

CENTRAL KITSAP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2008

I. Call to order

President Jon Pearson called to order the regular meeting of the Central Kitsap Community Council at 7:10 p.m. on June 18, 2008 in the Eagle's Nest, Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Bremerton, Washington.

II. Roll call

Council members introduced themselves. The following members were present: Natalie Bryson, Steven Cook, Mary Earl, Sue Fox, Greg Hunt, 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 amended.

IV. Correspondence/Announcements

Josh Brown noted that his Commissioner's web site now has maps that show, for the most recent quarter and month, building permits and their status for the Central Kitsap area. He noted, also, that the Washington Association of County Commissioners was meeting this week at the Bremerton Conference Center and noted the County's and Bremerton's success in attracting this meeting.

V. Business Meeting

A. **Kitsap Regional Library: Barbara Stevens** began by noting that, following the failure of the levy lid lift, KRL had hired the Metropolitan Group for analysis and advice. Since then, the Library has held listening sessions with its staff and with the general public. Among five different focus groups were students from Olympic College, seniors from the Givens Community Center, employees from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and an upcoming one with military personnel. The Library has developed, also, a PowerPoint presentation about its future to discuss with various community groups.

Jill Jean said that a poll taken at the end of May showed that KRL's outreach was working – a significant majority expressed support for the Library's mission. However, this majority declined by 15 percentage points when asked to support the mission with an increase in taxes. She noted that KRL has hired a new CFO who is a recognized expert on bonding. The Library's near-term goal is to bring its spending in

line with income. Once this is achieved, then it expects to be in a position to focus on long-term planning and new capital projects.

- B. **Eric Baker** presented the County's thoughts about incorporation and the County's Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). He noted that, following several years of challenges and uncertainty, the County's Comprehensive Plan has now been ruled valid and compliant and he described the borders of the Silverdale and Central Kitsap UGAs, pointing out that they are separated by a rural corridor that runs along Barker Creek. He said that the Commissioners want to have a better understanding of the income and expenses associated with the various UGAs. To this end, they have contracted for a study that will cover the ten County UGAs. The County now provides regional services, such as law and justice, auditor and assessor, rural services and, also, urban services, such as sewers, that are generally associated with cities. The County wants to look at expenditures as they are today and look into the future, especially at possible capital projects. This part of the study will be done by year-end.

Then the study will focus on the Silverdale UGA. The Commissioners want to help the community in its discussion about incorporation, especially in terms of the level of services and the associated costs. The Commissioners are looking at forming a task force, in 2009, to look at other cities of a size similar to the Silverdale UGA and to study the level of services provided and the costs. It is hoped that basic data will be in place by mid-2009. The Commissioners would like to begin conversations about the Central Kitsap UGA around that time.

Regarding the City of Bremerton's views on incorporation, Mr. Baker noted that, based on his interactions with the City's staff, its focus is on West Bremerton, Gorst, SKIA and the East Bremerton UGA. He did not think that the City had any near-term interest in trying to annex the CK UGA.

- C. **Gary Lindsey** talked about the County's Waste Infrastructure Task Force (WITF), which is working on creating a system of sewer lines to serve the UGAs, for both new and existing homes and businesses. It is still discussing just where the lines will go and how many there will be. It seems likely that the County will install the needed pump stations and force mains; developers would be likely to supply the rest.
- D. **Gene Strom** of the Silverdale Chamber of Commerce discussed results from the Chamber's incorporation study. The Chamber first surveyed its members about their views of incorporation. Over 60% of the members favored incorporation and about 85% agreed that the Chamber should be involved in the discussion. The survey was then opened to non-members via an online questionnaire. Again, a majority seemed to favor incorporation. That said, the Chamber's role is likely to be a passive one. It will provide resources to groups that want to pursue incorporation.

VI. Public Comment

- A. **Josh Brown** reiterated the Commissioners' view that, on the question of incorporation, it is up to the citizens to decide. The Commissioners hope to provide information to help citizens make informed decisions and, by undertaking the study on services and costs, to align the County's resources so that any future incorporation will be as smooth as possible.

- B. **Greg Hunt** applauded KRL for taking the right path on their response to the levy failure. He suggested that the Library should tell, also, the story of the service cuts that they have or will make. **Natalie Bryson** noted that we are really blessed that the libraries are free. When the time comes for another request, she hoped that those in attendance would talk to their neighbors and support it. **Mike _____** asked about the Library's relationship with schools. His grade-school daughter didn't seem to use the library very much. **Jill Jean** responded that the Library has instituted a program to introduce all first-graders to one of the libraries. **Jim Sommerhauser** noted that, in the anti-tax environment of today, it seems that the Library is focusing its communications strategy too much on the next levy and that this is running against the trend. KRL should communicate how it is spending its funds now, that is, where the dollars go, and after that focus on the lid lift. **Jill Jean** noted that it was KRL's intent to focus first on living within its income, to establish a track record of trust.
- C. **Mary Earl** asked if boundaries for incorporation are set by the UGA boundaries. **Eric Baker** replied "no", but noted that the UGA boundaries would be the outer limit of a possible incorporated area. **Mary** asked who, then, would determine the boundary for incorporation. The response was that it would be the petitioning organization.
- D. **Ron Ross** asked when the next opening would be for the County's Comprehensive Plan review. He stated that the rural area that separates the Silverdale and Central Kitsap UGAs was inserted into the last version of the Plan at the request of the City of Bremerton and some of the area residents. **Mr. Baker** responded that the next Comp Plan review would likely be about 2010, although it could be earlier or later, depending on the desires of the Commissioners.
- E. **Richard Shattuck** asked about sewer plant capacity in Central Kitsap. **Eric Baker** responded that the CK sewer plan includes Poulsbo, Bangor, Silverdale and other communities, not just the CK and Silverdale UGAs. **Gary Lindsey** noted that the Silverdale Water District was planning to reuse about 3.5 million gallons per year of treated effluent ("purple-pipe" water) for such things as irrigation and wetlands recharge.
- F. **John Taylor**, noting that the Puget Sound Regional Council seems to always refer to Silverdale as a city, asked if this was "predetermined" and if a city would have better access to Federal dollars than the County. **Commissioner Brown** replied that, while the Growth Management Plan anticipates that UGAs will, at some point, become cities, this is not predetermined. The decision ultimately rests with the citizens of each UGA. He also pointed out that the County had been quite successful in obtaining Federal funds. For example, for new Waaga Way extension.
- G. **Jim Sommerhauser** stated that, while he lived in the Central Kitsap UGA, he would be very happy to stay in the County, rather than be in a city. He noted that there are differences in how bonded debt incurred by the County might be treated between a city and a UGA that incorporates. Under State law, the County has no ability to negotiate with a UGA that seeks to incorporate, regarding the assumption of bonded debt incurred by the County to finance infrastructure improvements in the UGA. However, the County can negotiate with a city that seeks to annex County property. **Commissioner Brown** confirmed that that is

essentially true and noted that this really limits what the County can do when trying to address infrastructure problems in its UGAs.

- H. **Joyce Merkel** asked if the County would come back and talk about how services would be affected in a possible incorporation of Silverdale, so that residents might make an informed decision. **Eric Baker** responded that the County's study would give a real baseline of data to begin such a discussion.
- I. **Ron Ross** said that significant areas of the CK UGA are zoned Urban Restricted (1-5 houses per acre). This might force developers to install septic systems instead of sewers.
- J. **Kay Wilson** noted that many services that cities provide can be done more economically on a large scale (sewer, water, law enforcement). One service that perhaps could be provided better at a local level would be land use (permits, complaints, etc.).

VII. Committee Reports

- A. **Parks: Sue Fox** reported that the Anderson Landing park was coming along nicely. The park entrance is located off Anderson Hill Road and is signed. **Tex Lewis** noted that the Anderson Hill Road overpass painting project will soon be started. Also, there will be an old-fashioned main street event on July 5th along 4th Ave. in Bremerton.
- B. **Community Relations: Natalie Bryson** noted that great progress is being made with the CK Community Campus. The County recently applied for an \$800K State grant for the Campus and House Speaker Frank Chopp had toured the Campus site recently.

VIII. Adjournment

Jon Pearson noted that the July CKCC meeting would be at the Fire and Water District Community Room on Newberry Hill Road. He adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Robert Moyer, Secretary