Wolff (SW) — PRTA

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Review Minutes of April 16, 2019 Special Meeting

LH noted that the Minutes for the April 16, 2019 special meeting were approved by e-mail. She further noted that the approved Minutes for March 21, 2019 regular meeting and the April 1, 2019 special meeting were sent to Suzanne Mildner for posting online.

3. Review Minutes of April 18, 2019 Regular Meeting

With only 2 members (LH, SW) in attendance who were at the April 18, 2019 meeting, the Minutes could not be approved at the meeting. LH will re-send the draft Minutes by e-mail for review and approval by e-mail.

4. Public Comment

- * Ken Calder spoke on the question of whether DG's membership on the PRCAC during the PRCAC's discussions and decisions (which DG did not vote on) on the new waste pickup contract constituted a conflict of interest under RCW 42.23.020 in view of DG having contracts with Whatcom County at the time that the PRCAC was addressing that issue; LH noted that Jack Louws reviewed and addressed that issue and found no conflict; SF and SW suggested that Mr. Calder could pursue the issue by inquiring at the State, rather than County, level; possibly at the Solicitor's Office.
- * Judson Meraw spoke on CPW's impending re-surfacing of Point Roberts roads. He spoke in favor of asphalt paving to create smooth road surfaces better for use by non-combustion-engine, environmentally-friendly vehicles (e.g., bicycles, Segways, strollers, wheelchairs), rather than the planned chip-seal resurfacing. He requested that the PRCAC ask CPW to change its road work plans. It was suggested that TBD funds could be used if the community wanted asphalt paving and that option was more expensive. LH noted that the road work is scheduled to begin very soon, based on planning and budgeting work done in 2018.
- * Judson Meraw further spoke on the need for a "vision process" including developing a comprehensive plan and economic development plan before deciding on zoning changes. He mentioned asking the Park District for permission to use a board in the pool room as a "Vision Board" for local groups and individuals to express elements of their vision for Point Roberts.
- * Allison Calder noted that CPW's website provides information on their road work plans across the County and shows where they are repaving with asphalt as opposed to chip-seal. LH noted that CPW uses the different approaches for different road types, with asphalt largely reserved for arterial routes.
- * Louise Cassidy commented that re-paving project is another example of the County not getting input from Point Roberts when making plans for work in Point Roberts, and another example of the PRCAC not being engaged enough with the County to know about and influence County decisions before they are made. She suggested that each PRCAC member

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could have a standing assignment to be engaged with and in contact with different County departments (e.g., CPW, Health Dept.) and to bring back to the PRCAC and the community information about plans affecting Point Roberts, and to give local feedback to the County agencies.

5. Correspondence

LH noted that the PRCAC had received one e-mail and one letter since the last regular meeting, both concerning WCC 20.72. The issue raised in the correspondence will be addressed at the next special meeting on WCC 20.72.

6. Old Business:

LH reviewed the May 4, 2019 Special Meeting, noting that there was substantial public comment, that the PRCAC members then began a working sessions to address possible changes to sections .103, .130 and .135, but that the working sessions was interrupted by a member of the public who insisted on speaking, disrupting the work of the PRCAC. DG left the meeting, and with two members already absent, that led to there no longer being a quorum. The meeting then adjourned.

In view of the disruption of the May 4 meeting, LH raised the issue of whether to schedule a new special meeting or whether the work could still be accomplished in the many remaining special meetings on WCC 20.72. The consensus was that the work could be accomplished in the existing special meetings.

7. New Business

(a) APA Tree Canopy Restoration

(To accommodate Ms Belless, she made her presentation after review of the recent meeting Minutes and before the Public Comments.)

Armene Belless of the Point Roberts Conservation Society (PRCS) spoke about the ongoing effort to re-plant maples trees to help recreate the APA Road tree canopy. She reported the following:

- * PRCS' plan is to plant 20 new maple trees
- * Brian Walker of Whatcom County Public Works (CPW) said that this project meeting the criteria for use of Transportation Benefit District (TBD) funds
- * CPW does not permit planting of big leaf maples on county right-of-way due to their tendency to loose large branches on the roads; that was PRCS first choice for planting
- * other native maples are available (Acer bonfire; sugar maples; autumn maples; red sunset maples)
- * tree costs: \$75/tree for 1" diameter trees; \$250/tree for 1 3/4" diameter trees; same price for bare root trees and burlap wrapped root ball trees
- * planting cost: \$50/tree (presumably at prevailing wages, since the estimate was from Brian Walker of CPW); SF suggested asking Seabright if they could be hired to plant the trees
- * delivery cost: \$50/tree (by Point Roberts Auto Freight) (assumption that includes costs for inspection and permit for border crossing)
- * timing: will have to wait till fall for next harvest at nurseries
- * watering: should not be an initial issue if trees are planted in the fall; may need watering in the late spring and summer; PRCS should check with Seabright on whether they could water the trees when needed
- * PRCS contacted Seabright; as property owner, Seabright needs to agree to the plan and needs to get a revocable encroachment permit from CPW for the trees to be planted on the county right-of-way; Seabright is in agreement and is willing to get the permit

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- * PRCS' informal assessment of public opinion is that there is substantial support and virtually no opposition to planting maples to re-establish the tree canopy
- * after more research on remaining issues, PRCS will come back to the PRCAC to request support for use of \$5000 or more for TBD funds to pay for this project

(b) PRCAC Bylaws

SF reviewed the draft bylaws for the PRCAC prepared in 2018 by former At-Large member Keith Glading. SF made various revisions and ended up with some questions, all of which was circulated to the members, but only the day before this meeting.

In a working session, LH and SW gave SF feedback on the questions and provided some background on the creation of the underlying draft.

- * we currently do not have alternate members, but that could be part of the PRCAC going forward
- * need to describe a method for identifying and selecting the at-large candidates for ultimate approval by the County Executive (SF to ask Suzanne Mildner for examples of how other CACs do this; SW to ask Keith about background on his draft)
- * Boards of Directors of each group with a PRCAC representative should select that member
- * those groups must be active and maintain their registration with the State
- * awa
- * use the threshold of missing 3 consecutive regular meetings without extenuating circumstances as a basis to be removed as a member of the PRCAC
- * "Billboard" refers to social media and other means of publicizing meetings or issues
- * remove Section 14 regarding "urgent meetings"
- * we prefer to operate under Robert's Rules of Order
- * if a PRCAC officers need to leave the office, a new officer will be selected by the members
- * if a PRCAC officer needs to be removed, she/he may be removed from the office, but not expelled from the PRCAC
- * look to County and State provisions on Conflict of Interest requirements
- * require a super majority of 80% (4 of 5 members) to amend the Bylaws

SF will further review and revised the draft bylaws for consideration.

8. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. (Motion by SF; seconded by SW)