

SUMMARY

PDR Oversight Committee Meeting 5280 Northwest Rd Bellingham, WA

January 24, 2005

**Members present: Doug Dostal, Rich Stipe, Veronica Wisniewski, Rod Erickson, Jim Dykstra;
Staff: Kraig Olason, Jason Faith; Guests: Mike McFarlane, Whatcom County Parks & Recreation**

1. Public Comments.

There were not public comments.

2. Review of Minutes.

The minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve from Veronica Wisniewski and seconded by Jim Dykstra. The minutes were approved as written.

3. Parks and Open Space Plan update – Mike McFarlane.

Mike provided some background on the Parks & Open Space Plan (POS) update, the POS Steering Committee, Beckwith Consulting Group, and scope of work to date. He explained the reason for the POS update, which is to come into compliance with state and local laws, which subsequently will allow the Parks Dept. to maintain eligibility for funding for open space acquisitions and facility maintenance and improvements. Mike stated that the public information and comment portion of the update process started about 2 weeks ago with the start of workshops, which are scheduled until February 5, 2005. The open house sessions are scheduled from Feb. 14 to March 3 and will reveal the results of the workshops to the public, including the final scope and policies of the update, acquisition priorities, etc. Mike stated that a draft of the POS update will be posted on the Rec. Dept.'s website and also go out to the community for review. A significant change expected in the POS update is the inclusion of a budget and expenditure section, which has not been included in the past. The finished plan is expected early in the fall.

4. Finalization of ranking for Round 3 applicants.

Kraig provided handouts of the submitted applications, which included the ranking sheet and airphoto of the property and surrounding area. There was discussion about the pros and cons of each property. The ranking and subsequent discussion placed the Holz property as the highest ranked, the Tom Fenton property as second, the Ray Fenton property as third, the VanderWerff and Stone properties were excluded from consideration. The VanderWerff property was excluded because it had non-APO soils and was very far outside of any of the target zones. The Stone property was excluded because it did not fit the goals of the program and also because the Whatcom Land Trust already holds a conservation easement on the property's trees, which covers most of the property.

5. Application for committee membership.

Kraig provided the application received from Barbara Dykes for consideration as a new member the PDR committee. Kraig stated he would invite her to the next meeting.

6. Update on Farm Friends involvement with PDR.

Kraig stated that the Farm Friends organization is interested in the PDR program, but will only take an educational role rather than a promotional role in the program.

Next meeting will be February 7, 9:00am.

Signed,

**Rod Erickson, Chair
PDR Oversight Committee**