

MASON COUNTY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes
January 28, 2008

(Note audio tape (#2) dated January 28, 2008
counter (#) for exact details of discussion)

(This document is not intended to be a verbatim transcript)

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Bill Dewey.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bill Dewey, Tim Wing, Dennis Pickard, Wendy Ervin and Jim Reece. Diane Edgin was excused. It was announced that Jay Hupp has resigned from the Planning Advisory Commission.

Staff Present: Barbara Adkins and Susie Ellingson.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 19, 2007 and December 17, 2007 meetings were approved as presented with the following requested changes:

November 19, 2007:

On page 6 under (#2200) it should read: 'Ken Wilcox noted'

December 17, 2007:

On page 11 under (#0900) it should read: '... where there is not a five acre parcel' ...

4. NEW BUSINESS

(#0235) Bill Dewey opened the meeting with the election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair. After some discussion, Tim Wing made a motion to nominate Bill Dewey to continue as Chair, and Dennis Pickard as

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Vice-Chair. Wendy seconded the motion. The vote was taken and they were elected unanimously. Bill Dewey is the Chair, and Dennis Pickard Vice-Chair for 2008.

(#0300) John Keates opened the public hearing on the Mason County Regional Trails Plan. John explained that since we met in November, we had another meeting with our Trails Advisory Committee and reviewed the suggestions the PAC made. We had the Plan on line for review by the public, and Ken Wilcox, Consultant, from Skookum Peak Consulting, is here to review the revisions to the Plan and answer any questions you may have.

(#0350) Ken Wilcox stated we could review the revisions and your comments at the same time.

(#0390) Bill Dewey noted he passed out his written comments to the PAC and staff that he raised in November regarding shellfish and adequate toilet facilities.

(#0400) Ken Wilcox explained he and John Keates have reviewed those comments submitted by Bill Dewey and those comments seem fine to include in the Plan. Ken explained in the Table of Contents they added a new section 'Trailheads and Trail-Related Facilities'. Also, 'Short-term Priority Projects'. Once we had a more solid list of what those priority projects were, we were able to finish those estimates. On page 9, it was suggested that we add background summary about the Plan, which we did.

(#0450) Bill Dewey inquired about the addition of 'and agency coordination', on page 8, and if that was in reference to Tim Wing's comments regarding coordinating with Public Works regarding roads.

(#0460) Ken Wilcox acknowledged they were emphasizing working together with all the other agencies. Other comments that were noted in the minutes from November from the PAC included the following: spelling errors, separated paths for cyclists from roads, agency coordination, more trails in UGA's, sanitary facilities, trail maintenance, impacts on riparian areas, rules and ethics of trails use. On page 19, we have corrected some of the totals on trail miles in the national forest. That affected the number of miles in Mason County. DNR also furnished us with the number of miles out at the Tahuya State Forest.

(#0520) Bill Dewey stated on page 17, he had recommended inserting an additional policy statement. It would read as follows: 'In recognition of the importance of protecting public health, when establishing water and shoreline trails near shellfish resources Mason County shall ensure adequate restroom/sanitary facilities are provided and maintained'.

(#0530) Ken Wilcox and the PAC were in approval of that addition to page 17. There are two additional trails that show up on page 94. One is the Oakland Bay Trail, which goes from downtown out along the bay following the railroad, and then north up to Johns Prairie Road. The other one is the Shelton-Skokomish Trail, which is an extension of the paved path along Shelton-Springs Road going out to 101, and continuing up 101 to the new Fairgrounds. A future phase would take it all the way up to the Skokomish River. They need to be added to the table on page 38. On page 49, the changes are a reorganization of the language that was existing.

(#0800) Bill Dewey stated he has requested change on the tables on pages 46-47 to include a column for restroom/sanitary facilities.

(#0845) Ken Wilcox responded that he could add that information.

(#0755) Bill Dewey stated he has a requested change on page 50 under Water Trails to amend as follows: '...suitable launch sites, restrooms, and campsite locations ...'.

(#0870) Ken Wilcox responded that he could add that amendment. On page 51, there is a new paragraph added that talks about parks and trails in urban areas.

(#0880) Wendy Ervin stated under Water Trails, she would like a statement that the water trails have a pullout. There should be limited commercial products available there. There is no place a person can buy a cough drop, for instance. In the planning, there should be permission to put some sort of tourist, quick shop, such as a vending machine. They are not going to have cars to go to a store. They may need something.

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Vending machines would be a way to do it. That would be up to the person whose commercial enterprise it is. There be some limited business activity at those water pullout spots.

(#0940) Jim Reece also noted there should be vending machines located near the restroom facilities, as well.

(#0975) Ken Wilcox noted we could locate places where people are likely going to be coming in and out of the water.

(#0990) Dennis Pickard added maybe they could plan for some of the stopping points near existing facilities, rather than adding new facilities of that nature, along other expanded amenities.

(#1020) Wendy Ervin stated she would also like to see some historic signs and extensive history at the pullout areas.

(#1060) Bill Dewey noted he has mentioned before that in Oakland Bay, the shellfish industry would be happy to contribute to some sort of informational kiosk that talks about the history and the industry.

(#1090) Tim Wing stated that Green Diamond would also be another industry to contribute historical information.

(#1100) Ken Wilcox stated these could all be added into the Water Trails recommendations, as well other trails.

(#1250) John Keates added that the Parks and Recreation Department is already working on a bikeways map and one of our partners is going to be the Historic Commission. They will add historic information, as well as areas of interpretive values.

(#1275) Wendy Ervin commented on page 10, under 1.2.4, place 'tourism' before 'economic development'. Wendy also brought up the issue of eminent domain and this is not a tool for that. We need to respect the property that we are driving over, around, and through.

(#1460) Tim Wing noted that sounds counter to some of your other interests that you've been eloquent about, especially regarding making sure there are wide enough spaces for travel.

(#1470) Wendy Ervin explained just because she wants the bicycles off the pavement doesn't mean she wants them on 101 or 106. There are other solutions.

(#1550) Bill Dewey noted there are counters in the roads to measure usage, and he inquired if there is anything comparable done for trails or bicycle areas.

(#1575) Ken Wilcox explained you can use counters on trails and bike routes. They usually have someone who stands at the trail head and counts the people periodically. You can extrapolate information from that.

(#1600) Tim Wing commented that the Theler Wetlands Trail in Belfair has a counter on it and they count in the neighborhood of 16,000 people a year that actually go down that trail. They have used that effectively to write grants and that's one of the places that benefits from using the counter.

(#1645) Miscellaneous discussion regarding size of bike and pedestrian trails and separated paths.

(#1900) Ken Wilcox explained that sometimes the engineers like to go with the tried and true, with paved lanes and curb and sidewalks. They want to include striped shoulders for motor vehicle safety and so that paved shoulder doubles as a nice bike way. That's been the standard. We have provided for the separated paths in the version. It's mentioned in a number of places, however, there are so many variables that come into play. It becomes an issue for the Public Works Department, who look after the roads, to determine what will work in a particular area. A community can get together and try to make that happen. On page 55, we added 'Trails near schools can increase appreciation of trails curing childhood and generate life-long

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benefits'. That was in regards to the discussion we had on trails being important to kids. On page 65, we've added some information on road shoulder bike facilities and separated path, with illustrations on the next two pages.

(#2385) Bill Dewey requested an additional sentence to be added to the end of the paragraph on page 57, under 6.4 to read as follows: 'Mason County's extensive shellfish resources call for adequate restroom/sanitary facilities to protect public health'. On page 61, under Water Trails, Bill Dewey requested in the fourth paragraph to strike the words 'or possibly'.

(#2440) Wendy Ervin requested an addition to the Water Trails section to include 'vending machines' or 'product for profit'.

(#2450) Tim Wing stated there are problems with that. With regard to the zoning issue, you can't just put a convenience store or vending machine just anywhere. Tim Wing did note we should stress that we would find ways to bring trails into places where people could go to existing stores.

(#2485) Miscellaneous discussion regarding tourist amenities in reference to Water Trails.

(#3000) Bill Dewey noted his requested change on page 63 under Environmentally Sensitive and Critical Areas. Under the second paragraph Bill would like to insert the words 'shellfish beds' after 'wetlands'. He also requested addition of a new third paragraph to read: 'Mason County has abundant public and private shellfish resources and commercial shellfish beds. Extra care must be taken to protect public health when locating trails near shellfish beds to provide adequate restrooms/sanitary facilities'.

(#3100) Ken Wilcox explained the following changes/additions on page 73, under Recommendations: (8.1.5), added 'local and regional trails development', and 'jogging and fitness trails'; (8.3.1), added 'Cooperation among Mason County Parks, Planning, and Public Works staff is essential'; (8.3.4), added the same; (8.3.5), added language concerning picking up after pets to include: 'Educational efforts can also address personal responsibility, such as avoiding shortcuts, picking up after pets, and encouraging volunteer maintenance. Rules should be posted, as needed, to address problems that may develop'; (8.3.6), added language to help guide development for trails and bikeways; (8.3.7), added 'Shelton-Belfair Trail, and Sunnyside-Bourgault Trail'; (8.3.8), added language to include riparian areas to emphasize those are important to protect as well.

(#3265) Bill Dewey requested under 8.3.4, add 'volunteers' after 'staff'.

(#3300) Ken Wilcox noted the additions of descriptions of the various trails and bicycle improvements on pages 83 through 87. One addition not noted in the revised plan are changes to Shelton Creek Trail. Delete the first two sentences up to 'As perhaps ...' and insert the following: 'Recent acquisitions by the City of Shelton along Shelton Creek have provided an excellent opportunity for a new medium or high-standard trail within an attractive, natural area'.

(#3600) Wendy Ervin requested a change on page 83 under Goldsborough Creek to 'could be developed' instead of 'could materialize'.

(#0150) Ken Wilcox explained the new section on page 102, Trailheads and Trail-Related Facilities. It describes the distinction between minor trailheads and major trailheads. Ken noted on the table on page 103, he plans to replace the word 'Good', with 'Standard' under the title of 'Restroom' and provide a description of what those are as well. Ken Wilcox described the changes on page 108, Short-term Priority Projects. No listed but of great importance under funding sources should be listed: LWCF (Land Water Conservation Fund), and SRTS (Safe Routes To Schools). Also added were the Mason County cost portions for the Trails Plan.

(#0400) Bill Dewey suggested adding a column on Table 8-6 on page 105 which would identify restroom facilities.

(#0415) Ken Wilcox responded that could be done. Ken Wilcox indicated that was the majority of the changes

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involved in the new draft.

(#0500) Bill Dewey inquired what the expectation of the PAC was for tonight regarding adoption of the draft.

(#0510) Staff responded they would like a recommendation from the PAC tonight.

(#0525) Susie Ellingson, Clerk for the PAC, elaborated that the PAC could put forth their recommended changes from tonight's meeting to staff, and staff would make those changes, and present it to the BOCC for their hearing.

(#0540) Bill Dewey opened up the public comment portion of the hearing. No one was present to make any comments, so the public comment portion of the hearing was closed, noting no public present to testify.

(#0550) Jim Reece inquired about the crime rate, and if there was anything addressing the addition of these trails to the system and if it would have any impact on the crime rate.

(#0575) Ken Wilcox responded that on balance, everything shows that crime actually goes down. Some of these areas are used informally already, and if we formalize them so that people want to go there and use them, you get the self-policing benefit of responsible people using them.

(#0600) Jim Reece inquired if there was a Master Development Plan where this Trails Plan would get overlaid on that plan so it is well documented as growth takes place.

(#0650) Barbara Adkins responded we have an existing land use map and a future land use map and we can use the data to create an overlay what will show where the trails exist on those maps. It would also show what proposed zoning districts these trails would be on.

(#0700) Jim Reece inquired about privacy for residences along the trails.

(#0740) Tim Wing noted it is probably a bigger issue in urban areas. Most of these trails are rural trails, usually not directly near a lot of homes.

(#0850) Ken Wilcox noted the sheriff did request we consider law enforcement prior to developing these trails. They are spread thin and they would like to be kept informed about any changes to the Trails Plan. On page 75, under Education and Safety, we could insert the following: 'Mason County should work cooperatively with other agencies, schools, and other organizations, as well as law enforcement, to develop publications and safety programs that would benefit trail users and promote safety to everyone'. We could also note that law enforcement should be considered in the design and planning of trails.

(#0925) John Keates added that he gave the Sheriff a copy of a study done by the Rails to Trails Conservancy and it addressed crime on trails, which he had concerns about. The Sheriff stated after he read the study he was a lot more at ease about the trail system. The Sheriff was not saying to not build the trails because we can't enforce the laws on the trails, but instead was just asking to be kept in the loop regarding the trails system and not creating more of a burden on them.

(#0975) PAC indicated they would put forth a recommendation tonight. A motion was made, seconded and the vote taken. It was approved to send the PAC's recommended changes forward to the BOCC for their approval. The PAC thanked staff, the Parks Committee and everyone involved for a job well done on the preparation of this Trails Plan.

(#1000) Bill Dewey brought up for discussion the request by DCD to change the meeting date in March from the 3rd Monday to the 4th Monday. The PAC voted to move the March meeting to the 24th of March.

(#1050) Barbara Adkins reminded the PAC of the upcoming Workshop on Capital Facilities Planning at the Theler Center on February 25th.

(#1100) Tim Wing asked the staff if they could come to that meeting with some idea of what things you might

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be looking at revising within the Capital Facilities Plan.

(#1145) Barbara Adkins explained we're not going to be specifically be talking about our Capital Facilities Plan at that workshop. It's a CTED workshop and they will be explaining capital facilities in regards to the big picture. We will bring that back to you in June. I've already taken the policies and started handing them out to the different departments and letting them know the PAC has asked that this be revised to give them a chance to start reviewing their policies.

(#1200) Tim Wing noted his concerns about the upcoming workshop in that it will be so general about capital facilities that it doesn't mean much to us, other than good advise and knowledge about it. He also stated his competing concern is that it might be too specific about our Capital Facilities Plan.

(#1215) Barbara Adkins reiterated she has no intention of talking about our Capital Facilities Plan.

(#1225) Tim Wing inquired if there are certain parts of our Capital Facilities Plan that are going to come up for revision. He stated that could be of assistance while attending the workshop. Tim stated he is actually more concerned about the Transportation Element and it isn't on here about the Transportation Element.

(#1240) Susie Ellingson explained it will appear on the public notice that will be in the Journal and the Belfair Herald.

(#1245) Barbara Adkins explained CTED will be talking about transportation, but not our Transportation Element. Final preparations for the meeting are still being completed. The meeting is going to be more of a general overview on these issues. It will not be the forum to discuss edits to our Plan. Barbara Adkins explained Transportation is another mandated Element that has to be updated every year. Charlie Butros will be reviewing that Element for revisions or omissions.

(#1300) Tim Wing explained that the only reason CTED is even coming into this county and having this meeting is the Chamber of Commerce from North Mason called them up and said we want some help figuring out what ought to be in a Transportation Element for a county that has, for example, state roads and county roads. We wanted to have a discussion with CTED to learn what would be the best way to change the Transportation Element so that the county would have in writing the obligation to consider that issue. We weren't trying to stuff it down the county's throat, but we got no where last year with the transportation people in the county. It was always 'not our problem'. That has lead to this meeting and now you're saying it's going to be a general overview and we're not going to talk about our Transportation Plan. I don't think there's another county in the state with two UGA's with state roads through them that are jammed like this.

(#1400) Barbara Adkins reiterated it is not her understanding that we are going to be taking our Comp Plan Chapter up there for discussion that night.

(#1450) Tim Wing stated we probably are not and that's part of my frustration. This started out that was the only goal and now it's not a goal at all.

(#1485) Susie Ellingson interjected this is something that CTED has taken over and it's out of our hands as to what is actually going to be presented that night.

(#1500) Barbara Adkins added this will give us a starting out place that we need. We know we're going to address transportation and we know we're going to address capital facilities and it's January, and at least we've already started on it. From this workshop on the 25th, we can learn together where we can go with this and what we can do with this to craft a better document by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned.