

SUQUAMISH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2024

In person only – Suquamish Police Classroom
18490 Suquamish Way, Room 118B

Suquamish Board Members Present:

Tom Curley
Martha Burke
Erin Bischoff
Patty Charnas
Carol Larsen
Hannah Moss
Bruce McCain
Ed Mullaney
Steve Warnert
Faith Williams

Quorum: Yes

Kitsap County Staff: Christine Rolfes, County Commissioner
Alex Jarrett, Administrative Specialist, County
Commissioners Office

Additional Invited Guests: Bret? , Suquamish Police Dept.
Rick LaGrandeur, North Kitsap Fire and Rescue
Breane Martinez, North Kitsap School Board
Stacy Mills, North Kitsap School Board

Community Members: Kevin McDonald

Meeting Called to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

Opening Items

1. *Land Acknowledgement*
2. *Approval of April meeting minutes.* The May minutes were approved unanimously.
3. *New Member – Faith Williams* is our newest member to the Advisory Council. She is a member of the S'Klallam Tribe and the daughter of Bennie George. She owns the coffee shop on SR 305 near ? and

New Business

1. Bret with the Suquamish Police gave a report on their work and activities in Suquamish. He said they are doing regular traffic checks on neighborhood streets such as Totten to discourage speeding. They will name a new chief either this Friday or the next.

2. Chief Rick LaGrandeur of North Kitsap Fire and Rescue discussed the upcoming EMS levy which will be on August 6. The levy provides 20% of their funding and this year they are asking for an increase to \$0.50/1,000 which would increase the tax \$75 more for a \$600,000 house. They are running the levy a year early so whatever the outcome they have funding for 2025. Erin Bischoff asked why they don't have a permanent levy like Bainbridge does, but Rick said that approach was not popular with the public.

Rick also discussed the need to build a new fire station in Suquamish. They are still evaluating where it should be located – rebuild in its current location or move it to the “Log Yard” across the street from the gas station on Suquamish Way. One existing problem with the current location is that there is no drainage connection for the wash water coming from cleaning the fire engines so it flows untreated to the Sound. Tom noted that the long awaited stormwater project has finalized funding and will be built next year which will provide treatment of the flow from Augusta in that area.

Christine Rolfes asked what rules govern the use of fireworks over the Fourth, but there are none on the Suquamish reservation, although they are not allowed in the parks and the House of Awakened Culture.

3. Breane Martinez and Stacy Mills, members of the North Kitsap School Board, introduced themselves and discussed how they are working to improve communication and outreach to the public. Kevin McDonald said that flow of information was important, for example how can people track what is happening with the construction of the new gym at Suquamish Elementary – is it on time? Breane said that you can check that on the website, kschools.org. She said the Facilities Committee has been reactivated with regular meetings. The public can attend all School Board meetings and the meetings are recorded, with agendas coming out before the meetings. Stacy is the liaison with the Tribes and was elected to the Board last December. The new Superintendent, Rachel Davenport, will attend our August meeting.

4. The list of proposed traffic improvements in Suquamish developed by the Traffic Safety Subcommittee was submitted and was approved for submittal to the County for inclusion in the TIP.

5. There was discussion about the Work Plan and upcoming items, one of which is the picnic, which is currently scheduled for August 10. Carol Larsen is taking the lead but will be assisted by members Martha Burke and Hannah Moss. Christine Rolfes volunteered to provide support for food items. Watch for announcements coming.

Another item on the work plan is to determine if the Suquamish Tribe is interested in assuming responsibility for the small parks that are currently owned by the County. Tom and Christine volunteered to discuss this with Tribal representatives.

The possibility of changing the meeting location of the SCAC was discussed. Ed Mullaney volunteered to research the availability of the UCC church. One thing noted by Christine was that it might allow for more of an audience than the current location at the Police Training Room. For some meetings, such as our August meeting with the introduction of the new School District Superintendent, that might be desirable.

Public Comment & Good of the Order

Martha noted that Steve Weagant has provided a write-up of his proposed traffic improvement that he presented last month, and although it is not in the reservation, he would appreciate the support of the SCAC for his proposal. Martha volunteered to develop such a letter for the Council's review.

Kevin asked about the drainage that currently flows from the street and is directed onto the playfield at the Suquamish Elementary school. It makes the playfield wet and unusable for part of the year. What can be done to address this?

Tom described a recent incident where he and a friend were returning home at night on Miller Bay Road and happened to see an old lady walking along the shoulder. She was dressed in a nightgown and slippers and when they asked she said she was walking to the Navy hospital. Concerned for her safety, they called Fire and Rescue, but before they could arrive, a pickup truck driving by managed to hit the woman. She was evacuated to Harborview, and although thankfully she was not seriously injured, it just points out the great need to improve the shoulders on that road.