

Minutes – Draft

Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2007 at May Valley Alliance Church

Submitted by David Braswell, Secretary

Attending Members:

D1: Rick Spence	X
D2: Eileen Lane	X
D3: Karen Kidwell	X
D4: David Braswell	X
D5: Tom Carpenter	O
D6: Bette Filley	X
D7: Marshall Brenden	X
D8: Dick Fackenthall	O
D9: Sharon Schimke	X
D10: Larry Wright	O
D11: John Vukov	X
At-Large 1: Rich Nelson	X
At-Large 2: Doug Bandelin	X
At-Large 3: Edie Jorgensen	X
At-Large 4: Chuck Pillon	X

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Spence at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments at this time.

Police Report:

King County Deputy Steve Maxwell reported that there had been a general decrease in crime in January. There was 1 auto theft (down from 7 in December) and 5 burglaries (down from 11 in December). However, there was a slight increase in larcenies: 19 (up from 17 in December). Deputy Maxwell also distributed maps to the Councilmembers detailing where each auto theft, burglary, and larceny occurred.

Deputy Maxwell informed the Council that this will be his last official appearance at the Council meetings, as he is retiring. His replacement at the meetings will be Deputy Jeff Harmon, a 10 year veteran of the King County Sheriff's Department.

Meeting Minutes:

Due the many items on the agenda and number of guest speakers, the review of the minutes was deferred until the end of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Edie Jorgensen reported that there was no treasury activity in the month of January, and therefore no treasurer's report was necessary.

Guest Speaker – Giles Velte on the Cascade Water Alliance

Mr. Velte introduced himself as a resident of Newcastle for over thirty years, and as a former Planning Commissioner and Chamber of Commerce head.

Mr. Velte spoke about the Cascade Water Alliance, a non-profit organization that is planning to route a water pipeline through the Four Creeks Area. Mr. Velte stated that this project would have significant negative impact on the residents of our community.

Mr. Velte explained that the Cascade Water Alliance does not own anything; basically, it buys and resells a product (water). However, the CWA does have the power to levy very profitable utility tax increases which are nearly impossible to fight.

Mr. Velte stated that CWA currently shifts water from Seattle to Lake Tapps and Tacoma. The CWA is seeking to route a new pipeline along Cemetery Road and up SR-900. CWA's current contract expires around 2013, and the construction of the proposed pipeline could take up to 8 years. To accommodate this project, CWA will issue \$780 million in bonds.

Mr. Velte predicted numerous negative consequences of this proposed pipeline project. First, he noted that many easements into yards and roads would be required. Next, he noted that the lengthy construction could lead to serious traffic problems, as the CWA plans to use one lane of traffic while constructing the pipeline. Mr. Velte also noted that as CWA will be using Lake Tapps as a source, it will be necessary to put in a cleaning facility because the Lake Tapps residential areas have septic tanks.

In conclusion, Mr. Velte stated this project would result in no benefits for the residents of the Four Creeks area, as the city of Renton has its own water source and does not buy water from CWA. He recommended that the Four Creeks UAC establish a committee to investigate the activity of CWA and attempt to mitigate the negative consequences the future pipeline.

Guest Speaker – Mr. Fatin Kara, King County Dept. of Transportation

Mr. Kara is a Supervising Engineer for Traffic Impact and Data Analysis. He distributed many maps and a lot of information regarding transportation needs, including the “Project Needs from the 2006 Update of the Transportation Needs Report 2004 East Renton Area.”

Mr. Kara noted that there are many budget concerns regarding future transportation projects, as in many cases the County will have to buy property from individual owners in order to initiate projects. He also noted that because vehicle licensing fees decreased, projects will have been commenced and completed over longer periods of time than originally anticipated.

Mr. Kara invited anyone with any questions to personally contact him regarding any transportation projects.

Guest Speaker – Chris Langley, King County Dept. of Transportation

Chris Langley started by noting that there are 3 subdivision applications currently pending off of 148th St., all from the same developer, CamWest homes. Sharon S. called attention to the increased traffic congestion off 116th St. Chris responded that it is unlikely that a new traffic signal will be installed, as the County regulations provide that no new signal needs to be implemented until ‘failure’ level occurs. Chris maintained that lobbying the King County Councilmember for more funds would be the best course of action.

Sharon S. also called attention to the need for Emergency Exit Access from the Lake McDonald area. Sharon stated that there were road closures during the last storm, which closed access to and from the neighborhood. She noted that if there was a medical emergency, there would be no way for an ambulance to get into the neighborhood. Chris said that after 1993, the County adopted a ‘100 lot rule,’ which provides that if a development has over 100 lots, then there must be a secondary access route. However, Chris noted that there is not much that can be done about pre-existing problems.

Rick Spence recommended that the Four Creeks UAC Transportation Committee pursue this problem.

Sharon S. also raised the issue of increasing traffic congestion along SR-900, and called attention to the traffic lights along SR-900 not being synchronized. Chris noted that SR-900, being a State Route, is under the control of the Washington State Department of Transportation, and is a state facility, not a county facility. Therefore, Chris stated it would be best to contact the State’s regional department to address this issue.

Guest Speaker – Julia Larson from Business Relations and Economic Development (BRED) on the Rural Economic Strategy.

Ms. Larson distributed copies of the Rural Economic Strategies 2006 Annual Report, which was prepared specifically for the Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council. The Report included BRED's "Highlights of 2006," which Ms. Larson discussed at length with the Council.

Ms. Larson noted that the Small Farm Expo will be held on March 24th at the Enumclaw Fairgrounds. She said last year's Small Farm Expo was quite successful.

Ms. Larson also drew attention to the establishment of the Rural Business Circuit Rider, which is a pilot program that sends certified business assistants to people's homes to provide them with business planning advice.

She also noted there is now a Rural Permit Coordinator, who will assist people with permit issues. Ms. Larson noted the RPC is not a permit granting agency. Rick Spence voiced his belief that there is much work to be done in the area of streamlining the permit granting process.

Committee Reports:

Doug Bandelin, Emergency Preparedness Committee: Doug distributed official copies of King County's Emergency Preparedness Pamphlets.

Karen Kidwell, Law and Justice Committee: Karen noted that the level of activity at the problem house on 116th Street has increased. She has calculated that an average of 22 vehicles come and go from the house per day. She also noted there was a break-in just three houses down from the problem house recently. The tenants of the house have been given two eviction notices, but they refuse to leave.

Chuck Pillon reported that a lawsuit was filed at the Regional Justice Center two months ago, by neighbors and the landlord. He reported that the judge basically refused to take any action. Chuck has talked with David Spore, the King County Ombudsman (and a former federal prosecutor) about trying to take further action. Chuck maintained that the Sheriff is being extremely uncooperative, and that the cops are refusing to enforce the law. Chuck reported that he will not let up on this issue.

Karen noted that the problems surrounding this house have been an issue for over ten months now.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Secretary David Braswell read the draft of the minutes for January's meeting. After a few corrections and typos were brought to his attention, the Council voted to approve the minutes. Edie J. moved, Rick S. seconded that the Minutes for January be approved. Motion carried unanimously, except for an abstention by Marshall B.

Edie J. moved, Rick S. seconded that Approval of other minute drafts (November and December) be deferred until next month's meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

David B. proposed that the FCUAC organize a community car show in order to increase awareness of the FCUAC in the community and provide residents with a fun, family-friendly community event. He proposed that the event tentatively take place this summer, in July or August, and suggested the Liberty High School parking lot as the location. He also suggested that any proceeds raised be donated to struggling community families to help them purchase back to school supplies for their children. David B. said that he was willing to do all the preliminary research into the feasibility of this plan, and the bulk of the organization later on.

Motion: Rick S. moved, Edie J. seconded, that a Committee be established to investigate the feasibility of sponsoring a Four Creeks Community Car Show this summer, with David B. as the Committee Chair, and Chuck P. also serving on the Committee. Motion unanimously carried.

Edie J. noted that the East Renton Plateau Annexation vote failed. Rick reported that Tom C. will provide more information on the annexation issue at the next meeting.

The Meeting was Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.