

Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee August Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 6 pm. (via Zoom)

PRCAC Members

Allison Calder — PRRVA
Stephen Falk — At-Large (Chair)
Judson Meraw — CoC (Secretary)
Pamala Sheppard — At-Large (Absent)
Steve Wolff — PRTA

Call to Order

At the opening of the meeting, A. Calder informed the PRCAC that the PRRVA representative R. Hulseley had resigned from that role due to personal consideration. Since the PRRVA had earlier selected A. Calder as alternate, A. Calder will now be filling the PRRVA seat on the PRCAC.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of July, 2020 meeting minutes – S. Falk described the Minutes as sparse in comparison to recent examples. The Minutes were approved.

Public Comment

Martin (New Resident) – Ferry Question – Wondering what the group's thoughts are on having a Ferry from PR to mainland Whatcom County. S Falk informed that the Ferry was approved and announced on social media. A Ferry, once a week, a linking bus to Cordata bus depot, Bellingham. Arthur Reber had said previously that a Dock would require a ferry service to access TBD funds. S. Falk agrees with Arthur Reber's sentiment.

Old Business

- Selection/Appointment of Secretary - Recording Secretary Position – J. Meraw volunteered. S. Falk educated J. Meraw on Duties of Recording Secretary Position. S. Falk – Requested members respond promptly to all PRCAC emails.
- WCC 20.72 Finalization of Proposed Changes - S. Wolff stated that comments were finalized except for R. Hulseley's concern about Repair Shops being prohibited in the Small Town Commercial zone. S. Wolff recommended it be on next year's amendments with conditions in order to change its designation to Conditional Use. S. Falk suggested to send the previously agreed upon changes to County Planning Department. J. Meraw said CoC wants the Repair Shop designation of prohibited to remain unchanged. A Calder said that the 20.72 applies only to Gulf Road. S. Falk disagreed and said we could refer it back to PDS to see if our work is contrary to the sub area plan. S. Wolff suggests moving on and addressing this later. S. Falk motioned that an accompanying question be

included – That last month's question was tabled.

- Follow-up on recycling education for the community from Community Horticulture & Master Gardener Coordinator, WSU Whatcom County Extension

New Business

- Organization of PRCAC – S. Falk noted S. Sidhu wanted to restructure PRCAC. J. Meraw said CoC wants to keep things the same while reinforcing the good reasons why the groups were formed and improve what we have. A. Calder spoke of PRRVA's suggestion to promote an all elected PRCAC so members could be voted out by the community if dissatisfied with individuals performance. S. Falk suggested a definition of the At-Large positions responsibility to represent the public or act as a representative without outreach.
- Review commercial building permit for an expansion of the In & Out parcel service building on Tye Drive – S. Wolff noted that the landscape portion of the application was missing. J. Meraw asked if the outstanding sign infraction had been included with a resolution. S. Wolff said that the a sign infraction resolution was not included in the application. J. Meraw made a comment that we are asked to approve a proposal with little to no community benefit to a company that in the past has not complied with a past infraction. That it is insane that communities are subject to legal approval of harmful developments that often are likely to fail. He suggest that a non binding guideline be drawn up to assure successful development that benefit communities. S. Falk suggested to go back to the CoC comment on the merit of having a community development guidelines document for future developers. S. Falk said that a comment about the missing landscaping and sign clarification be included with response to the proposal. A. Calder suggested including omissions and concerns be including in line item checklist. The Planning document was reviewed and we came to the conclusion that the building permit application was compliant except for missing landscaping information and would pursue clarification on sign compliance.

Motions

1. S. Falk motioned that we approve last months, 2019, 20.72 changes be sent to PDS along with an accompanying question, asking for clarification – interaction between the sub area plan and the small town commercial zone are not in conflict. A. Calder to write the letter and forward it to S. Falk. Approved 4-0.
2. S. Falk motioned: **Based on the available documents provided for permit application COM2020-00050, the PRCAC has reviewed the application and found that all items are in compliance; provided, however, that the PRCAC was unable to make a determination regarding the landscaping as no plan was provided for review. Upon receipt of the landscape plan, the PRCAC will be able to finalize its review.**

Although the sign is not listed under the current permit application, the PRCAC would like to know what the disposition is on the enforcement action on the previous sign permit for non compliance. If this remains an open issue, the PRCAC takes the position that this would be a good opportunity to resolve the sign issue.

Vote 3-0, 1 abstained (J. Meraw) for reason stated previously.

Adjournment