

Gig Harbor Peninsula Advisory Commission (PAC)

May 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the PAC are not verbatim. Recorded copies are available upon request.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Ballantyne
Lucinda Wingard
Patricia Peterson
John Conway
James Peschek
Peter Clement
Darrel Johnson
Garth Jackson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chair Ballantyne called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present.

NEW BUSINESS

Shoreline Substantial Development/Shoreline Variance/Conditional Use/Environmental Review:

Kopachuck State Park – Day Use Area

Applications 906881, 908629, 906883, 906884

Applicant: WA State Parks and Recreation Commission
Planner: Robert Perez, robert.perez@piercecounitywa.gov
Request: Renovate and expand the day use area of the park located at 10712 56th St NW, Gig Harbor, within the Parks and Recreation zone classification, the Conservancy Shoreline Environment, and Gig Harbor Peninsula Community Plan area, in Council District #7.

Robert Perez, Assistant Planner, summarized the proposal and gave a PowerPoint presentation.

APPLICANT TESTIMONY

Bruce Dees, Landscape Architect for the project, has been involved with the project since 2014 working on various portions of the Kopachuck State Park Master Plan. He is aware of the requirements for pervious materials within the shoreline jurisdiction. Mr. Dees presented plans to address the stormwater and pathways designs that may meet the pervious requirements. The design includes an impervious pad with a pervious channel along the edge of the pad and landscape walls. The access roadway coming down to the shoreline jurisdiction is and will remain impervious but will be designed to catch stormwater and transport it for treatment.

COMMISSION QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

- Question was asked about the permeability of the roadway providing access to the shoreline jurisdiction. The roadway is currently in existence and will be redesigned to catch more stormwater.
- Question related to the parking area in the lower area. 2 of the stalls are Handicap Parking and 2 are Temporary Parking.
- Question on whether planning would accept the variant design for the pathways to handle stormwater.
- Question about the camping area and whether this plan addresses that. Mr. Dees clarified that overnight will still not be allowed but that this plan is proposing upgrades to the day use area.
- ADA standards require lighting - will that be required for this project? Mr. Dees said no, as this site is for day use only, it will be closed at dusk, so no lighting is being planned.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Severen, 11024 54th St NW, Gig Harbor – What the state is missing is the danger of landslide. Additional usage will generate additional danger. Damage to existing improvements in case of landslide and congestion to the park. Believes that if this project proceeds it will catastrophically fail.

Charlyn Severen, 11024 54th St NW – It is a primitive park and believes that the project is only being proposed to generate revenue. The beach is completely made of rocks and can't be used by handicapped individuals. Paths and facilities are failing and can't be accessed due to landslide that resulted from tree removal. Several homeowners have lost four to five feet of their bank due to water runoff. Has anybody even studied who is going to use this day use area? We live in Gig Harbor, not Mount Rainier.

Jackie Murphy, 11030 56th St NW – Read a letter into the record that has been submitted as a comment.

Tom Rafoth, 11220 56th St NW – Property suffered a slide possibly due to tree removal east of his home. Has had to install pumps to pump water out of the ground to prevent erosion hazards.

Lynda Fillson, 4916 101st Ct NW – Part of an eleven-person group working to preserve our parks. Involved in the master plan for the park and was disturbed by the tree removal. Parts of the park need to be ADA compliant because access is difficult for mobility-challenged individuals.

Ulf Hanebutte, 11006 56th St NW – Concerns over the amount of water coming down to the beach. Feels that the beach and ADA access is being created as a band-aid. Day use should be properly defined as the gate is often not locked in the evening. We should worry about increased trash and increased use from people.

Marty Entrap, 11016 56th Ct NW – Concerns about erosion to the neighbors and boat launch.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Kopachuck State Park is one of the only large scale parks serving the Gig Harbor Community. Serves the community with primitive trails, hiking, and water access facilities. Currently, the state of the park is of a poor quality mainly because some of the facilities need repair or replacement and the design of the parking lots and surfaces treat stormwater by simply allowing the water to sheet flow to low elevations. Supportive of the efforts to update the park and provide ADA access to the community.

- This is an important resource for the community that requires careful geotechnical design.
- Recreation and education are both important factors in maintaining the park.
- Questions were raised if inference was made towards ADA access and risk of slope and land instability.
- Many of the commissioners agreed that geotechnical designs are necessary for this park.
- There are impacts from increased development north and south of the park.
- The park should be held to the same standards to mitigate impacts through regulation as individual homeowners would be.
- There is generally a net positive by better designing the access road down to the shoreline area.

Motion made (Peschek/Ballantyne) to recommend approval of the project with the request that the County look at an alternate design for the impervious ADA access pathways so the State does not incur more costs for equipment to vacuum out pervious pavers and maintain pervious pathways because I do believe that will make it a less safe pathway for individuals with disabilities.

Unanimous aye with a comment from Commissioner Jackson, that the geotechnical be reviewed with extra thoroughness.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes

(May 8, 2019)

Comment that the addition of the clerk made a significant difference in recording the minutes.

Move that the minutes be adopted with the revision that Commissioner Johnson be added as present.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.