

POINT ROBERTS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Contact: PRCAC.COMMENT@GMAIL.COM

Minutes: January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting

Members Attending:

Chair: Allison Calder (Point Roberts Registered Voters Association)

Vice-Chair: Kat Smith (Member-at-large) - Lost Zoom connection during meeting

Secretary: Grant Heitman (Member-at-large)

Joining late: Annelle Norman (Point Roberts Taxpayer's Association)

Bill Zidel (Member-at-large)

Prakash Sundaresan (Member-at-large)

Brian Hunter (Member-at-large)

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

Agenda Approved: Yes:6 No:0 Absent:1

December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes -Approved:

Yes:6 No:0 Absent:1

OLD BUSINESS:

BROADBAND INTERNET / FIBER OPTIC SERVICE IN POINT ROBERTS:

Presentation by Donna Hilty, Chief Operations Officer of Whidbey Telecom

Plans for 2022 residential fiber expansion - Funded by US Department of Agriculture. Whidbey is investigating other State and Federal grants. Whidbey is investigating submarine cable connection to mainland as well as enhancement of existing Microwave connection. Objective is to increase bandwidth of internet connections generally. Whidbey will contribute to a local learning center in Point Roberts. Whidbey is hiring technical, construction and remote-based customer support positions resources locally to deploy the USDA-funded projects in 2022.

Presentation by Gina Stark, Port of Bellingham - Whatcom County Rural Broadband Project

Outline of "Digital Equity" project service area selection and funding - assessing need for a project in Point Roberts - Fiber-to-the-Home 100MB Uplink and Downlink. When fiber networks are in place, they are available to any Internet Service Provider, including Whidbey Telecom.

Prakash S will be PRCAC point of contact for both Whidbey and Port of Bellingham

WINTER FLOODING AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:

Zihao Ding and Martha Bray, representing the Point Roberts Marina, have started working with County Public Works.

PRCAC Member Brian Hunter: Floodwater Basin neighbor Stephen Brisbane's legal counsel sent letter to PRCAC including engineering work product. Brian Hunter will direct information to Whatcom County Engineering

Point Roberts Marina has asked to wait on investigating the drainage infrastructure until the winter rains subside. Whatcom County is aware of the request.

PRCAC Chair Calder has not received update from Whatcom Public Works on plans for investigation and solution.

ACTION: PRCAC Chair Calder to send letter to County Executive requesting Brian Hunter meet with County Public Works.

Approved: Yes:6 No:0 Absent:1

POST BORDER CLOSURE SPRING CLEANUP:

Neighbor Samantha Scholefield: wants to review curbside garbage pickup mandate by Whatcom County. PRCAC Chair Calder: mandate is due to be reviewed by Whatcom County Council - PRCAC Chair will follow up on spring cleanup with Whatcom County staff

WASHINGTON MAINSTREETS PROGRAM:

Point Roberts officially entered program 1/1/2022 - PRCAC Member Bill Zidel will lead next steps / monthly meetings / establishment of IRS Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Canadian Citizens welcome to apply to serve on Board of Directors and volunteer with the Mainstreets charitable organization.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

SNOW REMOVAL PRIORITY MAP: Chair Calder will work with County Public Works to expand snow removal to key arteries such as Benson, APA, etc. We need clear roads for First Responders.

PRCAC AT-LARGE SEAT OPEN: The term for Secretary Heitman has expired. Vice Chair Katherine Smith will serve as Secretary at next regular meeting. Applicants to serve on the PRCAC should contact the Whatcom County Executive Office at 360-778-5200 for required application instructions and email the PRCAC at PRCAC.COMMENT@GMAIL.COM. The date and time of the candidate forum for all applicants will be confirmed at the February regular meeting 2/17/2022.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

General Public interest in Delta Optimist Article about Port of Bellingham considering purchase of the Point Roberts Marina: PR Taxpayer's Association Mark Robbins has contacted Port Commissioners for more information - no agreement has been reached.

ACTION: PRCAC will reach out to the community for input. All members present support the idea of the Port controlling the Marina for the sake of resolving the drainage issues, improving the marine infrastructure, and creating the potential for Ferry Service. Public volunteer: Elisabeth Mason & PRCAC Vice Chair Katherine Smith will draft letter to Port of Bellingham and the Whatcom Executive in support of Port's acquisition & operation of the Marina.

COVID Vaccination and Testing Service: Question from neighbor Samantha Scholefield: is the private SuperTrack Clinic profiting from the work of the Fire Department's Volunteers? **ACTION:** Bill Zidel and Annelie Norman will write letter to the Hospital District and Fire District 5 Chief Carleton for confirmation - **Approved:** Yes:7 No:0

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County

DVSAS.ORG: Confidential help is 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: 8:43PM