

CITY OF MUKILTEO, WASHINGTON
JAPANESE GULCH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
August 27, 2014
City Council Chambers – 11930 Cyrus Way

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Council President Randy Lord (Absent)	Susan Gearheard (Absent) Pam Renz attended in her place
Council Member Linda Grafer (Alternate)	Ely Klem
Council Member Christine Cook (Alternate)	Kristin Kohorst
Carolyn (Dode) Carlson	Chris Mueller
Richard Emery	Dustin Weller
Tyler Thompson	

Consultant Facilitators

John Barker, Barker Landscape Architects (Absent)	Nicolas Morin, Barker Landscape Architects
Peter Cromwell, Barker Landscape Architects	
Nelson Salisbury, EarthCorp (Absent)	

City Staff

Rex Caldwell, Acting Manager Services Director	Jennifer Berner, Recreation & Cultural Svc. Dir.
Blake Engnes, Acting Assistant Fire Chief	Patricia Love, Community Development Director
Karl Almgren, Assistant Planner	Colt Davis, Crime Prevention Officer
Jacob Milner, GIS/CAD Technician	

MEETING NOTES

Jennifer Berner welcomed the committee and provided the general vision for the Master Plan, to establish a footprint for the future of the gulch. She also introduced the Consultant Facilitators.

Introductions around the committee table were made.

Nicholas Morin, Barker Architects outlined the ground rules for the committee. The committee will follow Pomegranate Center's Ground Rules for Public Participation.

Mr. Morin outlined the project goals and schedule over the next year setting tentative dates for Subcommittee meetings, site visits, open house/public meetings, updates with the Parks and Arts Commission, and City Council, and end with City Council adoption of the Japanese Gulch Master Plan in October of 2015.

The Project will consist of trail mapping and a site-survey, identifying environmental critical areas, natural inventory sharing site information, history and experiences and review of local parks precedents such as Carkeek Park, Meadowdale Park and Paradise Valley Conservation Area.

During the first Public Open House it will be important to hear from all the different groups who have interest in the gulch. We will accomplish this by using the Design Game. We will put a map on the table and let the committee draw out ideas to lead to developing a good plan and a clear concise vision statement for the gulch. Everyone gets to have a voice and participate in the Design Game process.

The next step will be to develop three alternatives, choose the best of the three and develop a preferred alternative to present to the Parks and Arts Commission and City Council.

Jennifer Berner, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, spoke to the group about the different pieces of property that that make up the Japanese Gulch and that the last 98 Acres that was purchased is under a Conservation

Easement which limits the type of uses that can occur on the property. The Conservation Easement language states the protected property shall be limited to those improvements which are passive in nature which include but are not limited to trails, interpretive centers, viewpoints, picnicking facilities, access, restrooms, playgrounds and restoration projects. Ms. Berner stated she spoke with Tom Teigen, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Director, to get his direction on what the County considers as acceptable passive uses since the language in the easement stated “included but not limited to”. Mr. Teigen stated that walking, hiking, trail running and mountain biking trails were allowed uses. However, more intensive development such as ball fields, BMX tracks/pump tracks, etc. would not be allowed per the conservation easement agreement. Ms. Berner clarified by stating that the current BMX track/jumps would not be allowed in the current location.

Karl Almgren, Assistant Planner, spoke about the outreach work conducted by the Planning Department for the Comprehensive Plan and Japanese Gulch. Planning staff had spent time at Red Cup Café, Starbucks, had a booth at the Touch a Truck, National Night Out and Farmers’ Market Events. The highest interest identified in the survey results was pedestrian trails. One of the comments staff heard most often were that people don’t know how to use the gulch, because there are too many trails.

Committee discussion followed regarding the timing of the Open House meetings and the location of the site visits Paradise Valley, Carkeek Park, and the park in Anacortes were identified.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were some general questions asked by the audience regarding beach access, and the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan and will there be a link between the two plans? Staff responded there will be an overlap of the plans and the Mount Baker crossing will provide the physical connection.

Charlie Pancerzewski commented on his concern that there are members of the Parks and Arts Commission and City Council on this subcommittee and they will be voting on the issues. Also that the subcommittee is made of multiple members of the Japanese Gulch Group and he feels they will promote their own interest. The primary purpose of purchasing the gulch was to maintain trees and birds in an undisturbed way and doesn’t believe the citizens of Mukilteo should pay for a regional park. As most of the property is in the City of Everett, shouldn’t they be involved in the master plan process to ensure it meets their environmental requirements. It is important that the City collects information from more people such as Jon Boyce who paid for an arborist report.

Dode Carlson responded that she feels Jon does have a voice and that she also contributed funds for the arborist report and she is interested in following the Pomegranate Rules for Public Meetings to stay open to hearing from everyone.

These notes are excerpts from the Sub-Committee for the Japanese Gulch Master Plan. A video recording of the meeting was made.

Prepared by:

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