

City Council: In Other News ...

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Written by Brianna Gerdeman

A dozen residents of Woodinville and surrounding areas came to last week's meeting to urge the City Council to continue opposing the development of Wellington Hills County Park, which would convert the former golf course to a park with seven sports fields, a dog park and trails, among other amenities.

"You're the keeper of the city's vision — the keeper of the vision for the area. And only if you have a strong vision and really pursue that can this area be protected," Brad Rich told the council.

The park is located just outside the Woodinville city limits in Snohomish County. Many people who live near the park fear it will bring traffic, runoff, noise and lights from late-night games. They describe the proposed park as a regional sports complex, while Snohomish County insists it will be a community park.

"Wellington Hills Park is attempting to paint itself as mitigation to the residents who live around it. It must, because it will be paid for with the money that is part of the Brightwater settlement agreement — a supposed attempt to make things better for the homeowners living near the massive new sewage treatment plant," Janet Littlefield said. "But the plans for Wellington Hills Park are anything but mitigation for those of us who would be forced to deal with its byproducts of lights, noise, water, runoff and so on."

Wayfinding signs

Construction of new wayfinding signs throughout the city will move forward, but at a higher cost than originally planned. Instead of the \$78,000 originally budgeted, the council voted to increase the project cost to \$91,000, the lowest bid received, providing an extra \$13,000 from the general fund to keep the same design of the signs.

Throughout the city, there will be nine signs with wood posts and seven with wood posts plus stone bases.

The council also approved a resolution setting the fee for businesses and organizations to be listed on the wayfinding signs — \$200 per year for each sign location. In addition, for every sign posted on the wayfinding signs, the business will lose the ability to put one portable sign in the public right-of-way.

Council appointments

The council reviewed appointments of council members to outside organizations and committees, appointing new Councilmember Hank Stecker to the positions that former Councilmember Scott Hageman previously held.

Stecker will now represent Woodinville on the Fire District Joint Policy Board, the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and the Brightwater Air Quality Advisory Board.