

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Dillon called the proceedings to order at 8:02 a.m. Chairman Dahlstedt's absence was excused.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Dillon led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

- a) 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Planning and Development Services Department - Gary Christensen, Director

Gary Christensen, Director, briefed the Board on the agenda items and stated that they would also like to present one brief miscellaneous item.

1. Discussion/Possible Action - Request Date and Time for a Closed Record Hearing to review the Hearing Examiner's Preliminary Plat Approval Recommendation of PL08-0465 for the Long "CaRD" Plat of Buchan Beach

Brandon Black, Senior Planner, briefed the Board on the Hearing Examiner's recommendation regarding the preliminary plat approval of PL08-0465. The recommendation is to divide the existing five lots into six lots. There are currently 2.23 acres on the plat with 5 single family lots. The recommendation is to create a sixth open space lot.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve that the Board set October 13, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. for review and possible action on the Hearing Examiner approval recommendation for the preliminary Long "CaRD" land division of Buchan Beach #PL08-0465. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairman Kenneth A. Dahlstedt's absence was excused

2. Discussion - Alternative Futures Project Update

Kirk Johnson, Senior Planner and Project Manager, was present to brief the Board on the status of the Alternative Futures Project. They are still working on securing sufficient funds for the project and are waiting to hear from multiple entities regarding their funding requests. There have been ongoing discussions with stakeholders and citizens. A diagram was shown to the Board demonstrating the relationships between each of the bodies that will make-up the Stakeholder Committees. At this point, the Cities have voiced concerns about their representation on the committee, and the citizen's committee is still being put together.

Gary Christensen, Director, wanted to reiterate that when this project was in the early planning stages, the hope and goal was to create the committee around a citizens planning group. Skagit County wants to be sure that the citizens have largest representation in this project and that they are the driving force behind the plans. The other groups in the planning process are there to back-up, support, and help make the jump from planning to reality. Mr. Christensen stated that the diagram which was shown earlier had arrows pointing to multiple bubbles in multiple directions: there will be a lot of dialog and interaction between each sub-committee before final plans are set into action.

This is a big project. It involves careful planning and multiple considerations. The Commissioners have authority over unincorporated lands. The Cities have authority over incorporated lands. There are some cross-jurisdictional authorities and issues to work on, we have regional responsibilities. We want to make sure that what we do now, creates a pleasant and sustainable future.

3. Miscellaneous

Gary Christensen, Director, wanted to share with the Commissioners that Planning and Development Services were glad to be back in the building. Mr. Christensen believes that they can better assist the community in this location with Public Works and the Commissioner's Office in the same building. Mr. Christensen wanted to recognize co-worker Tim DeVries. Mr. DeVries made the move easy and planned it with staff to make sure their down-time was minimal.

Commissioner Dillon recessed the proceedings at 8:35 a.m.

b) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Presentation on Activities from Skagit Conservation Education Alliance

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:02 a.m.

Steve Olsen, with Skagit County Public Health, was present to thank the Commissioners for their support of Skagit Conservation Education Alliance (SCEA). Mr. Olsen is president of SCEA. He stated their mission and introduced Pete Haase.

Pete Haase briefed the Board on many of SCEA's events over the past year. SCEA gets out into the community approximately 25 times a year. SCEA educates the public on how to keep our water clean. SCEA also reaches out to businesses and challenges them to prevent pollution and toxins from getting into the water. Mr. Haase discussed projects which individuals and businesses have implemented to help improve water quality: grass pavers, natural roofs, pervious asphalt, smart sponges in drains, low impact development techniques, pervious concrete, rain barrel collection set-ups, porta-potties during fishing season, etc. However, Mr. Haase pointed out that there are still activities going on that pollute our water. Education needs to continue.

Bill Dewey, Board member of SCEA, was introduced to speak to the

Commissioners. Mr. Dewey pointed out that SCEA exists due to WAC 400-12 in which the Commissioners created three watershed plans that would form a private, non-profit entity to assist the government with water clean up. SCEA is performing good work in water quality education. This work is critical and SCEA appreciates the funds that they receive through the Clean Water Program.

Kristi Carpenter, SCEA Secretary/Treasurer, wanted to share with the Commissioners that she was grateful for their staff. SCEA is a unique organization that brings multiple agencies together for the common goal. Having this kind of involvement helps prioritize jobs and minimizes re-duplication efforts.

The Commissioners thanked SCEA for their work in the community. It is important to educate the public on water quality measures and they are committed to improving the watersheds.

- c) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Human Services of Skagit County - Update on Substance Abuse Treatment in Skagit County

David Asia, Substance Abuse Program Coordinator, and Sarah Hinman, Substance Abuse Treatment Specialist, were present to discuss treatment trends in Skagit County over the last four years. Mr. Asia stated that through their partnerships with various treatment agencies, and by using the local 0.1% sales tax funds that were implemented in 2007, the maximum treatment wait time for a patient decreased from 6 weeks to 6 days. With this shorter wait time, they have been able to increase treatment opportunities to patients.

Sarah Hinman, Substance Abuse Treatment Specialist, explained the document and tables which were provided to the Commissioners. The data this document contained showed the importance of the 0.1% funding.

Mr. Asia informed the Board that they want to look into research and reassess some of their treatment methods. Many patients relapse, which puts a strain on the system. An option that may better serve these patients is to treat their condition as a chronic disease and continually treat them over a longer period of time. Many patients may benefit from a treatment option that was longer and continual than short and intensive.

Lisa Mitchell, with United General Hospital's Community Health Outreach Program and Coordinator of V.O.I.C.E. (Voicing Our Ideas, Challenging Everything) Youth Coalition, was present along with Josh Russell, senior at Sedro-Woolley High School, to present their prevention program to the Commissioners. V.O.I.C.E. is a leadership group made up of youth who want to improve the wellbeing and health of their peers in Skagit County. V.O.I.C.E. was awarded the State Exemplary Youth Award. Mr. Russell briefed the Board on the events V.O.I.C.E. has participated in. One of the most memorable activities they recently worked on was the passing of a Resolution in the City of Sedro-Woolley which reduced alcohol advertising by city businesses by 30%.

The Commissioners believe it is important to have programs like this available for our interested youth and they thanked Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Russell.

- d) 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Presentation by Skagit Cool Communities Campaign/Climate Stewards

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:03 a.m.

Betty Carteret was present to brief the Board on the Climate Stewards Program. Volunteers receive free training in exchange for volunteer hours directed at climate change and sustainability related projects in their community. Registration starts October 15, 2009. Training covers climate change: impacts and sources, solutions to address climate change, outreach methods, and project planning.

Right now the Skagit Cool Climate Campaign is focusing on the Low Carbon Diet book by David Gershon. This book helps you easily reduce your carbon footprint. For those who read the book and participate in the challenge, the goal is to reduce your carbon footprint by 5,000 pounds or more (the average American household's carbon footprint is 55,000 pounds).

Ms. Carteret invited the Commissioners to the next Skagit Cool Climate Cafe on October 24, 2009. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Skagit PUD in Mount Vernon or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Activities Center in Anacortes. Ms. Carteret also informed the Commissioners of a lecture series that would be starting soon at the Burlington Public Library.

Ms. Carteret thanked the Commissioners for their time. The Commissioners asked Ms. Carteret to share a couple of easy ways to lower your carbon footprint. Ms. Carteret suggested switching to CFL light bulbs, turning down thermostat and putting on a sweater, turning lights off, hang drying clothing, planning your trips in bulk, and buying locally grown/produced food.

Commissioner Dillon mentioned a challenge she recently heard which was to make your entire Thanksgiving meal from locally grown food. Ms. Carteret believed that the Slow Food Movement was encouraging that.

Commissioner Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:18 a.m.

- e) 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Proclamation - Recognizing October 2009 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioner Dillon encouraged those who were present in the audience to speak at the podium before the Proclamation was read. Jessica Caldwell was present and she invited the Commissioners to the Buddy Walk on October 10th. Joy Caldwell was also present and she thanked the Commissioners for their support of their families and children. She is looking forward to the Buddy Walk.

Heather Millerin was present and she thanked the Commissioners for their support and encouraged them to attend the Buddy Walk.

Tim Holloran, County Administrator, was present. Mr. Holloran has been involved with Special Olympics for 30 years, and to see the support of friends and family at the annual Buddy Walk is special. It's a wonderful celebration.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for all that they do.

Commissioner Dillon read the Proclamation Declaring October 2009 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Skagit County.

Commissioner Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:37 a.m.

- f) 10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Public Comment Period

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:45 a.m.

Commissioner Dillon announced that on Thursday October 8, 2009, there would be a public meeting regarding the Francis Road Curvature Realignment Project. She encouraged people to come and share their ideas if they had any input.

Commissioner Dillon opened the public comment period. Seeing no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public comment period. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:46 a.m.

- g) *11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Celebration of Hansen Creek Floodplain Restoration (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe's Cultural Center)
- h) 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Department - Public Hearing and Possible Action To Consider the Adoption of Proposed Fee Schedule Revisions for Howard Miller Steelhead Park and Sauk Park in Rockport, WA and Grandy Lake Park in Concrete, WA

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 1:31 p.m.

Brian Adams, Director of Parks & Recreation, was present to brief the Board on the proposed fee increases at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Sauk Park, and Grandy Lake Park. Mr. Adams showed the Commissioners a fee structure chart. This was put together after researching other campgrounds in the area. The reservation fee is going up by \$1.00. Each RV site is going up by \$4.00. In the last six years, users at Howard Miller Steelhead Park have doubled. Revenue has jumped from \$70,000 to \$160,000. Parks and Recreation may want to one day expand the campground in order to keep up with current trends and use patterns of the public. Electricity is new in some of the adirondack shelters. The fee increases with electricity usage. Mr. Adams discussed each reason for each proposed fee increase.

Commissioner Dillon opened the public hearing period. Seeing no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public comment period. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wesen asked Mr. Adams how full the campgrounds get. They do fill up to capacity in the summer months and are a little more open in the winter months.

Commissioner Dillon stated that she is a camper and she thinks that these new prices are still fair.

Tim Holloran, County Administrator, thanked Brian Adams for his leadership and

thanked the parks staff. Rusty Regan does a great job up at Howard Miller Steelhead Park and it's neat to go up there and see the Eagles. It's a wonderful park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution authorizing a revised user fee schedule for Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Grandy Lake Park, and Sauk Park. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairman Kenneth A. Dahlstedt's absence was excused

i) 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Washington Counties Risk Pool Presentation

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 2:01 p.m.

Billie Kadrmas, Human Resources Director and Risk Manager, introduced Vyrle Hill, Executive Director, and David Goldsmith, Member Services Manager, from Washington Counties Risk Pool who were present to update the Commissioners on the Risk Pool's Mission and Skagit County's status within the Risk Pool.

The Risk Pool is made up of 28 counties in Washington State that self-insure their fund. These Counties are able to reduce the frequency and the severity of their losses through trainings that the Risk Pool offers.

The policy Skagit County has through Washington Counties Risk Pool is 11 pages long and the Commissioners were given an overview of what was and was not covered by the policy. It was pointed out that the Guemes Island Ferry was not covered by this plan since it is unique against the rest of the system.

The current policy Skagit County has through Washington Counties Risk Pool will be changing January 1, 2010. There are policy changes and the rates will be increasing. The Board of the Washington Counties Risk Pool decided to make these changes when they met to discuss the policy in July 2009.

The first change to the policy regards violations of the Public Records Act RCW 42.46. They will no longer be covered. The Risk Pool will offer trainings to department heads and employees in order to reduce the possibility of violating any part of the Act. The second change will be the implementation of an "opt out" provision, wherein Skagit County will be able to withdraw claims and take care of issues "in-house". This is an option that the county may want to take when our needs cannot be met by the Risk Pool. The third change regards coverage of any person or organization defined as an insured under Section 2(B).

The new rates which were calculated were unexpected. We are one of the smallest counties with the largest deductibles. There are three main factors that go into the rate equation. The first takes into consideration the number of worker hours and the number of licensed vehicles. The second rates the County's experience with the Risk Pool. The third takes into consideration the actual cost of the program.

The Board was briefed on the JSILP Renewal Comparisons. The policy Skagit County has will no longer be available. The Commissioners were briefed on some new coverage options for Skagit County.

Due to the new changes in the policy, the Risk Pool wants to be sure to offer training opportunities to Skagit County employees in order to help maintain accountability and manage risk.

Mr. Hill and Mr. Goldsmith appreciate how Skagit County manages things here and they think that the program which is in place is working.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Hill and Mr. Goldsmith for the presentation and they also thanked Billie Kadrmas for all of the work she does on behalf of the County managing liability and risk.

Ms. Kadrmas wanted to let everyone know that two trainings regarding Public Records Requests have been scheduled: one in January and one in March.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 2:55 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners