

Minutes  
Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting, January 23, 2020

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

**1. Call to Order.**

The re-scheduled regular meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of December 19, 2019 Regular Meeting were adopted by e-mail and submitted to the County for posting on the PRCAC web page.

**3. Public Comment**

- \* Ken Calder — Mr. Calder spoke in reaction to the PRCAC's letter of January 14, 2020 to Whatcom County Council regarding the PRCAC's proposed changes to WCC 20.72. He questioned why there was no mention in the minutes of past meetings to sending a letter to County Council commenting on the position of the Point Roberts Independent Business Council (PRIBC) to have WCC 20.72 repealed in its entirety. Mr. Calder did not think it was critical for the PRCAC to make that comment, particularly without a public meeting. He noted that all actions should be taken in public. SF noted that this letter was a bureaucratic step to accompany the PRCAC's proposed changes to WCC 20.72. LH noted that most members were unable to attend the County Council meeting of January 14 at which the changes to WCC 20.72 were expected to be presented to Council by PDS. She said there was no intention to act in secret, and that this letter did not constitute an action.
- \* Allison Calder — Ms Calder commented specifically on the last sentence of the letter which seemed to request that PRIBC's request to repeal WCC 20.72 be "withdrawn". She said that the PRCAC has no veto power over the efforts of the PRIBC or others in Point Roberts. SF explained he drafted the letter which was then edited by SW and reviewed by the other PRCAC members. Before sending the edited letter, SF revised the last sentence of the letter to remove the "withdrawal" language and to, instead, request that Council reject the position advocated by the PRIBC. He noted that this was consistent with the PRCAC's position against both taking no action regarding WCC 20.72 and its repeal. He further noted that SW had attended the County Council meeting on January 14 and had provided a paper copy of the earlier draft to the Council; the version posted on their website.
- \* Brian Calder — Mr. Calder, president of the PRIBC, commented that the PRCAC had ignored the position of the PRIBC and its 51 members regarding WCC 20.72. SF responded that the PRCAC had not ignored the PRIBC's position, but that it had considered their input and much other community input and created the set of changes to WCC 20.72 which have been proposed to PDS and County Council. SW said that PRCAC had repeatedly asked PRIBC to provide input on specific changes to WCC 20.72, but that was never provided to the PRCAC.
- \* Tom O'Brien — Mr. O'Brien of the PRIBC reiterated Mr. Calder's position that the PRCAC had ignored the position of the PRIBC to repeal WCC 20.72 in its entirety. He asserted that this showed a process of omission. He mentioned the work that the PRIBC is doing with the Port of Bellingham and others to develop a current economic study of Point Roberts to identify steps to improve economic conditions. In response, LH noted that the PRCAC did not identify comments in its proposed changes to WCC 20.72 from all over the community, including the PRIBC. Rather, the PRCAC put forward its final recommended changes without comments. SW noted that the PRCAC would have been happy to receive comments from

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the PRIBC on specific changes to WCC 20.72, but that the organization only suggested complete repeal of those provisions.

- \* Further in response, LH commented that, during the 4+ years that WCC 20.72 was under review, the PRCAC heard a few comments to repeal WCC 20.72, but heard many more comments from residents who wanted WCC 20.72 changed to alleviate various issues. She noted that the PRCAC had not ignored the PRIBC comments. She also questioned why the PRIBC had already made a decision to promote repeal of WCC 20.72 when they are still in the process of getting a new economic study which they themselves recognize should be the basis for any decision on changing local zoning rules. SW commented that the PRCAC plans to publish a letter to the community about the positive effects of the proposed changes to WCC 20.72
- \* Louise Cassidy — Ms Cassidy asked why the PRCAC letter of January 14 included that last paragraph about “withdrawal” of the PRIBC’s effort to repeal WCC 20.72. SW said that the letter asked County Council to request repeal of WCC 20.72 since that was inconsistent with the PRCAC position that it be amended as proposed.
- \* Tom O’Brien — Mr. O’Brien questioned why this letter had been sent to Council now when the proposed changes to WCC 20.72 had been finalized a few months ago. SF noted that the final changes were only sent to PDS a month ago, and that the letter in question was essentially a “cover letter” to accompany the proposed amendments to WCC 20.72 as they were finally being presented to County Council by PDS.
- \* Pamala Sheppard — Ms Sheppard commented that it was a mistake for the PRCAC to have mentioned the PRIBC in its letter.
- \* Brian Calder — Mr. Calder commented that the economic evidence shows the problems. Referring to Gulf Road, he noted that one can see what is not happening, in particular, two properties on western Gulf Road on which the owners intended to erect commercial buildings, but gave up and built residential homes because the burdens of WCC 20.72 were too onerous.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Correspondence regarding PRCAC’s January 14, 2020 letter to Whatcom County Council was deemed fully discussed during the Public Comment period.

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **Review of Status of Proposed Changes to 20.72**

Rather than go through a few final amendments to the set of changes to WCC 20.72, it was decided to do that in a separate special meeting. The special meeting will take place on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 6 pm in the Community Center. The meeting will probably end at 7 pm due to member availability.

##### **Review of Status of At-Large Member Appointment**

It was noted that newly installed County Executive Satpal Sidhu has not yet selected the new At-Large member to fill seat currently held by LH. Both Pamala Sheppard and Craig Grossman received e-mails from the County Executive’s office noting that it may be up to 2 months before Executive Sidhu makes his decision. SF noted that he had also received an e-mail on this topic and that Executive Sidhu wants to meet with the current PRCAC members and the community as a whole before he makes his selection. His office asked for possible dates for

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him to visit Point Roberts and hold these meetings (afternoon to meet PRCAC and evening for community).

Available dates for all current members (present) are February 3, 7, 14, 21 and 28. Allison Calder, president of the PRRVA can also be available on those dates. Ms Calder suggested also coordinating the dates with Mark Robbins, president of the PRTA. SF will contact Mr. Robbins. With that input, SF will send a note to the Executive's office.

**6. New Business**

Pamala Sheppard suggested that the 4th of July parade have a nautical theme as a tie-in to the Point Roberts Marina hosting Race Week later in July.

Tom O'Brien drew attention to the PRIBC's 2020 Vision Statement outlining a list of local issues which the organization intends to address. In response to a question from TP, Mr. O'Brien indicated that the list is essentially in order of priority.

**7. Adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm. (Motion by LH; seconded by SF)