

**MEETING MINUTES
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
LOPEZ VILLAGE PLANNING AND REVIEW COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, September 26, 2024**

**Conference Room, Lopez Island Library, 2225 Fisherman Bay Rd
Lopez Island, WA**

3:30 PM CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Barbara Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Present: were Committee Members Brian Krantz, Kenny Mai, Barbara Thomas, and Randy Wilburn. Also in attendance were Sophia Cassam with the San Juan County Department of Community Development, Andrea Huss with the Lopez Island Chamber of Commerce, and Sarah Diekroeger, Mandi Roberts, Andrew Oliver, and David Fisk.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS

Barbara Thomas requested an addition to the agenda, which was to add a request from Lopez Community Land Trust for the County's construction of additional sidewalks along Fisherman Bay Road to the new Oystercatcher Association housing project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brian Krantz made a motion to approve the August 2024 minutes as presented. Kenny Mai seconded the motion, and it **PASSED** unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Committee did not receive any public comments. The Committee took **NO ACTION** on this item.

LOPEZ VILLAGE PARK UPDATE CONVERSATION WITH LOPEZ ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Andrea Huss with the Lopez Island Chamber of Commerce made a presentation regarding a proposal to enhance the Lopez Village Park. The proposed improvements include:

- Expanded landscaping to help block the view of parked cars on Tower Drive.
- Logs placed along parking areas to enhance pedestrian safety.
- New pathways to improve walkability and direct foot traffic toward Eads Lane.

- Strategically placed murals to shield storage and parking on the north end of the property.
- Sculptures integrated into the landscape to showcase local artistic talent.
- A nature-inspired plastic-free playscape for children.
- Additional seating for the community to relax and enjoy the park.
- A small covered structure for shade/rain, performances, and events.
- Footbridges to help people cross the swale and access the park more easily.

The vision is to create a more inviting, functional public space that better serves the needs of both residents and visitors, while maintaining the unique character of Lopez Island.

To gather broader input, the Chamber of Commerce intends to send out a survey in its next newsletter, post on Lopezrocks.org, and display notices on the corkboard for those who may not follow social media or receive email. This outreach will allow the Chamber to hear directly from individuals about their hopes for the park and how best to meet those needs.

The Chamber also reached out to adjacent property owners and have the support of Brandon Andrews, Director of San Juan County Parks & Rec, who is enthusiastic about the positive impact these changes could bring. Additionally, the Chamber is coordinating with Public Works and Jane Fuller, our County Council representative.

The Committee enthusiastically supported the proposal to enhance the Village Park and expressed a desire to provide future input into the planning effort. The Board took **NO ACTION** on this item.

2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE: Land Capacity Analysis Introduction with Leland Consulting

Representatives of Leeland Consulting and OTAK made a presentation to the committee regarding their work preparing the Land Capacity Analysis. Sophia Cassam noted that the County would host a series of grocery store information booths and open house events on three islands where the community can learn more about the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) Update, including the new Climate Element development, and provide input. For Lopez Island, the County would be at the Lopez Village Market on October 24, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and at the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Board took **NO ACTION** on this item

LOPEZ COMMUNITY LAND TRUST FOR THE COUNTY'S CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL SIDEWALKS

Barbara Thomas informed the Board of a request she received from Sandy Bishop. Ms. Bishop had requested the Committee's support in the Trust's request that the County pay for and construct the extension of a sidewalk along Fisherman Bay Road to the new

housing project. While the Board enthusiastically supports the County's addition of sidewalks and bike lanes across the island, the Committee believed there are higher-priority for the construction of sidewalks and bike lanes on the island. The Committee affirmed its support of developers paying for and constructing sidewalks along their projects, which would include Lopez Community Land Trust paying for the requested sidewalks.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian Krantz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kenny Mai seconded the motion, and it **PASSED** unanimously.

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 24th of October 2024.

Randy Wilburn, Secretary