

**MINUTES**  
**GIG HARBOR ARTS COMMISSION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 11:45am – 1:00pm  
at Austin Park on Harborview Drive

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners Lynn Stevenson and Samantha Kelly (sub-committee)  
Commissioners Jennifer Beard, Linda Sutherland  
Dawn Stanton and Linda Pitcher

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Historic Trail Marker signage on concrete pylons in Austin Park

Dawn Stanton and Linda Pitcher gave an overview of the site's history, the Donkey Creek daylighting project, tribal lands/language and the vision for this project.

- Proposed signs are 15" x 40" vertical metal plaques with engraved lettering.  
Very simple, unembellished design.  
To be inset into the concrete pylons from the original bridge.
- The tribal representatives are enthusiastic about this project and requested that we "tell the whole story."
- Project consists of FIVE stories on FOUR pylons:
  1. "Before Gig Harbor"
  2. "sxʷəbabš / The Swiftwater People"
  3. The Puyallup Tribe"
  4. "After Medicine Creek"
  5. The Daylighting of Donkey Creek"
- They are waiting for text edits/comments from the Puyallup tribe.
- Group discussion:
  - Commissioner Kelly expressed concern that the current text is too lengthy and the point size is a little small.
  - Commissioner Sutherland mentioned adding a QR code. This would require web content management.
  - Commissioner Beard suggested that the museum website might be able to include a more elaborate version of the stories.
  - Commissioner Kelly wants to be sure the signage acknowledges the current existence of the Tribe.
  - Should the signs be numbered or otherwise indicate that there's a collection?  
The text is written so it can stand alone and doesn't necessarily have to be read in a particular order.  
Also, Mayor Kuhn is working on a separate project with signage that will illustrate where the various art and pylons signs are located throughout the estuary.
- Dawn is getting estimates for fabrication and installation and she will have a follow-up presentation for the GHAC, hopefully in time for the June meeting.
- note: There is a fifth pylon in Donkey Creek Park that could still be utilized.