

Public meeting to discuss future of Belfair park

STAFF REPORT
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The future of Bill Hunter Park in Belfair will be the subject of a public meeting presented by North Mason Community Voice at 7:15 p.m. July 27.

The meeting could guide community leaders on the future of William O. Hunter Park, commonly referred to as Bill Hunter Park.

The .15-acre park, located at 220 NE state Route 300 in Belfair, is owned by Mason County.

In 2011, Mason Transit Authority (MTA) and the county entered into an interlocal agreement permit-

ting 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 but still use a portion of the park as a bus stop.

MTA, per the interlocal agreement, must also pay for maintenance costs, which includes utilities, weekly clean-up and garbage collection on the property.

MTA reports there have been requests from the public during that past few years to improve the park. Requests have include improving lighting, increasing security and installing public bathrooms.

According to MTA Development Manager Mike Oliver, the agency has made improvements they feel are within their budget, 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 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," will host the public

meeting to see if residents want to invest in the park.

For residents who may not be able to attend the meeting, an anonymous survey is available online to provide feedback, which has been published on MTA's website at www.masontransit.org/public-hearings/, and can be directly accessed by going to www.surveymonkey.com/r/BillHunterPark.

The survey will be open until July 26 and results of the survey will be shared at the public meeting.

The public meeting will be hosted at the Belfair Masonic Lodge located, 23341 NE state Route 3, in Belfair.