

Minutes of 7/15/98 Meeting of the Four Creeks U.A.C.

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m. In attendance, were Members Marilyn Carlson (left at 8:20 p.m.), Mary Ellen Hamblin, Kathryn J. Kaluzny, Stan Rabe, Bob Rhoades, J. Patrick Spencer, Jack Steidl, and Everett Wilcock. Also in attendance were Marissa Alegria and Michele McFadden.

1. Minutes of Meeting for June 17, 1998. Deferred.

2. Treasury Reports. Mary Ellen reported the UAC's bank account had the same balance last month and this month, namely \$224.41. She said she had one bill to pay, for ten dollars and change, owed to Doug Ross. Everett said she should pay the church about \$12 for Xerox copying he's done there. Everett said that he forgot to bring the statement for the UAC account with King County, that the UAC has spent about \$2,500 for a mailing list and services for four mailings (the latter including payment for future mailings).

3. Community Policing Storefront Station. King County Sheriff Officer Mel Miller spoke about the formal opening of the Community Policing Storefront Station on July 15th and the steps toward staffing it with volunteers.

4. Vacancy for Commissioner, Fire District 25. Bob made a motion that the UAC endorse Don Hamblin as a commissioner for Fire District 25 (hereinafter, "F.D. 25") and send a letter to the King County Council (hereinafter, "KCC") to that effect. He said that Don Hamblin had excellent qualifications, including 37 years' experience at Boeing, which included work in procurement. Everett said that the board which handles such appointments had deadlocked, so the appointment was to be sent to the KCC. Bob said that Don was the only applicant for the position to be interviewed for the opening and actually complete the application process. Everett noted that the failure of the board to appoint Don may have been because of the City of Renton, which is to take over F.D. 25 under a 10-year contract signed two years ago. There were two other applicants, but they applied too late to be considered.

Bob, noting his own 25 years' experience as a firefighter, recommended we endorse Don, citing his 30 years of experience in funding, space use, and leasing. Don Hamblin said that he is concerned about his tax money and how it is being used. Everett asked him to address the contract for the takeover of District 25 by Renton. Don said, in effect, the contract was a done deal, which cannot be changed. Kate asked what other UAC members thought about the advisability of the UAC endorsing any candidates for any positions. Mary Ellen said that it was beneficial to the voters for the UAC to take positions on candidates and state ballot issues. Everett agreed with that. Bob's motion to endorse Don Hamblin passed 4 to 0, with 2 abstentions.

Michele McFadden thought the matter might be considered shortly by one of the KCC committees--she was not sure which one--before the nomination goes to the KCC as a whole on July 27th. Everett said he would get a letter in July 16th.

5. Code Enforcement Ordinance and Governance Alternatives. Michele McFadden said the Code Enforcement Ordinance passed out of committee and will be voted on by the KCC on September 14th. She said the UAC's were not included in what passed.

Michele brought to the UAC's attention a new report about a study of governance alternatives for the Sammamish Plateau, done by a consulting group, using Boundary Review Board funds, and sponsored by the Office of Budget and Strategic Planning. The report looked at dividing up the Plateau between Redmond and Issaquah and incorporation of the Plateau.

She said the analysis in study raised an obvious question of how Potential Annexation Areas are set and the failure to factor in residents' opinions about the adequacy of current services. She said there would be a public meeting about the study at Englewood Junior High School on July 16th.

6. Correspondence and Pending Matters. Everett said the concerns about school area traffic and safety, first raised by Stan, were being addressed quickly. The actions include speed mounds going in shortly, drainage

improvements to be completed this summer, followed by shoulder improvements next summer. Everett read notices, including:

a. A Really Tall Tower. A 150-foot communications tower placed in the 17000 block of 128th St. He said there would be a meeting about this at the Fairwood Library on July 23rd at 7 p.m.

b. A Shorter Tower. A 65-foot pole has already been approved for installation in the 15600 block of 128th St.

c. North SPAR. A meeting, sponsored by the King County Department of Transportation, about a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the North Sammamish Plateau Access Road (a/k/a "North SPAR"), on July 23rd.

d. Ditches Becoming Streams. Comments are due by July 21st at King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (hereinafter, "DDES") about the maintenance and enhancement of ditches. Everett said, apparently because fish are now using the ditches, there is some question of whether these ditches have become streams.

e. Re-Write of Title 19. The UAC received early notice that DDES is going to re-write Title 19, on subdivisions. The draft of the new code is to be available in mid-July.

7. East Village and UAC Mailing Address. Patrick has asked that the UAC be made a party of record with the City of Issaquah for the proposed development called East Village, which is west of S.R. 900 and south of Newport Way. Kate suggested that Patrick give them his home address, as the mail could otherwise sit at the church. Everett suggested that the UAC mailing address be changed from the church to the Community Policing Storefront Station and asked Marissa Alegria to take care of this.

8. Committee Reports. Patrick, as chair of Internal Operations, suggested that the UAC consider setting up a permanent reader board sign. Everett said Marissa is to contact the shopping center owner and to look into the county rules, regulations, permitting process, and zoning for a permanent sign at the shopping center where the sheriff storefront substation is located. Everett noted that the existing signs there were grandfathered in and do not meet current county zoning and ordinances.

9. Blood Drive. Michael Tacher asked if the UAC would include in the newsletter notice of a quarterly blood drive. Everett said yes. Michael also said building the sign could be a suitable project for his son, who is working to become an Eagle Scout.

10. Elections. Stephanie, an area resident who volunteered to run the UAC elections this fall, said that, based on her discussions with others who voted in past UAC elections, that the UAC needs to ensure the integrity of the ballots and the voting process. Some members of the UAC pointed out the chronic lack of candidates for UAC positions militated against any tampering with ballots. Kate brought up Lenny Bruce's comment that churches need to be beautiful to attract and gain the respect of people, and that the UAC might gain more respect and community participation if we improved the UAC election process. Marlene Griffin, Ray's wife, who's worked at Elections, provided information about how the elections staff ensures the integrity of the voting process. Everett said Elections wants to be paid \$25 per hour to count the ballots. Signature authentication would raise costs substantially and is not wanted. He budgeted \$180 for the election. He proposed that the ballots go out with a newsletter, with candidate information. He said that the mailing list we just used for the newsletter was not necessarily all registered voters in the UAC area. Jack and Kate and one or two other UAC members said that they did not receive the newsletter in the mail.

Patrick made a motion that the candidates be listed, by precinct, on a tear-sheet ballot, which could be folded, stamped, and mailed in to Elections after each voter signed the ballot and printed their name and precinct at the bottom. Kate noted that, thanks to "Fighting Bob" LaFollette and the Progressives, in the United States we use the Australian ballot. She made a motion, which was seconded, for a friendly amendment that, for those who did not want to sign their ballot, provision be made to have a secret ballot, by signing a separate piece of paper, to be mailed in with the ballot. Patrick accepted the amendment. Mary Ellen said she was opposed to

people casting unsigned ballots and that the election would cost more if the ballots were unsigned. Everett called for a vote on the friendly amendment; it failed on a vote of 2 to 4. Patrick's original motion passed 4 to 1, with 1 abstention.

11. Increasing Community Participation in the UAC. Bob asked for ideas to develop community participation in the UAC. Mary Ellen suggested some UAC-sponsored activity, like a barbecue. Everett suggested UAC sponsorship of a bicycle race.

12. Re-examination of the UAC's Endorsement of Don Hamblin for Commissioner, F.D. 25. Stephanie raised serious concerns about the UAC's vote to endorse Don Hamblin for the commissioner vacancy for F.D. 25. She asked whether the UAC had given the other two candidates for the opening the chance to speak and if the UAC had reviewed the applications of all three candidates before voting to endorse one of them. A member of the UAC said that the other two candidates had applied late and were not in the running because of that. Mary Ellen said her husband sent in his application on February 9th. Stephanie said she had seen the paperwork. Stephanie said applications were due on March 12th, that the applications from the other two candidates were received by the deadline, whereas Don Hamblin's was not received until March 23rd, because it had been mailed to the wrong place. Stephanie also questioned the propriety of endorsing a candidate who was the spouse of one of the UAC members, noting it appeared to be a conflict of interest, at least for the UAC member-spouse to vote on the endorsement. Everett said he would include matters Stephanie brought up in his letter to the KCC. Stephanie questioned the fairness of the endorsement when the UAC heard nothing from the other two candidates and had not invited them to speak at the meeting. Everett suggested the UAC appoint a committee to study all three candidates and make a recommendation or endorsement quickly, since a committee of the County Council would be considering the matter this week. Kate suggested the committee consist of the 2 UAC members who abstained on the original endorsement vote, for objectivity, plus Bob, because of his fire department experience. She made a formal motion to reconsider the endorsement, seconded by Patrick. The motion passed, with four votes. Then Mary Ellen pointed out that, under Robert's Rules, a motion for reconsideration cannot be made by someone who did not vote in favor of the original motion. Everett agreed and said the favorable vote on reconsideration was of no effect. Mary Ellen moved that the meeting be adjourned, and the meeting adjourned at about 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn J. Kaluzny, Temporary Secretary