

PARKS MEETING NOTES FOR JUNE 14TH 2023

9:30 Fireside ROOM

The hybrid meeting was called to order by Ollie Iversen at 9:37 with a quorum of Ken Lee, Martine Howard, Mike Bucy and Ollie Iversen. Also present were Scott Thomas, Town Administrator, and Mary Wohlub, Town Councilperson.

Public comments-*No guests were present at today's meeting, either in-person or via Zoom*

Old Business

A. *Kiosk Repair Update-Public Works is backed up with too many projects and the kiosks will be assembled and installed later this summer.*

B. *Pavilion Permit Update-We have the permits now and Mary Wohlub informed us she attended an AWC meeting and with their new ruling, H1621, we will only have to get one bid for the pavilion and Public Works has the bid in-hand. She will inform Brian Lease about this new ruling.*

C. *Fish Slide Update-The Town Council at their May 23rd meeting made the decision to have the Fish Slide destroyed due to, in their words, the fish build was flawed, it was out of service often and was a drain on the Town budget. Along with this, the Town's insurance did an audit of all Parks and told them the Fish Slide was a risk. I went to their Council meeting of June 13th and told them their decision was a surprise to me along with their reasons for getting rid of the sculpture. I then gave them answers to their issues. The two volunteers do not charge and the total expenditure for the past many years has been several hundred dollars for materials. The fish was worked on every year to have it open every summer, until we asked for it to be closed last year and also asked for some professional help to see who or how we could keep the fish going as a slide. The insurance audit is difficult to assess as we have yet to see the report. There are so many potential risks at the Parks, I don't know why they picked the fish as a problem. The Mayor, Ramon Hayes, assured me at that meeting that the Council will revisit their decision and discuss this at the next meeting on June 24th. I will be there and invited the Parks Commissioners to attend that meeting to help turn this around so we can rework and repaint the fish and open the slide. Mike Bucy has contacted a fellow who works with sculptures in concrete and will follow up with him. I too will give him a call to see if he can help.*

D. *Trees on Morris Street Update-Ollie said he gave Public Works photos of dogwood Trees planted along a sidewalk in a Seattle neighborhood, and asked Brian Lease to ask his arborist if these trees would be appropriate. Scott Thomas made a comment that this could become a problem due to budget issues. Mike Bucy mentioned that the trees would be about \$200, plus, or minus, yet the installation could bring the cost of each tree many times higher. He also said that the arborist he was talking with mentioned that DNR has programs that help towns with the costs of the trees, and he will look into this.*

New Business

Ken Lee brought in an informational brochure about kayak launching rigs made to attach to a float for ease in and out of a kayak. This would be used at the Jordan Street Park when it is built. Mary mentioned that there are significant currents on the Swinomish Channel going at about 3 knots from either direction, which could be another factor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09

Ollie Iversen

Park Commission