

April 4, 2024, Eastsound Planning Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

- Board members Charles Toxey - chair, Jason Bradshaw, April Duke, and Mia Kartiganer (online), with SJC Council Liaison Cindy Wolf, SJC Public Works Director Colin Huntemer, and DCD Planner III Sophia Cassam (online) in attendance.

Location:

- The meeting was held in the Orcas Senior Center Multi-Purpose Room in person and online and commenced at 3:03 PM.

Agenda Modification:

- Cindy Wolf added "Crosswalk Inquiry" to Colin Huntemer's presentation.

Minutes Approval:

- March 7, 2024, Regular EPRC Meeting Minutes unanimously approved.
 - Board members commented that these minutes are a good source of institutional EPRC knowledge.

Election of New EPRC Chair:

- Charles Toxey made a motion to nominate Jason Bradshaw for EPRC Chair and April Duke seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

- April Duke commented on the trail on her property being maintained and widened without her being notified. She was appreciative of the maintenance activity but wanted to understand the notification process when those types of activities take place.
 - SJC Public Works Director Colin Huntemer said if its ordinary maintenance in a public easement, then notification isn't feasible. He told April that he will follow up with her directly.
 - Colin later shared a map of April's parcel which had the original conveyance of the public easement.
 - Charles asked Colin to clarify that the conveyance of the public easement doesn't changes the boundary of the parcel. Colin said it does not, it is an easement over private property, so the SJC has the right to maintain the 10-foot-wide easement but it does not change the property lines.
- Charles Toxey asked to have a discussion with Colin Huntemer about dedication of paths in Eastsound. Colin said he would have no problem discussing that topic at the next EPRC meeting. Colin will be added to next meeting's agenda to discuss Dedication of Paths.

Colin Huntemer – Director of Public Works and County Engineer

- Discussion of sidewalk panel repairs on North Beach Road
 - Colin shared his screen and shared pictures of the raised sidewalk panels up and down North Beach Road. He described the hazards that the panels are causing our community. Anything over a ¼" rise constitutes a trip hazard and is not ADA compliant. Some of the panels are closer to a 2" raised edge according to measurements taken by Public Work crews.

- Colin reported SJC has had multiple incidents of people tripping due to the uplifted panels.
- Colin stated that 10 or 15 years ago the panels were considered part of the character of the area, but the hazards can no longer be ignored. SJC is compelled to act when the sidewalks are no longer ADA compliant. He is asking for feedback on which type of repair the community would like to see.
- Two options were presented to repair the uplifted panels.
 - Option one is to grind the panel to feather the edge and remove the hazard.
 - This option is costly and does not guarantee a permanent fix. Colin also stated that the 2" uplifts would lose fifty percent of the material of the panel due to the nature of the work. This could cause them to deteriorate faster and the community would have to deal with the issue twice.
 - Option two is to remove the panel and the root that is causing the issue and replace the panels with new concrete.
 - Colin warned that if a large enough root is removed, it may lessen the life expectancy of the tree and we need to be aware of this.
- Feedback was given by EPRC.
 - Each member gave their opinion on the type of repair and each agreed that option two is a better option because it is a permanent solution.
- Colin is going to develop a plan to repair the issues using option two. He thinks that they will be doing this in-house with Public Works staff over the next couple of years.
- Charles asked Colin about adding the gaps in the sidewalk development on North Beach Road to this project. Colin said it would be beyond the Counties resources. Charles described a recently built house on North Beach and asked why it hasn't developed the sidewalk in front of it.
 - Colin directed Sophia to check on this. Sophia said she did not work on this one but would reach out to the building inspector and investigate the situation.
- Crosswalk Inquiry
 - Colin presented a community request his department received to add a crosswalk at Mt Baker Road and North Beach Road.
 - He illustrated how a crosswalk at that intersection would have to be accompanied by the addition of stop signs. Adding the crosswalk without signage would cause a safety hazard for the pedestrian.
 - He explained that this is a community decision and less of an engineering decision. A traffic study would not be appropriate here as this is more about what the community wants.
 - EPRC Board members recommended more community input. This is a community decision, and it was decided to put the topic on the next regular meeting agenda in May. At that time EPRC will discuss hosting a community meeting later in May to collect community input on adding crosswalks to Mount Baker Road and North Beach Road and potentially a couple other locations.
 - Colin explained to EPRC other locations that have added crosswalks and how that process went, discussion followed.

Council Update with Cindy Wolf

- Cindy and Colin reported that the SJC Council is voting on legislation on the April 16 agenda to set a framework for creating parking regulations to be enforceable by SJC Public Works. Cindy

clarified that the legislation gives authority to Public Works to create the parking regulations if the community asks for them. A future discussion after the legislation passes will be needed to define the details of the regulations for Eastsound. All fines would need to be approved by the SJC Council.

- SJC Council worked on affordable housing at last council meeting. They expedited rental assistance to resource centers as a reaction to Rosario closing. Each center received \$15,000 in assistance to be utilized for rental assistance requests. Ryan Page the Housing Coordinator proposed putting aside \$30,000 additional funding from another area of state funding. These funds will be utilized in addition to the \$15,000 funding for rental assistance.
- Cindy took part in the removal of derelict vessels by the Marine Resources Committee. Cindy thanked Senator Murray for getting the funds for Northwest Straits to make this possible.
- April 3 was the kickoff of “Start by Believing” which is a month-long program being brought up through our court system to work on a paradigm shift on how to respond to sexual assault survivors. It encourages community conversations to raise awareness, reduce unconscious bias, and provide resources to help improve outcomes of those impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse.
- SJC is close to closing on a building in Friday Harbor. It is an administrative building built by Banner Bank in the 1990s and will allow the SJC to move their financial services administration out of the 1980s addition of the courthouse. Cindy shared that reports say the current building would not withstand a 6.0 magnitude.

Lighting regulations update/public outreach discussion – Sophia Cassam, Charles Toxey

- Sophia reported that last month Charles and her gave a briefing to the SJC Council and Planning Commission on EPRC’s recommended amendments to the Eastsound Subarea Lighting Ordinance. It was well received by Council and the Planning Commission. SJC Council gave the green light to continue with the process. The Planning Commission will receive a briefing from staff about their recommendations regarding the proposal on April 19th.
 - Staff are recommending the proposed changes by EPRC with a few minor edits. One edit was the removal of language that staff deemed unnecessary regarding degrees kelvin. Staff also recommended removing the graphic from the ordinance illustrating light trespass. Sophia stated that it would be more appropriate to have the illustration in an educational handout but not codifying it in the ordinance. This is due to the subjectiveness of these types of illustrations. If EPRC is adamant about keeping the illustration, Sophia recommends we submit a public comment to the planning commission stating our desire to keep the illustration.
 - Charles Toxey told Sophia that the exact illustration in the ordinance doesn’t have to be the same as the illustration put forth by EPRC. He recommended adding an illustration that staff approves of.
- We expect the planning commission to hold a hearing in May and the SJC Council is expected to hold a hearing in June for the next steps in the process.
- Sophia asked if large institutions would be affected by the new lighting restrictions. Charles said that the school would probably need to adjust their lighting to be compliant with the new regulations. Although, it would be years until the school would be required to comply according to the new regulations.

Restoring Main Street Streetscapes

- The history of the issue was discussed.

- Cindy is waiting for clarifying information from staff to further this discussion. Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

Permits

- BUILD-24-0068
 - Residential Remodel: remove existing entry, Tax Parcel 271150301000, 22 Alder St.
 - Board comment: Does the elimination of a way of egress trigger any regulations and have we check?

Agenda Items for next month's meeting

- Restoring Main Street Streetscapes
 - Moved to June meeting due to the crosswalk and path discussion with Colin planned for May's meeting.
- Dedication of Paths
 - Charles is sending the map of the paths in question to Colin Huntemer for May's meeting.
- Crosswalk Beginning Discussion
 - The intent is to discuss scheduling a special community meeting to engage the public to collect public input for this proposed project by Public Works.

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM