



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Future of Bill Hunter Park in Belfair

Mason County, WA - On Monday, July 27, 2015 North Mason Community Voice is hosting a public meeting in order to gather input to guide community leaders on the future of William O. Hunter Park, commonly referred to as Bill Hunter Park.

The .15 acre park is located at 220 NE State Route 300 Belfair, WA 98528 and is owned by Mason County. In 2011 Mason Transit Authority (MTA) and the County entered into an interlocal agreement. The agreement permitted MTA to use the park for transit purposes, which included a Park and Ride and bus stop. MTA determined the location was not feasible to use as a Park and Ride. They still use a portion of the park as a bus stop and, per the interlocal agreement, pay for maintenance costs which includes utilities, weekly clean-up and garbage collection.

MTA reports there have been requests from the public over that last few years to improve the park; those requests have included improved lighting, increased security, and installing public bathrooms. According to MTA's Development Manager, Mike Oliver, MTA has made improvements they feel are within transit means, such as increased lighting. The North Mason Community Voice group has led efforts in the past to improve the park by landscaping and removing garbage from the wooded area behind the park. No public restroom has been installed as of yet.

North Mason Community Voice, whose mission is to "encourage free and open dialogue between citizens of North Mason and our local and state government on issues of community concern", has decided to host a public meeting to see if citizens want the park to be invested in and/or expanded. For people that may not be able to attend the meeting there is an anonymous survey available online to provide feedback, which has been published on MTA's website at www.masontransit.org or can be accessed directly by going to www.surveymonkey.com/r/BillHunterPark. The survey will be open until Sunday, July 26th as results of the survey will be shared at the public meeting.

The public meeting is on Monday, July 27, 2015 at 7:15 PM and will be held at the Belfair Masonic Lodge located at 23341 NE State Route 3 Belfair, WA 98528.

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