

Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee

(PRCAC)

Special Meeting of the Board Members

Thursday, January 17, 2019

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Jeff Christopher, Chairman (representing the Point Roberts Taxpayers Association)
Joel Lantz (representing Point Roberts Voters Association)
David Gellatly, (representing Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce)
Keith Glading (at large)
Linda Hughes (at large)

Guests:

Tessa Pinckston	Stephen Falk	Ken Calder
David McCarthy, PRRVA	Vic Riley	Louise Cassidy
Steve Wolff	Alison Calder	Isabelle Propy
Judson Meraw	Heidi Baxter	Annette Loewen
George Wright	Samantha Scholfield	Grant Heitzman
Rick Halsey	Pat Grubb	

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Jeff Christopher.

Chairman Christopher announced that Brian Walker and Gina Miller from Public Works had to cancel their attendance at tonight's meeting but will re-schedule for another PRCAC meeting.

Chairman Christopher announced that the Agenda item for PRCAC review and recommendation regarding the application for expansion at 486 Tye Drive is being deferred to the February meeting.

New Business:

Chairman Christopher announced that the newly developed process to provide Point Roberts residents the opportunity to participate in the recommendation to County Executive Louws of the At-Large position on the PRCAC board was a success, especially in view of the lessons learned that will be beneficial when the next At-Large position term expires.

Samantha Scholefield shared her opinion on how the process could have been managed better, which would have resulted in greater participation.

Joel Lantz thanked Samantha for her great observation and reminded everyone that the idea came to PRCAC very late in the year, saying this Board did its best to create an inclusive process that resulted in quite an impressive participation for a first effort. Joel thanked Jeff Christopher for proposing the idea to encourage more public input.

Chairman Christopher announced that County Executive Louws had indeed accepted PRCAC's recommendation based on public input and had appointed Stephen Falk to the At-Large position. Chairman Christopher thanked all of the applicants for their interest in representing our community on this important committee. He turned the floor over to Stephen Falk.

Stephen Falk said that he has much to learn and he looks forward to serving in a useful capacity.

Joel Lantz introduced Tessa Pinckston, a new member on the Point Roberts Registered Voters Association, and PRVVA's newly appointed PRCAC representative. He said that she is a real estate agent, has experience in the Seabright project, and is a lifelong resident of Point Roberts. He welcomed Tessa to the PRCAC board, asked her to say a few words.

Tessa reiterated that she has lived here most of her life, and she is looking forward to participating on this committee.

Jeff Christopher announced that the Point Roberts Taxpayers Association has appointed Steve Wolff as the Taxpayers representative to the PRCAC board, and he welcomed Steve back to the board, offering him the floor to say a few words.

Steve Wolff said that he has heard criticism of how PRCAC has lacked communication with other committees and organizations, but says he personally believes this committee has done a good job. He continued to say that he wants PRCAC to expand outreach efforts at the taxpayer level to gather more information. He commended Judson Meraw on his ideas to create better outreach, in particular to design and publish a poll to gather input on the 20.72 design guideline text amendments.

Samantha Scholefield congratulated the newly appointed members of PRCAC and asked the Board to consider Canadians who cannot attend meetings on weeknights, suggesting that a few meetings be held on weekends, especially during the summer months when there are more Canadians in residence.

Dave McCarthy, of the Point Roberts Voters' Association, agreed with Samantha that it would be great if more of our Canadian residents participated in the PRCAC meetings, but noted that in his experience (in Whistler, Canada, another small resort town) that visitors generally come to their cabins to relax and enjoy family time, and rarely become involved in local committees or go to meetings. He also pointed out that many other committees in Point Roberts depend on the PRCAC meeting schedule to remain consistent, as they have scheduled their meetings partly to discuss and be prepared for their input into each PRCAC meeting.

Stephen Falk noted that the Park District has been negotiating with Whidbey Telecom for high-speed fiber optics to serve the Community Center and perhaps it will be possible to Live Stream future meetings. He offered to talk to Bennett Blaustein about that.

Ken Calder noted that the Agenda for tonight's meeting indicates that it will be videotaped and posted to YouTube, as has become normal procedure at PRCAC meetings, but he cannot see where the camera is located tonight. Joel Lantz replied that tonight's meeting is not being video recorded because he has been using his personal equipment to record and upload our PRCAC meetings, but his equipment is being utilized tonight to run a program for the company he works for. Joel asked the members of the new board to continue offering this service; saying he would donate some of his equipment but that a laptop is required and he could not donate his laptop to run the camera (and necessary software to convert it for uploading to YouTube).

Joel also announced that the Comments@pointrobertscac.org is attached to a domain that he has been personally paying approximately \$35.00 per year to maintain. He asked the new board to consider how it will taken over and paid for.

There was some room discussion of the Border Guards not currently receiving pay during the Government shut down and the variety of ways that everyone can thank them for working through this period.

Grant Heitzman apologized for arriving late to the meeting and asked what the status of the At Large appointment was. Jeff Christopher reiterated his earlier comments about candidate and public participation, and confirmed that Mr. Falk had been appointed by the County Executive.

Jeff Christopher offered to the remaining and new PRCAC board his time to help facilitate a smooth transition, saying he can be available to attend meetings with PRCAC's new liaison to the County and make introductions and share status of ongoing topics. Specifically, Jeff has become immersed in the planning of the trail continuation around Lighthouse Marine Park, and PRCAC's recommendation that it be partially funded with TBD funds. Current projections are that \$84,000 of TBD funds will be used on this project, while the County contribution will be approximately \$54,000.

David Gellatly thanked Jeff for his willingness to stay involved and help shepherd the transition and asked if the other departing members might also consider being "on call" for a short time to assist in the transition, with Keith Glading having been the steward of the proposed PRCAC By-Laws and Joel having so much experience with the process necessary to effect the 20.72 design guideline text amendments.

Ken Calder asked if PRCAC could notify this community when County Council has the Lighthouse Marine Park trail project on their Agenda to discuss. Jeff Christopher deferred to Linda Hughes, who needed a moment to catch up with writing these Minutes, but then confirmed that yes, PRCAC will put notices out by the usual local methods (PAWS, Next Door, APB) when information about County Council meetings became available.

Old Business

MOTION: David Gellatly motioned that the Minutes of November 22, 2018 be approved as presented. Keith Glading seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0

David Gellatly announced that the partial Minutes from the Special Meeting of December 4th have not been approved because that meeting was suspended and will be reconvened soon, after which the Minutes of the entire meeting will be reviewed for approval. He said that the original reconvene date of December 11th was not successful because there was no quorum.

There was some discussion of dates to reconvene the Special Meeting of December 4th, and January 31st was settled upon. Stephen Falk contacted Bennett Blaustein and confirmed that the room would be available and reserved for that meeting. Jeff Christopher will contact Cliff Strong to see if he can re-attend for the reconvened meeting.

David Gellatly was asked to provide a status update on the rollout of the new curbside collection program.

David stated that the program began just this week and went fairly smoothly. He reported this good news: commercial garbage decreased by 30% and residential increased by 40%. He also said there was a significant increase in recycling, which drew applause from the public.

Heidi Baxter asked David to bring more comprehensive numbers to the next meeting. She wants to know how many new customers as David had mentioned 420 in his review of the rollout but 1,300 is the actual number affected by the new fees. She also wants actual weight of the garbage available at the next meeting.

Grant Heitzman asked if the dates of curbside collection had changed. David Gellatly said that with the increase in customer base, the collection dates were changed for some customers as Cando is now picking up several days per week. He said that the schedule had been made available to the public in a variety of media outlets and is on the Cando website.

<https://www.candord.com/> He also said that his staff is happy to assist with any questions if people prefer to call 360-945-2636.

Judson Meraw said that he missed his pickup date and wanted a credit for the missed date. David Gellatly explained the 26-can per year arrangement, allowing him to simply put out the cans on his pickup dates as he chooses, until all 26 are used.

Ken Calder asked for further clarification of the every other week pick up schedule. David confirmed the every other week pickup – one week being for trash pickup and the other week being recycling pickup.

George Wright asked if he could put all 26 cans out in one day. David Gellatly answered yes.

Isabelle Prophy wanted to compliment Cando on their fine work and wonderful customer service. She had inadvertently mixed her recyclables and upon finding the note from Cando staff she re-sorted her recycling, contacted Cando, and the truck made a special stop by her place to pick it up. She thanked David for that extraordinary service.

Heidi Baxter asked if any more consideration has been put into self-haul credits. David said not at this time, as that co-mingles sources of trash. This program needs to be implemented and utilized before any consideration can be made to changing it.

Jeff Christopher then turned the floor over to George Wright for his presentation “A Vision for Point Roberts.” Mr. Wright began by thanking Judson Meraw and Steve Wolff for their outreach program, and wants us all to take charge of our zoning issues, reminding everyone that the current design guidelines are more than 25 years old and have not kept up with the progress of Point Roberts. He showed maps of Point Roberts and pointed out the various zoning, with special notation of the Small Town Commercial zone – essentially our downtown core.

Heidi Baxter asked George what is it that he cannot do now due to zoning restrictions. He replied that his storage container is currently considered illegal, and that is affecting his ability to operate his business.

Rick Halsey asked George if he was focusing on the downtown core or all of Point Roberts. George replied that the plan is to start with the downtown core.

Grant Heitzman asked if George had created a consulting firm for this purpose. George replied not so much, more of a focus group, adding that he would love to have consultants join the group to discuss zoning in Point Roberts.

Jeff Christopher thanked George for his comprehensive presentation and asked him to bring his very useful maps to the January 31st reconvened Special Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.