

CENTRAL KITSAP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2008

I. Call to order

President Jon Pearson called to order the Spring Town Meeting of the Central Kitsap Community Council at 7:05 p.m. on May 21, 2008 in the Evergreen Room at the Silverdale Community Center, Silverdale, Washington.

II. Roll call

Council members introduced themselves. The following members were present: Natalie Bryson, Steven Cook, Mary Earl, Greg Hunt, Carl Johnson, Tex Lewis, Gary Lindsey, Robert Moyer, Jon Pearson, Richard Shattuck, Carol Smiley, Jerry Van Fossen, Kay Wilson, Roger Zabinski, and Zoe Zadworny. Commissioner Josh Brown attended, also.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting and adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented. The minutes from the meeting of March 19, 2008, were approved as presented.

IV. Correspondence/Announcements

- A. **Josh Brown** noted that his Commissioner's web site will soon have a section on building permits and their status for the Central Kitsap area.
- B. **Carl Johnson** reported that Hank Mann-Sykes was recovering from a serious illness at University of Washington Hospital. He sends his best wishes to the Council and hopes to be discharged by May 29.
- C. **Jon Pearson** introduced Tom Kruse, Vice-President, Strategy and Business Development for Harrison Hospital, which plans to invest about \$120M in new development in the Central Kitsap area. He noted that the Council looks forward to having him on a future program.

V. Business Meeting

- A. **Legislative Forum:** presentations were made by Representative Christine Rolfes and Senators Derek Kilmer and Phil Rockefeller.
 - 1. **Christine Rolfes** serves on the Transportation Committee and is Co-Chair of the Ferry Working Group. Regarding transportation, the legislature made very good progress with the ferries this year. After ferries, the number one issue in the 23rd LD is the new Silverdale interchange. The legislature will be working with DOT to learn from this experience. In education, funding was increased by more than 16% (\$1Bn) and the

legislature passed a bill to make it easier on both children of military families and school districts when kids transfer during the school term. This includes a provision for reciprocal agreements with other states. As far as County items are concerned, the Chico Creek culvert replacement didn't get full funding this year, but Christine has ideas on how to achieve this, and State permit problems regarding the Illahee Road repair were resolved. On the Puget Sound and Hood Canal cleanup, two projects are worth special note: (1) a low-interest loan program for septic fixes was approved for Kitsap County and (2) funding was provided for a reclaimed water pilot project.

2. **Phil Rockefeller** serves on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for the budget, and on the Natural Resources Committee, and Chairs the Water, Energy and Telecommunications Committee and the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Committee. Regarding education, this year, based on a State initiative, the legislature provided COLA for State-funded teaching positions. An unintended consequence was that nearly all school districts are required to match that for non-State-funded positions, which was an unexpected expense. **Vivian Henderson** complained that the Puget Sound Partnership was an extra layer of regulation and that property owners' views were not included in its "Shared Strategy". Senator Rockefeller noted that the "Shared Strategy" was developed by Snohomish, King and Pierce Counties before the advent of the Puget Sound Partnership. The strategy was passed to PSP and then the 3-County organization dissolved. Further, the PSP has no regulatory authority. If it wishes to obtain any, it must make its case to the Legislature, which is not likely to be very receptive. In fact, PSP is in the process of obtaining citizen input for its vision – and will be doing so between now and the end of the year. **Matt Ryan** noted that, with the closure of Illahee Road, he often uses the intersection of Sylvan and Wheaton Ways. The new camera installed there seems to catch a lot of people turning right. **Roger Zabinski** asked about the size of the rainy day fund. It is \$850M; the State operating budget is \$3.2Bn.
3. **Derek Kilmer** noted that he worked on three priorities during the session: (1) a 6-month grace period for National Guard and Reservists whose State licenses had expired during their service period; (2) a directive to State agencies to come up with systems to credit National Guard and Reservists experience when they return and resume their careers and (3) economic development problems. Number one among these is a lack of skilled people. To expand training in Kitsap, the legislature appropriated funds to develop plans for expanding BA/BA degree availability in the County.

- B. **Josh Brown** (County Commissioner) presented the County's view of the legislative session. He thanked the Legislators for their time and effort and commented on the tremendous and beneficial changes that have taken place at

Olympic College during the last ten years. He noted that a State grant of \$1M in funding for Keller House, Kitsap Mental Health Services new on-campus residential/stabilization facility that is scheduled to open its doors in November of 2009. Regarding the CK Community Campus, it recently received a \$1M grant from the State; the County purchased the last remaining parcel of land for the Campus and earmarked \$450K as startup money for the YMCA project. Also, the County will be applying this year for a youth facilities CTED grant for the Campus. Regarding transportation, Commissioner Brown has been thinking about the long-term funding for improving the County's highway corridors a lot of which was paid for in the 1980s using Trident impact fees.

- C. **Greg Lynch** (Superintendent, Central Kitsap School District) commented on some of the budget considerations facing the District. In 1955, about 65% of the jobs in our society were unskilled. That proportion is now 15% and is likely fall even lower in the future. Technology education is a key to creating skilled graduates, but it is not considered to be basic education by the State (the State law has not been significantly changed since 1978) and is not funded. The District has used funds from other areas to cover this, hoping that the shortfall will be made up before problems surface. Forty-eight percent of the students in the district come from military families and the District receives Federal funds for this impact. However, these funds are threatened and may be cut off in a few years. Further, both diesel fuel and food costs have increased rapidly. The additional funds needed to purchase these have to come from the District's general fund, which takes money away from the classroom.

VI. Public Comment

- A. **Vivian Henderson** Noted that a key factor to support economic growth in the County is affordable housing – and that the County has a serious lack of same.
- B. **Greg Lynch** was asked what one thing would he request the Legislature to do in the next session. Mr. Lynch replied that it would be to change the basic funding formula, which has not been changed since 1978. Senator Rockefeller noted that he had sponsored legislation to do just that, but that the problem was more complex. For example, the State support for primary and secondary education was below the average for all states in the U.S. Gayle Norwood implored the legislators to start redefining basic education now and to go after the low-hanging fruit immediately.
- C. **Jerry Van Fossen** asked how State transportation funds were allocated among competing projects. Christine Rolfes replied that DOT scored all proposed projects and ranked them in order – the highest-scoring were first in line. Major new projects will be funded by the gas tax increase that was passed earlier in the decade. Jon Pearson asked about the diesel fuel

“surcharge” of 11 cents per gallon: is it possible to find out where that money goes? Could the surcharge be rescinded? Derek Kilmer responded that that could be looked into.

- D. **Tex Lewis** observed that it might be possible to rely on volunteers to bridge the gap between resources and needs. Phil Rockefeller noted that the Puget Sound Partnership intended to rely heavily on them. Christine Rolfes commented that it would be good to use volunteers for math and science support in the schools. Derek Kilmer noted that volunteers provided over \$300K in value on the baccalaureate plan for Kitsap County. Greg Lynch remarked on the “Speak Out for Education” program that enlisted volunteers to talk to fifth and sixth graders about why they needed to learn this or that – a great example of volunteer use. The effective use of citizen volunteers on the Board of Equalization, where they worried about the tax structure and its effects on seniors, was noted, also.
- E. **Bill Bryan** noted that the first capital campaign drive for the Central Kitsap Food Bank would start with a breakfast fundraiser on May 31.
- F. **Roger Zabinski** noted the problem of toxics related to toys (a bill on this subject was passed in the Legislature this session) and medicines (heparin, as an example).
- G. **Richard Shattuck** offered kudos to Josh Brown for negotiating the purchase, much sooner than was expected, of the last piece of property for the CK Community Campus.
- H. **Natalie Bryson** offered her thanks to all for a wonderful evening and noted that the Council should celebrate the two excellent student Council members.

VII. Adjournment

Jon Pearson noted that the June CKCC meeting would be at the Eagles Nest at the Kitsap County fairgrounds. He adjourned the meeting at 9:16 PM.

Minutes submitted by Robert Moyer, Secretary