

Minutes  
Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting, September 19, 2019

Attendees: Stephen Falk (SF) — At Large  
David Gellatly (DG) — CoC  
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 of Minutes**

The Minutes for the August 15, 2019 regular meeting and the August 24, 2019 and August 29, 2019 special meetings were approved by e-mail, submitted to the County Executive's office and posted on the PRCAC website.

**3. Public Comment**

- \* Allison Calder — Ms Calder brought the following items to the attention of the PRCAC:
  - \* (1) She requested putting the 2016 County's traffic analysis of Point Roberts, including safety issues at local intersections, on the agenda of an upcoming PRCAC meeting;
  - \* (2) PRRVA is hosting a "Meet the Candidates" forum at the Community Center at 6 pm on October 3, 2019;
  - \* (3) As part of the "Plastic-free Salish Sea" program, there will be a Beach Clean-up on September 28, 2019 starting at 9:30 am.
  - \* (4) A Clothing Drive will be collecting used clothing items at the Community Center on October 26, 2019.

**4. Correspondence**

It was noted that the Point Roberts Independent Business Council (PRIBC) had sent several e-mails to the PRCAC, including a request for copies of the PRCAC Minutes and the proposed changed to WCC 20.72. SW noted it took some time for the PRCAC to review and approve those documents. SF noted that the documents were provided to the PRIBC and posted online for all to see.

**5. Old Business**

**Race Week 2020 and the Floating Dock** — Before getting to the items listed in the Agenda, TP brought up the content of the e-mail she had received (and forwarded to the PRCAC) from the organizers of Race Week 2020 regarding their concern over the absence of the floating dock at the County's Lighthouse Marine Park, and asked what the PRCAC could do. Pat Grubb provided the comment that Mike McFarland of County Parks has apparently agreed to install a temporary floating dock for the duration of Race Week in July 2020.

**Update on Proposed Changes to WCC 20.72** — DG reported that he had spoken with Cliff Strong of Planning and Development Services (PDS). Mr. Strong did not want to provide oral comments on the PRCAC's proposed changes until after written comments have been completed. In addition, he noted that the changes are being reviewed by others in PDS (in Engineering and in Code Enforcement) and by County Public Works (CPW) (regarding the parking changes). It could be 2-3 weeks before review is completed and a response is provided to the PRCAC.

**Status of Maple Beach Storm Wall Project** — Having received no new information, DG agreed to e-mail Olaf Grabi to get a status update.

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**Status of APA Canopy Restoration** — SW reported that Mr. Li of Seabright had promised to do more in support of the initiative by the Point Roberts Conservation Society (PRCS). The PRCS plans to purchase the 2.5” diameter trees in October 2019. Discussions are still underway with Seabright on the planting of the trees. Seabright might provide its watering truck to water the trees. The Garden Club may agree to be involved in some capacity with this project.

**PRCAC Bylaws Process** — The PRCAC agreed to put review of draft bylaws for the PRCAC on the agenda for the November 21, 2019 PRCAC meeting. SF will prepare a revised draft in advance of that meeting.

**6. New Business**

**Opportunity for Professional Data Collection for Potential Economic Development Plan as Presented by Dr. Flavia Montenegro** — LH noted that Dr. Montenegro had attend the last special meeting of the PRCAC on her first day in town and was interested to see how the community was working together to make a plan. Dr. Montenegro met separately with LH, SF, TP and DG to discuss what she could offer in support of that community initiative. LH was interested in helping to raise funds to collect real data use in developing a community development plan (a “Community Plan” as coined by DG). Dr. Montenegro would need funding to support the information gathering and compilation, and possibly hiring an assistant in that effort. This process could allow all members of the community to have a common starting point for discussion on development. The initial funding would provide an opportunity for Dr. Montenegro to seek outside grants to further fund the project.

As LH noted, this could allow us to put “cart behind the horse” as we consider possible further changes to WCC 20.72. We could learn what we have and what we could have in the future.

DG noted that this could provide a unique opportunity to engage a person with talent and expertise in community development who has an objective perspective. Dr. Montenegro is new to Point Roberts, has no preconceived ideas and is not part of any particular segment of the local community. The community raised a lot of money to build the new public library and should be able to raise a much smaller amount to fund the first phase of this work. With a written “plan of action” from Dr. Montenegro, DG said he would be prepared to go to local businesses to seek financial contributions to help fund this project. In response to a question from SF, DG said he could not speak to financial support from the Chamber of Commerce; first we will need that place of action laying out the steps of the process and goals.

LH proposed putting Ms Montenegro and this project on the PRCAC agenda for the November 21, 2019 meeting; all agreed.

Pat Grubb commented that the goal, as described by Dr. Montenegro was more than an economic development plan, but was a community development plan based on input on what the community as a whole wants to see. In response to a comment from Mr. Grubb, SF noted that Dr. Montenegro has suggested that \$25,000 would cover the cost of the first phase of the project. DG noted that input would be needed from all part of our community to a make a “Community Plan”.

SW and DG made reference to the presentation by Dan Goldberg of the Port Authority of Bellingham. Mr. Goldberg had stated that if the community had a plan, the Port Authority could be able to help solicit funds to make those plans happen.

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**Light Pollution in Point Roberts** — SW commented that Annelle Norman brought up light pollution issues to PRTA and she agreed to assemble information on the Dark Skies Initiative and to see how to apply that to Point Roberts. She will make an outline of the issues for PRTA, as part of an effort to gather information before going to the County. As Ms Norman has put it, we are “dark skies” now and should take steps to keep it that way.

LH asked whether anyone had checked with Fred Pakzad about the lighting along his properties at Gulf Road and Tyee Drive. SW agreed to contact Martin and Cara Hogan who live across Tyee Drive from those properties to see if they wrote to Mr. Pakzad and what, if any, response they received.

DG noted that past PRCAC boards had taken the position that the PRCAC does not get directly involved with code enforcement issues. LH agreed and noted that the PRCAC role has been to let residents know how to take action, but not to be involved in such actions.

Regarding Mr. Pakzad’s property and lighting feature, Donald Falk suggested that it may be appropriate for the Hogans or others to ask Mr. Pakzad how he feels about the lighting feature; he may feel that he has provided the community with something of value that the community wants.

Tangential to this issue, DG noted that the Chamber of Commerce had voted to support changing the WCC 20.72 signage restriction of “achromatic” internally lit signs to allow color, but the Chamber did not support moving signs.

**7. Adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm. (Motion by DG; seconded by TP)