

SUQUAMISH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Thursday, April 6, 2023 @ 6:30pm
In-person - Suquamish Police Training Room

ATTENDEES:

SCAC Board Members:

Brynn Felix, Laurie Kadet, Tom Curley, Carol Larsen, Brenda Austin, Ed Mullaney

Quorum: Yes

Government Officials:

Rob Gelder, District 1 County Commissioner; Caitlin Newman, KC Solid Waste Division Manager

Community Members:

Kevin MacDonald, Tom Alexander

Opening Items

Meeting called to order: 6:30pm

Land Acknowledgement:

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is within the ancestral territory of the “People of Clear Salt Water” (Suquamish People). Expert fishermen, canoe builders and basket weavers, the Suquamish live in harmony with the land and waterways along Washington’s Central Salish Sea as they have for thousands of years. Here, the Suquamish live and protect the land and waters of their ancestors for future generations as promised by the Point Elliott Treaty of 1855. “Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy even in days long vanished.” Chief Seattle, 1854.

Vacancies:

Commissioner Gelder is stepping down from the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners on May 23, 2023. The process to fill his vacancy is underway.

Emily Klein and Kurt Olmstead both stepped down from the SCAC. Those vacancies will not be filled until Commissioner Gelder’s successor is appointed.

Old Business:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 2023 Minutes

Following SCAC’s March 2023 meeting, SCAC received a comment from Alison O’Sullivan, Senior Biologist with the Suquamish Tribe. In response to Jennifer Sutton’s comments in the February 2023 minutes, Alison clarified that LAMIRDS are considered ‘Rural’ and not urban spaces.

Tom motioned to approve the March 2023 minutes; Ed seconded; the minutes were approved with one abstention.

Update of the 2023 Workplan (regular discussion item): A Public Utility District employee is scheduled to speak in June to discuss the broadband initiative, as well as a Widme Road resident who organized neighbors to extend community broadband along Widme.

Chief Seattle Days will occur on the third weekend in August and will be open to the public.

PRESENTATION:

Caitlan Newman, Program Supervisor with Kitsap County Solid Waste Division gave a presentation that talked about the Clean Kitsap program. There is no longer an inmate crew from the Sheriff's Department. Adopt-A-Road is now known as Adopt-A-Spot. County staff will pick up illegal dump sites within a week. The SeeClickFix app is the way to report problems within Kitsap County, along with Kitsap 1 (www.kitsap1.com or 360-337-5777 – to report unlicensed people to activate the HEART team). Does not include state routes (State Route 305). 432 miles adopted, about 15% of all county roads. As a utility, solid waste is required to be self-sustaining financially, so prices will rise. Beach pickups would be suitable for children, but not along busy roads. State highways can be adopted through a state program, or sponsor a state contractor to cleanup a stretch. WA State Dept. of Ecology hires an adult litter crew that roves around the county, along with grant funding. Litter prevention – state law that all loads must be secured, with strict enforcement of the \$10 unsecured-load fee starting in the summer. The state does have to pay minimum wage for drug court folks, but the county does not have to (the bill failed to move forward). Road shoulders are not to be used for the storage of waste bins. There was a discussion about recycling, and a bill to improve recycling, and it didn't pass – which would have included a bottle and can deposit. All of Kitsap County is eligible for curbside pickup and composting. The Poulsbo recycle facility is gone, but when the new Public Works Maintenance Shop on Bond Road is built, there will be a hazardous waste drop off there.

Change of meeting location discussion:

The UCC church was suggested as an alternate meeting venue to the police station:

- Pros of moving to UCC: Some people may not be comfortable in a police environment. UCC might draw more community members.
- Cons of moving to UCC: Previous co-chairs explored the UCC as a venue, and there would be other groups meeting on the same evening and SCAC, so we would have to be very quiet. It is centrally-located, and there is plenty of parking. Some aren't comfortable meeting in a church. Seating in the Police Training Room is flexible and can be re-arranged for plenty of seating. Suquamish Police have been a generous partner to SCAC. Importance of relationship-building with the Suquamish Tribe and being at their administrative campus.

Other considerations: Suquamish Elementary is unavailable during school holidays and breaks, and consistency of meeting location was viewed as important. Commissioner Gelder said consistency of location is important.

Motion to stay in the Police Training Room: motion by Laurie, second by Ed. Motion carries unanimously.

By-laws committee report and discussion: The Bylaws Committee did a comprehensive look at all the other Community Advisory Councils (CACs) and offered various levels of changes. There is no proposal to be voted on at the moment.

Commissioner Gelder's input: Any changes would have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. CACs have a 'sweet spot' with number of members, and to artificially inflate it creates churn and unfilled positions, rather than inclusion. Changes should be made with the character of the specific CAC in mind, and to avoid ex-officio members since it's difficult to manage, and organizational members can be hard spots to fill, so at-large is easier to manage. The Board of Commissioners will only approve by-laws once a year. Odd numbers of members are easier to facilitate voting; in the alternative, the Chair could not be a voting member unless there is a tie. There is no ability for the Advisory Councils to create policy. No 'president' rather than Chair.

Ed said the language with the other community CACs were pretty consistent and wanted the Suquamish by-laws to be similarly consistent. Laurie is comfortable with the more casual nature of Suquamish, compared to a larger group like Central Kitsap or Kingston.

The by-laws committee will return with tiered change suggestions for the group to vote on at the next meeting.

Hood Canal Bridge closures this summer: There will be weekend closures. Commissioner Gelder informed the group of the state plans to install fish guidance devices to encourage movement rather than predation.

Stormwater Project: Kingston has a similar project that will likely occur after Labor Day. Ed noted there was no traffic mitigation plan for the Suquamish project as there is with the Kingston project.

Suquamish Elementary traffic: Kevin described long backups of parents picking up and dropping off kids, down Geneva. He suggested having the principal to talk about issues such as that at an SCAC meeting.

District 1 County Commissioner replacement: Laurie is seeking Suquamish-specific questions to ask candidates.

Closing Public Comments

**Meeting adjourned at 8pm. The next meeting is on May 4, 2023.
Minutes submitted by: Tom Curley standing in for Erin Bischoff**