

Minutes
Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
Meeting, March 21, 2019

Attendees: Stephen Falk (SF) — At Large
David Gellatly (DG) — PRCoC
Linda Hughes (LH) — At Large
Tessa Pinckston (TP) — PRRVA
Steve Wolff (SW) — PRTA

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

2. Review Status of February Minutes and Ongoing Video Uploads of Meetings

DG made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 20 regular meeting; SW seconded; all approved.

LH made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 9 special meeting; SW seconded; approved by LH, TP, SW and SF (DG was not in attendance at that meeting).

LH made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 19 special meeting; TP seconded; all approved. SF commented that the March 9 and March 19 special meetings were successfully recorded and the video files were uploaded to the same YouTube site set up by Joel Lantz.

3. Review of Two Special Meetings Held Earlier in March (20.72 Special Meeting of March 9 and Special Meeting Planning Session of March 19)

LH commented on the two special meetings held in March. The sole agenda item of the March 9 special meeting was to elicit public opinion regarding possible changes to WCC 20.72. The sole agenda item for the March 19 special meeting was to set the dates and “new business” agenda items for 6 special meetings regarding WCC 20.72 and the PRCAC regular monthly meetings for March, April, May and June. Details are set out in the Minutes for the March 19, 2019 Special Meeting.

4. Public Comment (Each speaker had 3 minutes.)

Olav Grabi —On behalf of Maple Beach residents, Mr. Grabi reiterated his request at the February 20 meeting for assistance with the County on their flooding mitigation efforts regarding the sea wall. He provided the PRCAC with a document “Request for PRCAC Funding Allocation Consideration to the Maple Beach Flood Team”. In addition to approaches described earlier, the new document identifies potentially useful temporary flood barriers. DG asked about past remediation efforts. Mr. Grabi noted that there have been past remediation efforts by the County, but not recently, and the earlier approach of adding small stones along the beach had no lasting effect. In response to the title of the new document, LH commented that the PRCAC itself has no funds to distribute. (Mr Grabi was earlier informed that the Maple Beach Flooding Remediation issue is on the agenda for the PRCAC meeting of April 18, 2019.)

Louise Cassidy — She commented that the PRCAC members used to sit at a rectangular table allowing them all to face the attending public. She requested that the members revert to that approach. LH acknowledged that could be done at future meetings. Ms Cassidy further asked when Minutes from past meetings are made public and expressed a preference for having them available before the next meeting.

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LH commented that that Minutes become publicly available after they are approved by the PRCAC. Three sets of Minutes were approved at this meeting and would be posted thereafter. LH noted that the Minutes can be approved by e-mail responses from the members. This has been done in the past and is likely to be resumed. SW noted that we have video recordings of the meetings. SF commented that the upload process is now very fast due to the fiber optic internet connection at the Community Center; as a result, the video can be viewed on the YouTube site within minutes after the end of each meeting.

Heidi Baxter — She asked whether the PRCAC is maintaining a list of specific issues / problems in Point Roberts identified by the public which might be improved or resolved by changed to WCC 20.72. This idea was raised at the March 9 Special Meeting. LH commented that the PRCAC will be making a list based on public comment, that the process is intended to be fully transparent, and that six special meetings have been scheduled on the sole topic of possible changes to WCC 20.72.

Louise Cassidy — She asked whether correspondence to the PRCAC will be included with the publicly available Minutes. LH commented that there have been only two pieces of correspondence, two e-mails regarding WCC 20.72 received prior to the March 9 Special Meeting. **[I think** LH commented that correspondence would be posted together with the Minutes for the meeting after the correspondence was received — **is that correct?** My notes are unclear.]

DG noted that the PRCAC and various individuals in Point Roberts had received an e-mail from County Executive Jack Louws in response to an e-mail from Mark Robbins about County Park's decision not to spend \$50,000 to again repair the floating dock and to instead remove the dock elements and leave the boat launch ramp without any accompanying structure. DG proposed to send an e-mail response to Mr. Louws in advance of his appearance at the PRRVA meeting on April 4, 2019. SF and SW commented that Mr. Louws' e-mail made no mention of what the County will do next now that the badly designed floating dock is being abandoned. DG suggested that local groups and individuals bring their issues for the County to the PRCAC for it to convey to the County. DG also proposed that the PRCAC send a formal response to Mr. Louws regarding the floating dock debacle and the overall dis-investment by County Parks in Lighthouse Marine Park which is a significant part of Point Roberts' attraction to tourists.

Allison Calder — Regarding Lighthouse Marine Park, she noted that the County had received a grant of \$250,000 under the REET II program in 2016 for the benefit of Point Roberts and Lighthouse Marine Park.

SW suggested that PRTA could provide data about funding and costs for County Parks activities at the park, and that this information could be part of the letter to Mr. Louws. The letter should ask what the County's intentions are for Lighthouse Marine Park. DG and SF will work on the letter; DG will write the first draft.

Louise Cassidy — She noted that County Parks laid out the options of repairing the floating docks again or removing the dock altogether. She expected the PRCAC to actively lobby for a positive outcome.

Judson Meraw — He asked how we can get the County to include constructive community input in its decisions, for example, to avoid bad decisions like those relating to the design of the floating dock. LH commented that County Parks has made presentations at 6 PRCAC public meetings in the last 24 months.

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Heidi Baxter — She commented that the community still wants a dock at Lighthouse Marine Park. If this cannot be an immediate reality, it should remain as part of County Park's long-term goals for Point Roberts. DG agreed, saying that the County should have a clear vision for Point Roberts and its County Parks.

5. Old Business — None at this time

6. New Business

a. Lighthouse Marine Park and the Trail Continuation Project

DG asked what the current status of the Trail Continuation Project is, and what the timing for the work is. DG will check with County Public Works. In response to a question from SF, it was explained that this project is to add a trail along the south side of Marine Drive to connect the park trail ends. Allison Calder commented that the County spent \$4 million to acquire 4.1 acres for a new park in Birch Bay, but they will not spend money to maintain our parks. DG noted that the County did create Lily Point Marine Park recently.

b. Tax Benefit District (TBD) Funds

DG commented that the County should invest the TBD funds held for the benefit of Point Roberts in an interest-bearing account, with the interest added to the account for the benefit of Point Roberts. He will check with the County about the possibility of doing this, and getting it done if it is an option. He is prepared to check with our State Representative and Senator if needed. Louis Cassidy raised the question of whether there would be added administrative costs for the TBD funds to be handled in this way.

LH noted that the next PRCAC Special Meeting regarding WCC 20.72 is scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6 pm.

LH will post the schedule of upcoming meetings and the planned agenda items for the PRCAC meetings through June 2019 on PAWS Interface and Nextdoor.

LH will post meeting agendas on PAWS Interface and Nextdoor prior to PRCAC meetings.

7. Adjourn.

By motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Note: The meeting was recorded and the video was immediately posted to the YouTube site at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwfFWt74gs0>