

Minutes of Fourth Meeting (publicly noticed)– Paradise Bay No Shooting Zone Sheriff's Office in Port Hadlock on Thursday, October 25th from 3-5 p.m.

DCD Staff

Karen Barrows

No Shooting Zone Standing Review Committee

John Ebner, District 1

Ray Hunter, District 3

Henry Werch, District 2

Sheriff's Department

Undersheriff Anthony Hernandez

Zone Stakeholders

Pat Bowen

Ken Merritt

Members of the Public

Bert Bennett

Joe D'Amico

Gabe Ornelas

Tom Thiersch

Evan Cael (Peninsula Daily News)

unidentified man (did not sign in)

Minutes

Discussion began with a summary for the attending public of the preceding preparatory meetings, and proceeded with the first committee deliberations of alternative no shooting zone boundaries. The proposed boundaries as originally submitted on the petition as well as several alternatives were considered. The committee agreed that enforceability would be enhanced by conspicuously posting the new no shooting area on roadways, as this is the most likely way a member of the public would learn that an area is a no shooting zone.

Using Highway 104 as the southern boundary was discussed, but the consensus was that doing so caused the boundary to encompass a great deal of hunting lands, and contracting the boundary only slightly northward didn't allow for roadway postings, and thus would be difficult to enforce. Ken Merritt reported after researching the gravel pit area on state lands south of Andy Cooper Road that ammunition was no farther from the gravel pit than 35 yards in any direction, and that no landowners in surrounding neighborhoods could be injured as a result of shooting at that location. Undersheriff Hernandez mentioned that areas of high population densities are the main concern of law enforcement.

During public comment, Tom Thiersch suggested overlaying zoning density maps on the mapped areas in no shooting zone petitions. Joe D'Amico said he liked what he was hearing from the committee, and asked how many legal shooting ranges exist in the county. Joe said the county should have an outreach program to direct people to legal shooting ranges, and that that would minimize shooting near areas of higher population density.

After several motions were floated to test consensus, Pat Bowen made a motion (with Ken Merritt seconding) to recommend establishing a new Paradise Bay No Shooting area encompassing the land bounded by the following roads: Andy Cooper, Teal Lake, Paradise Bay, Fir, and Shore Drive. The motion carried unanimously. There was discussion of recommending a second no shooting area in the residential areas just north of Highway 104, but a motion related to that proposal failed to gain consensus.

The final recommendation of the review committee was to establish a no shooting zone in accordance with the boundaries specified by motion, and to post the area clearly with signs on roadways. Further, the committee intended to recommend to the BoCC a campaign of education so people who want to shoot can easily learn where to do so safely and legally in Jefferson County.

The final item on the agenda was a review of the upcoming process: staff producing a new map with the proposed boundary and legal description; submitting an agenda request to the BoCC; appearing before the BoCC to present the committee's recommendation; accepting direction from the BoCC as to any further work necessary, and on scheduling a public hearing; final decision by the BoCC; and finally, staff preparing a new ordinance reflecting the BoCC's decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.