

Minutes of 9/9/97 Meeting of the Four Creeks U.A.C.

The meeting began at 7:03 p.m. In attendance, were Members Leonard J. Davidson, Norm Green, Ray Griffin, Mary Ellen Hamblin, Francine Hamilton, Rich Harris, Kathryn J. Kaluzny, Stan Rabe, Bob Rhoades, J. Patrick Spencer, Jack Steidl, and Everett Wilcock. Also in attendance were the following county officials: King County Police Captain John Reed and Officer Mel Miller

1. Minutes of Meetings for June 10 and July 8, 1997. The reference in section 9 of the August 12, 1997 minutes to the Y intersection into "Maple Valley" should read, "Maple Hills." With that change, the minutes for the August 12th meeting were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's report was a balance of \$204.20. This included donations of \$35, made in connection with the UAC newsletter. Everett had three checks at home for deposit. Ray moved and Bob seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

3. Cedar Grove Composting. Everett said that Daniel J. Moran, Senior Environmental Health Specialist [phone number (206) 296-4575], has been in meetings all day, made some progress, and expected some changes, but not until the first of the year. Francine said she could smell the landfill now. Ray said the smell was quite bad where he lives and said the speculation was that it is the landfill now. Francine said the lawsuit encompasses people living within one and a half miles; ten couples are named plaintiffs. Pat said people in his area have made inquiries about the lawsuit. Brad Jones, in the Tacoma office of Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Malanca, Peterson, & Daheim, represents the plaintiffs. Everett said that he spoke with Ray Nichols, head of the King County Health Department, and is confident that progress is being made, but Everett is concerned why it has taken ten years.

4. Elections and Vacancies. The UAC had two at-large vacancies; and District 10, covering Haas, Colleen, and Mirromont, is also vacant. Rich Harris made a motion, seconded by Ray Griffin, to appoint Francine Hamilton to the UAC, taking Rod's vacant at-large position, which term expires in November 1997. Norm made a motion, seconded by Ray, to amend the pending motion to have it cover the vacant District 10 position, instead. The motion to amend was defeated. The motion to appoint Francine to the at-large position passed, on a vote of 9 to 1, with no abstentions.

Toward the end of this UAC meeting, Everett reported that he met with the head of elections, Bob Bruce (spelling?). He said an election by mail would be easier with only registered voters, and not business owners, eligible to vote. Everett asked if we wanted a vote by mail. He said the county would also mail a voters pamphlet at county expense. Everett said each UAC would have \$10,000 next year to spend for communications. He said it is cheaper to have an election by mail than by ballot box.

Mary Ellen made a motion, seconded by Ray, to amend the bylaws to limit voting to registered voters. Everett said that UAC Members could still be business owners, even if they are not eligible to vote for the Members. Rich was concerned about the procedure to change the bylaws. Rich made a motion to announce the UAC intends to change the bylaws if King County comes up with a procedure to elect Members by direct election. The motion passed with 9 ayes and one abstention.

Rich made another motion, seconded by Bob, to accept a proposal that UAC elections be held by mail, if that was offered. Norm proposed an amendment that we would review the matter and, if it were acceptable, we would accept the offer of elections; it passed with 9 ayes and one abstention. Rich's second motion passed, with two abstentions. Everett was to relay the results to Elections staff.

Election petitions are to be turned in to Leonard, the pro tem head of elections, by September 26th.

5. Water District 90. The status of the possible merger/consolidation is that talks are going on, looking at the financial pros and cons. [Ray and Norm are Water District 90 commissioners.] Everett asked how a decision will be made. Ray said the commissioners decide whether to proceed and, if it is merger, the voters of a water district decide; if it is consolidation, the voters of both districts decide. He said, at this point, it was a fishing

expedition, gathering information. Last night, they just looked at legal and engineering information. He said the commissioners want as many questions as they can get from people living in both water districts, so if the time comes, they know what people's concerns are. There will be public meetings about this.

A member of the public asked about publicizing the possible merger/consolidation, noting that information sheets from the other water district were available at Newcastle Days. Ray said last night's meeting ran until 10:30 p.m., that there is much work and the district is short-handed, with three new commissioners and possible past mismanagement. He said the joint meeting last night was a regular one for District 107, publicized in the newspaper. Someone else in the audience said he had been at a meeting where the development of a water district newsletter was discussed. Everett commented that the point is that we need public discussion and information. There is a meeting for District 107 on October 13 at 6:30 p.m., to discuss this. It was expected there would be a special meeting of District 90 the week of September 22, to cover the merger/consolidation. Pat noted the UAC discussed the issue at our July meeting.

6. Newcastle Annexation. Pat distributed a summary of the Newcastle annexation timeline. He said the Boundary Review Board ("BRB") ceased its activity when the County Executive withdrew the request for BRB review, which was after the developer agreed to a draft Memorandum of Understanding. The developer, Oki Development, agreed to work with county advisors, but is not bound to follow their advice. Oki is to post a bond, to ensure that work is done properly. Rich acknowledged that Pat did a very good job on this.

7. Police Activities. King County Police Captain John Reed and Officer Mel Miller attended the meeting and discussed activities and problems in our area.

8. Transportation Needs Report. Everett said now was the time to make our comments. Francine said streets in the area where she lives are not constructed for two-way traffic. Rich asked how we make our suggestions. Everett said that we need a motion to inform the King County Council. Someone commented that many people in Maple Hills depend on one road for access to the area. Everett said that, in 1992, there was a proposal to make S.R. 900 a four-lane road. He said residents did not want that, and now there was a project to do that. A member of the audience commented about the lack of access to Maple Hills and said each developer should provide infrastructure to connect the roads out of the area. After some additional comments, Everett turned the President's chair over to Ray, who then presided. There was discussion of the "Y" intersection at 128th and 196th Ave. S.E. We took a break.

Everett made a motion, seconded by Bob, that the Four Creeks UAC recognize the work done by the neighborhood on S.R. 900 to study the stock loops, wetlands, and restricted terrain between Renton and Issaquah and request that widening S.R. 900 to four lanes be dropped from NC-50, noting that we support addition of a paved shoulder, improved sight distances, and other safety improvements and declaration of it as a scenic and historic road due to historic significance and proximity to Cougar Mountain ___ Park and Squawk Mountain State Park. Everett said that he moved here in 1978, that Coal Creek Parkway was two lanes then and became a four-lane road, and that more lanes meant more traffic. He thought that if S.R. 900 were improved, it would attract rigs; it was a wagon trail at one time. The motion passed, 8 to 3.

Rich made a motion, seconded by Bob, that the Four Creeks UAC request that the intersection of S.E. 128th and 196th Ave. S.E. be re-engineered to handle current safety problems and additional traffic load added since the intersection was designed, widening turn lanes, adding signs, with all-way stops or traffic lights incorporated into it. The motion passed unanimously.

Stan noted the volume of traffic near Liberty High School and the lack of a road shoulder. Stan made a motion, seconded by Bob, that all roads within walking distance of Briarwood schools have shoulders adequate for children walking. (Pat left.) After some discussion, the motion passed, 7 to 2, with one abstention.

Rich made a motion that project NC-8 [Maple Hills Access N], have a higher priority than "low," due to safety concerns of the citizens. Mary Ellen suggested we add a specific priority to the motion. A friendly amendment, to make it high priority, was accepted. The motion passed with 9 aye votes and one abstention. Everett said, if a project is a low priority, it will never happen.

Rich suggested we calendar the transportation projects for nine months hence. Everett suggested May. Rich said we should let PTA's know in May 1998.

9. Miscellaneous Matters. Everett had an application for development of condominiums at N.E. 12th and Anacortes.

Norm said the Issaquah School District was negotiating with King County Parks, to transfer land by High Valley in exchange for land by Liberty High School or by Maple Hills for parking space. Rich thought it was by Liberty High School.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn J. Kaluzny, Secretary