

**Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council**

**Special Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2007 at May Valley Alliance Church**

**Submitted by David Braswell, Secretary**

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**Attending Members:**

**D1: Rick Spence X**

**D2: Eileen Lane X**

**D3: OPEN**

**D4: David Braswell X**

**D5: Tom Carpenter X**

**D6: Bette Filley X**

**D7: Marshall Brenden O**

**D8: Dick Fackenthall X**

**D9: Sharon Schimke O**

**D10: OPEN**

**D11: John Vukov O**

**At-Large 1: Rich Nelson O**

**At-Large 2: Doug Bandelin O**

**At-Large 3: Edie Jorgensen X**

**At-Large 4: Chuck Pillon O**

**At-Large 5: Karen Kidwell X**

**At-Large 6: Larry Wright O**

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**Call to Order:**

President Rick Spence called the meeting to order at 7:07. However, initially only 5 members were present, so there was no quorum. Other members arrived, and Edie J. consulted the By-Laws to find that 6 Members are needed to constitute a quorum. At

7:35, having found a quorum established, Rick Spence officially called the meeting to order.

### **New Business:**

#### **1) Establishment of Agricultural Committee**

Rick Spence called for the creation of an Agriculture Committee. Rick S. will serve as Chair of this Committee, and Dick Fackenthall will also serve as a member.

The Agricultural Committee will communicate with the King County Agricultural Committee, and will coordinate with similar groups, including EFA, an agricultural organization in Enumclaw that recently obtained a significant federal grant.

Rick S. wishes to address the problem of getting Arenas installed in an efficient manner. Rick noted that Arena installation has Clean Water benefits, and he expressed his interest in Edie J. serving on the Agricultural Committee due to her experience in Clean Water issues.

#### **2) Constituent Concern**

Rick S. brought a letter sent by George and Jennifer Holt to the Four Creeks UAC to the Council's attention. The Holts' letter was addressed to the King County Assessor's Office, requesting that the County update their database to reflect the fact that the Holts, not the previous property owners, held the title to the property on which the Holts live.

Rick S. gave the letter to David Braswell, who is going to write letters to Reagan Dunn (KC Councilmember for our district) and David Spohr (KC Ombudsman) notifying them of the Holts' concerns. David B. is also going to write a letter to the Holts informing them of this action.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Several drafts of meeting minutes were pending approval.

David B. read the draft of the November Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Edie J. moved, Karen K. seconded, that the November Minutes be approved as read. Unanimously carried.

David B. read the draft of the December Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Karen K. moved, Edie J. seconded, that the Police Report be amended per Karen's recommendation. Unanimously carried.

Motion: Edie J. moved, Dick F. seconded, that the December Minutes be approved as amended. Unanimously carried (Eileen L. abstained).

David B. read the draft of the February Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Edie J. moved, Rick S. seconded that the February Minutes be Approved as read. Unanimously carried. (Dick F. and Tom C. abstained).

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Edie Jorgensen reported the FCUAC has approximately \$2100 in the checkbook. Pending budgetary requests include utilities/janitorial expenses, Secretary of State related expenses, and a Post Office Box rental rate increase related expense.

Motion: Edie J. moved, Dick F. seconded, that the Council spend \$10 on 2 cent stamps to cover the impending postal rate hike. Unanimously carried.

**New Business:**

**Open Meeting Guidelines:** Edie J. distributed an informative summary of WA state's laws regarding the internet and open meetings requirements that she obtained from a state law firm's web-site. In sum, it is advisable not to hit "reply all" to e-mail postings when in doubt about violating WA open meeting regulations. However, just hitting "reply" to an e-mail message is generally adequate to avoid any violations.

**Committee Reports:**

**Growth Management:** Tom C. provided an informative and in-depth report on growth management issues affecting our region. Tom distributed hand-outs and charts regarding growth management concerns.

In brief, Tom addressed the following FCUAC Growth Management topics: UGB "Fringe," Hydrology, Character, and Outcomes.

In terms of hydrology, Tom stressed that a cumulative downstream analysis should be required of developers to demonstrate what the whole impact of development will be.

Regarding character, Tom stressed that the need to develop a plan to stop our rural lands from being developed into residential commuter areas. He noted that this requires a feasible economic counterforce, which leads to the question of what that counterforce could be. Tom explained that there is a substantial equine industry in the Four Creeks region, and expressed the opinion that it may be possible to develop an equine economic strategy for our region. He cited a British equine industry analysis, and said he will provide an analysis of the equine industry in King County to members in the near future.

In terms of Outcomes, Tom expressed the view that the Four Creeks region's primary problem is the lack of a collective vision for the future among its residents. He explained there is no way to build an effective transition plan without a vision, and predicted that without a vision our region will suffer greatly. He stated that we should recommend Sub-area planning.

Regarding the UGB (Urban Growth Boundary) "Fringe," Tom stated that areas along the UGB borders will be the hardest hit by in-fill development, due to a lack of transition planning and vision. Tom also stated another problem is "affordable housing," which is a justification often employed by developers to erect what Tom labels as "clone home" developments. Tom advocates greater set-backs, more trees, and improved design standards to combat the aesthetic problems increased residential development is bringing to our community. He noted however, that the Master Builders' Association is fighting such regulations, claiming that they would drive up the cost of housing. Tom also noted that DDES has a very streamlined process for issuing permits for "clone homes," which seems to be exacerbating the problem.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.**

