

# Parks and Trails Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### February 16, 2021

Zoom meeting – virtual attendance

Call to Order & Attendance: 3:04pm

**Present:**

Matt Withers

Gordon Bell

David Moynahan

Gordy Holmes

Lisa Bruce

Rick Hawkins

**Staff:**

Carly Ruacho

Amy Bergemeier

Sara Robinson

**Absent:** Dave Hall

**Also known to be present:** Yitong Du, Jim Brennan

**Citizen Comments:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Gordy Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting. Lisa Bruce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Gordon Bell had a follow up question/comment regarding comments made during the last meeting. Whether or not the Parks & Rec funds that weren't spent went back into that same fund? He asked if the Parks & Rec has a dedicated fund at this time? Carly Ruacho mentioned we didn't talk about a dedicated parks funding source. Carly said the City came to the end of a two-year budget cycle in December and the funds didn't roll over. The extra money that was leftover from the Church Creek playground didn't roll over, per say, for Church Creek park. Gordon feels if something was designated for parks then it should stay for parks.

**Stanwood Port Susan Trail Alignment/Design:**

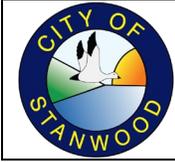
**Yitong Du & Jim Brennan presents-**

The design and permitting of the Stanwood – Port Susan Trail Phase 2 segment is in our 2021 work plan. Our goal is to design and construct a 6-10 foot wide pedestrian trail that starts at the 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue park and ride lot, connects to the SR 532 berm trail that was recently constructed, loops around the water treatment plant, passes through Hamilton Landing Park and connects to the Stillaguamish River overlook platform behind Mission Motors that was built and donated to the City by a local Eagle Scout.

The project includes:

- 6- 10 foot wide trail – width will vary on the waste water treatment plant dike to accommodate existing conditions
- Gateway trail entry locations
- River view and plaza area near the southeast corner of the looped trail
- Wetland and buffer mitigation for trail impacts
- Pedestrian bridge spanning Irvine Slough
- Interpretive Signs

The Stanwood Port Susan Trail (named due to its connection with the Stillaguamish River and views of Port Susan Bay) is a 5 mile looped trail network that has been segregated into 5 distinct independent phases which will eventually create a looped multiuse trail system when completed. Phase I was recently constructed as part of the SR 532 Berm project.



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We are currently working to plan the alignment and trail component designs for Phase 2 of the Trail with Confluence Environmental, the City's on-call consultant, who will focus on the critical area and permitting components as well as sub consultants including: JA Brennan for landscape architectural design, PACE Engineering for survey and civil plan design, Associated Earth Sciences for geotechnical analysis, and Stell for cultural resources evaluations.

Phase 2 includes the design of a 1.2 mile trail segment that runs from the Stanwood Park and Ride lot off of 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SR 532, around the waste water treatment plant, and along the Stillaguamish River and ends at the Twin City Foods property.

The design effort is expected to take approximately a year. Our preliminary target is to start construction on the trail element of Phase 2 in 2022. Future phases of PST planning and construction will be included in the Capital Facilities Plan and budgets which are adopted yearly by the City Council.

J.A. Brennan's, Jim Brennan and Yitong Du, gave a detailed presentation of the Port Susan Trail Preliminary Design to the Committee. They discussed the slides they presented that included detailed descriptions of the trail and imagery of possible designs.

### Committee Comments and questions:

- Gordon Bell – He feels the Wood Benches in the presentation could be prone to rot. Jim Brennan responded that we can pick a species of wood that is more sustainable like perhaps, Alaska Yellow Cedar, Red Cedar & maybe Black Locust.
- Lisa Bruce – She has seen benches that have a really thick polyurethane or epoxy like substance that seals the wood. She loves the idea of lots of benches at Hamilton Park. Maybe even adding boulders as places to sit along the trail.
- Carly Ruacho mentioned we aren't just talking about the Hamilton Park, this plan encompasses the entire Port Susan Trail. The benches will vary depending on where they are placed.
- Rick Hawkins mentioned the lower Park & Ride area at the start of the trail does flood on occasion.
- Gordon mentioned he is confused if the Park & Ride area is the City or County land as he mentioned previously the desire to put benches or tables for people to sit at in the area. Carly Ruacho said this is County land and the intention is to only use this area as part of the trail, not a park.
- Gordon wonders if there is room for the viewing point at the 92<sup>nd</sup> St portion of the trail as he thinks it might be too low. Perhaps do an elevated spot for this viewpoint. Carly mentioned the City would have to be extremely careful as to not raise any point of the levee.
- David Moynahan likes the River View Node ALT 1 for the split viewing area. It gives more than one party to enjoy the view area enabling to stay with your own group and separate from others.
- Lisa Bruce also likes the split design.
- Gordy Holmes likes the idea of planting to hide the small building that is visible.
- Gordon asked who will maintain the boardwalk portion of the proposed trail? Carly answered, the Public Works department would maintain it. A great option is to use recycled plastic as it would last longer and requires less maintenance.



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- Gordy asked how long the boardwalk portion of the trail is? Jim Brennan said around 500 ft. Gordy also asked, with the end of the trail that gets near Twin City Foods, is the plan to continue that portion on towards Ovenell Park or in that direction? Carly said the plan is to eventually try to get the trail to go around there, but it is private property and would depend on working out a deal with them.
- Gordon recommended walking the trail and getting an in-person view.

### **Park Updates:**

We were in full Glass Quest mode and it has brought lots of people out to our parks!

#### **Church Creek Park – Playground Equipment Phase II**

In April, we will take all projects on the master plan and prioritize them like we are doing with Heritage Park's projects.

#### **Heritage Park – Baseball Field Renovation**

The work is still moving along, even through all of the rain, and they are making good progress.

#### **Hamilton Park –**

The appeal hearing isn't moving forward. Instead, we have agreed to withdraw our permits on the property as part of the appeals process. We are trying to keep things moving and will be reissuing our permits as one project along with WDFW. This doesn't mean it won't be appealed, but we are skipping a waiting period by reissuing the permits together. The goal is to be on the same schedule next year, if all of the new permitting goes through, by putting the bid out in January of 2022 and get the spring build completed, and WDFW will finish their portion of the project shortly after.

### **Additional Committee Comments:**

- Gordon Bell – Sent out an email with information on a program offered through the National Parks, called Rivers Trails and Conservation assistance. He put it out there regarding Church Creek Park and feels the committee might really enjoy looking at the links provided. He feels it is a possible funding source for our parks.
- Lisa Bruce – She was recently at the Stanwood Middle School track and her kids were in a ditch of some-kind nearby and it had a lot of oil in it. Carly said she will forward her concerns to Public Works.
- Gordy Holmes – The parking area at Heritage Park, was that tied to the same people doing the fields there? Carly said, yes, they submitted a bid but isn't sure if Public Works has asked for a scope change from City Council. The plan is to re do the parking lot once the field renovations are completed. Gordy said we should keep this project high on our master plan list until this is completed. He wonders if the parking lot in the other parking lot on the newly acquired property should be done at the same time. Carly said the plans aren't ready yet for that parking area.

Adjourn – 4:55pm

Next Meeting: March 15, 2021 @ 3:00pm.

Until allowed by the Governor, City Hall remains closed to the public.