



Berthusen Advisory Committee Minutes March 20, 2024

1. ROLL CALL-

Members Present: Harlan Kredit, Larry McPhail, Dave Timmer, Joel Vander Hoek, and Karen Steensma

City Staff Present: Parks Director Brent DeRuyter, and Parks Administrative Asst. Nancy Norris

2. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Reading and Approval of November 15, 2023, Minutes

The Berthusen Advisory minutes of November 15, 2023, were approved as presented.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Continuing to work on Noxious Weeds/Ivy- Spring projects are possible with Lynden Christian School kids and Whatcom Million Trees Project/Michael Feerer.

Harlan asked Nancy and other members to identify areas that need ivy and holly removed before March 28.

B. Safety in the Park- Complaints and concerns over the winter months were less than a handful. LPD will not be sending officers through so local deputies have been asked to drive through when available.

Mr. VanderHoek would like further discussion.

***Action-** After some discussion Mr. Vander Hoek and the BAC recommend to the Mayor and City Council five (5) points of action to aid security at Berthusen Park.

1. Change the Park hours back to dawn to dusk. Recognizing this Park is unique in that it is a regional park outside of the city limits.

2. Hire a park caretaker/ranger to live in the park house free of rent or significantly reduced rent. Recognizing the value and significance of having a presence of security and authority over the park.

3. LPD and Whatcom County Sherriff create an interlocal agreement on responding to incidents, patrolling this park etc.



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4. Adding a streetlamp/lighting at the entrance of the park next to Berthusen Rd.

5. Purchase a satellite camera security system in the park and at the entrance of the park, including one that would record license plates. Recommend looking into Flock Safety or Live View.

C. Rental Number/Usage- Rental calls are a little bit down so far this season and we will see if being able to make reservations on the new website is a possible deterrent for some.

Nancy noted inflation could be one of the reasons why people are not reserving the parks. Some longtime users who have canceled their reservations have mentioned the increased cost of everything they are looking at cheaper options to gather as a family or host events.

D. 2nd Restroom Upgrades- The crew was not able to complete due to other issues and busy schedule, but minor updates could be made once seasonal help joins the force in April and May.

E. Nooksack Loop Trail Follow-Up- Strategies and contacts being pursued after initial contact were not positive. BNSF is not willing to abandon the Lynden railroad tracks and property at this time.

There is the possibility of the city trail continuing along west Badger. There would be approximately three (3) property owners west of the Guide who might be open to allowing the trail to skirt tail their property to get to Berthusen Park.

F. Tenant Update

The Berthusen house tenants had requested to have relatives reside with them. Unfortunately, the occupancy laws prevented the city allowing this request. As it worked out, their relatives will not be moving to this area at this time.

BAC questioned if the tenants have dealt with security issues. Brent mentioned that they have experienced/noticed undesired activity taking place and have called either Tim or Brent with their concerns. But don't watch or monitor the Park activity or visit the park picnic area/trails much as that is not their responsibility or daily activity.

They have expressed how much they like living in the house.



G. Entrance/Exit Loop Discussion- The City of Lynden is in favor, but no plans have been drawn up to date. Work will have to be done with the county before the permitting process can begin.

***Action-** After much discussion and ideas BAC recommends moving each of the picket fences over 5ft+ to the north and south and adding gravel/rap widening the entrance apron to the gate.

H. Trail Improvement Ideas- Parks Department will continue trimming along trails and making minor improvements to holes with material only.

BAC asked if Washington Trail Assoc. is still offering work parties, noting the areas they have done added much improvement to the trails. BAC said it would be nice to see the city continue this working relationship with WTA.

***Action-** DeRuyter will reach out to WTA/Tim VanBeek again.

4. OTHER ITEMS ADDED:

A. Large tree down SW of Pulling Track- Use as “educational tool” option? Will need to check with WDFW if we are allowed to move it.

Larry shared pictures of the tree trying to give the BAC an idea of how large this tree is. Larry’s estimates the tree to be around 1000 years old.

***Action-** After looking at the pictures this tree would not be moveable unless it was causing an issue with the creek.

BAC recommends making a trail leading to the tree naming the trail “the big cedar tree.” and to use it as an educational tool.

***Action:** BAC would like to arrange at their next meeting a group photo at this tree and a write-up of the BAC in the Tribune. Photo Shop Karen into the picture (Mike Lewis)

B. Suggestion of updating the Berthusen Park Master Plan and Forestry Plan that could help with future grants.

***Action** -Dave will work to provide a draft plan and/or look for DNR funding to help with an updated plan with the BAC to review for the next meeting.

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- C. Digital Trail maps through Apple/Google Maps- a Project for a tech-savvy eagle scout or the City GPS person.
- D. Interesting history the Steensma's reclaimed ruff cut barn wood from the very old barn that was located on the Barnhart/Axling Rd. The understanding is this wood would have been milled at the Berthusen Mill.

Meeting Adjourned 8:22pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE

May 15, 2024, at Berthusen Park Kitchen at 6:30pm
to explore the Park and to possibly take a photo.

DRAFT