

GREATER HANSVILLE AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007

MINUTES

Judy Foritano, Greater Hansville Area Advisory Council (GHAAC) Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. 23 members were present, 2 members sent proxies, and one was excused. Approximately 12 guests attended. Philip Fletcher, Planner III, Kitsap County Department of Community Development (DCD) also attended.

Lou Foritano, Kitsap County Planning Commission, summarized the role and activities of that group. Lou explained that he had been appointed to the Planning Commission on January 9, 2007, by Commissioner Chris Endresen. He said each County Commissioner appoints three of the Planning Commission's nine members, and all members are confirmed by the full Board of County Commissioners. Each member serves a four-year term. He explained that the Planning Commission's primary role in matters concerning land use, environment and developmental issues is to 1) listen to and take public testimony; 2) understand the findings and recommendations of the Kitsap County staff, as well as the ordinances, laws and guidelines upon which they are based; and 3) come to a conclusion and make a recommendation to the County Commissioners. He said the Planning Commission's first major issue of the year was the revision of Critical Areas Ordinance shoreline buffer provision, which incorporated a compromise based on "the best available science."

He said that issues coming before the Planning Commission include open space guidelines, use assessment applications, downtown Silverdale design guidelines, low impact development guidelines, and Kitsap County code amendments. He said an issue of more local concern is storm water runoff, particularly in the Driftwood Keys neighborhood. He also said the Planning Commission would meet June 26 to discuss

the designation of Hansville as a Limited Area of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRD). Lou urged all present to contact him without hesitation with any questions regarding Planning Commission activities or issues (telephone: 638-1853).

At the conclusion of Lou's presentation, Philip Fletcher suggested the GHAAC circulate a two-page summary of the Critical Areas Ordinance which he would e-mail to Judy. He also urged members to contact DCD's Patty Charnas, Natural Resource Manager for questions regarding storm water runoff and retention (telephone: 337-4558).

Dennis Cziske, member of the Ferry Tariff Committee, briefed the group on proposed Ferry fare increases. Dennis explained that prior to the passage of Initiative 695 limiting vehicle taxes in 1999, the State Ferry system was doing pretty well. There were only a few minor ferry fare increases between 1985 and 1999. The moderate passenger growth and related operating costs that continued during that time were partially subsidized by the State Legislature. After Initiative 695, the subsidy was terminated, and the State Transportation Committee determined that 80% of ferry operating costs would be covered by fares. He said fares have continued to rise since that time, and this Spring the Committee had expected to obtain 100-110% of costs from the fare box. Dennis explained that Kingston's Fare Advisory Committee, and comparable citizen's group at every terminal in Puget Sound, has been lobbying the Legislature against this idea. He said local Legislators (Bev Woods, now Christine Rolfes, Sherry Appleton, and Phil Rockefeller) have all been very supportive in this effort and have drafted helpful legislation. The result of these combined efforts has been positive – just that morning, he said, the Joint Transportation Committee of the State House and Senate had decided to enact a moratorium on ferry fare increases for the next two years.

In response to questions from GHAAC members and guests, Dennis 1) said the passenger ferry idea is, for the near term, "dead in the water," 2) acknowledged that Kitsap County is unique in that residents may soon have to pay a toll or fee to leave

the County by any route, a point his committee has stressed with the State Transportation Committee, 3) noted that some new management ideas (e.g., a METRO-like organization) are being considered but there is no real focused dialogue occurring, 4) said some physical modifications to the upper decks of existing ferries to accommodate additional passengers are in the works, probably two or three years off.

Judy asked, what can the GHAAC do to help? Dennis replied that personal contacts with legislators are great, but some communication of support from the GHAAC would be of real benefit, especially if it emphasized the numbers of constituents represented by the combined organizational membership. He said major points of emphasis should include 1) the need for a constant and stable funding source for a portion of the ferry system operating cost, and 2) the need to break the ferry system off from the Department of Transportation and make it an independent agency. He distributed a list of key contacts on the issue. He announced that on Thursday, March 22, the Washington State Transportation Commission would meet to hear testimony on such issues as peak hour pricing and encouraged members to attend to voice their concerns.

Ray Rohay presented the Solitarians' vision for senior housing in the GHA. Ray stressed that there is a critical need for a place for older members of our community to stay when they can no longer remain in their homes but want to remain in the Hansville area close to their support group. She said the Hansville Community Church had forwarded a proposal, including multi-family housing units, but that the County had turned them down. She said the County was apparently concerned that allowing the Church to develop multi-family units, a use not allowed by current zoning for their property, could well open the door to other developers with similar ideas. She noted that the Kingston Advisory Council hoped to develop 45-50 units at a site not far from Kola Kola park, perhaps using a financing package that might include metropolitan park district grants and increased taxes for Kingston residents.

She said meetings on March 28, April 10 , and May 9 will discuss this and other proposed public improvement in the Kingston area.

Robert Longanecker, representing the Hansville Community Church, explained that the Church's vision for its 20 acre Church property south of Hansville was for a 7-day a week, multi-purpose building and retirement community. The front half of the property would be a site for the new church (35,000 sq ft), but the Church wishes to open up to the larger Hansville community by offering other activities and residences that would make the site a place of community activity throughout the week. He explained that the Church has paid all but 9% of the property cost, and that funding is already lined up for a 28,940 sq ft retirement facility, 45 units of housing for retired couples, and a 3140 sq ft community center. The site would also include a baseball diamond and extensive parking which could also be used as a park-and-ride lot. For this to happen, he acknowledged the County has to approve some things, and said the County was quite positive about the Conditional Use permit needed for the church building itself.

In the discussion that followed, members noted that while the Church's vision had many positives aspects, it also could have direct impacts, traffic, cost, and otherwise, on the GHA. For this reason, Judy asked if the group wished to reconsider its earlier decision about forming a sub-committee that would take up the issue of senior housing needs in the GHA, given that the matter was highlighted as a priority in the Hansville Futures project. After further discussion, Ray moved that a sub-committee be established, Gary Paulsen seconded the motion, and the subsequent voice vote approved the motion unanimously.

During the discussion of the draft minutes for the February 20 meeting. One member asked that Philip's e-mail address be added to the minutes ([PFletche@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:PFletche@co.kitsap.wa.us)) and that future minutes include the date and time of the meeting at the top. Fred moved the minutes be approved as amended, Gary seconded; the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Moving to reports from the GHAAC sub-committees, Kathy Bourassa of the Road Safety sub-committee summarized her group's activities. Kathy distributed a one-page summary of the sub-committee's goals, objectives, and recent activities. (See Attached) She described the past year's education program, conducted in cooperation with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Department, to raise awareness, heighten enforcement, and gather data concerning the need to lower the speed of vehicles in several key areas. She noted that despite this intensive effort, speeds were still excessive, especially in downtown Hansville, Driftwood Keys, and Hood Canal Drive south of the hairpin at Cliffside. In view of this, the Sheriff's Department has recommended traffic calming devices. After some discussion with the County, the sub-committee is pursuing a pilot project in downtown Hansville and the Cliffside area using speed-table-like mechanisms (three in each area) that will tolerate vehicles moving at the posted speed limit as well as emergency vehicles. Because the Road Safety sub-committee is under the GHAAC umbrella, Kathy asked for GHAAC support for the project. She proposed bringing a detailed presentation of the project to the April GHAAC meeting, then hoped the GHAAC would host a public meeting for comment in May.

Gary said that nearly 100% of property owners along the stretches of roads to be directly affected already had been surveyed, so the public meeting would be intended to solicit and gauge wider community support for the project, to better assure the County that the effort enjoyed broad-based GHA support. When Gary asked what the general feeling of the GHAAC was up to this point, members were reluctant to endorse the project prior to receiving a detailed presentation, but Fred suggested GHAAC support could be implied using a motion to continue the activities of the Road Safety sub-committee. Fred so moved; Gary seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Fred gave a summary of the Saltwater Parks sub-committee. Fred announced the Saturday, March 31 would mark the official opening of the Norwegian Point Park at a

ceremony scheduled for noon. Ken noted that following the March 13 visit of the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's Dr. Allyson Brooks, the sub-committee's working group would reconvene to urge the County to set a process in place for deciding how to develop the Park. The committee had asked for the County's help in putting together a Master Plan. He explained that the County doesn't have funding to support this process, but would try to make available a contract employee who could offer guidance.

Steve Bauer noted that some on the sub-committee would like to preserve the boathouse and three cabins, especially in view of Dr. Brooks' initial opinion that the structures could qualify for as state and perhaps even national historical significance designation. She noted that it was common for such buildings to be part of a park and that there were alternative sources of funding for rehabilitation which would not compete with the Inter Agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) funds used either to purchase the site or develop it further.

Fred gave a report of the first meeting of the Energy sub-committee. Fred noted that the sub-committee used its first meeting to establish its purpose, goals and objectives. The principle goal is to develop a positive working relationship with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to achieve safe and reliable power for the GHA. He reviewed the sub-committee's four major goals and hoped to be able to make a concrete report on projects at the April GHAAC meeting. (See attached.)

Steve Bauer reported on the GHA sign sub-committee. He explained that the Hansville Log would include an advertisement for volunteers and he hoped for a positive response. He also noted that Bob Bock, a graphics arts professional from Driftwood Keys has agreed to participate.

Taking up procedural issues, Judy explained she met with Kitsap County's Scott Diener and Philip Fletcher to review the by-laws. After another round of review by the GHAAC, and incorporating the County's comments, she forwarded the final draft

of the by-laws to the County earlier in the week. Philip commented that they appeared to be in pretty good shape, but that he would ask several other County staff members to review them. Judy remarked that the GHAAC was very close to affiliation with the County, after which the County Commissioners will officially endorse the group by Resolution. Judy reminded GHAAC members that Steve Bauer had made hard copies of the Hansville Futures study, and had given them to her for anyone who wishes one, and that they are also available on CD along with the extensive community profiles which were done for the project. These profiles might especially be helpful for sub-committees as they begin their activities.

Turning to the GHAAC website- Judy asked members to consider what should be included on the site. It was requested that GHAAC notification of meetings, agendas, minutes, sub-committee meetings and their reports and charts, by laws and rosters be included on the website.

Judy then asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the Standard Cycle Executive Committee election. Allan Otto, Sue Claeys, Linda Redling and Gary Paulson volunteered.

Moving to new issues, Heidi Kastor reviewed problems some members have been experiencing with noise pollution. Heidi explained that in twenty years of residing at her property, new houses and neighbors have increased the density of her neighborhood, but due to the proximity of the large, undeveloped tract of Pope property behind her, many still act as though they are still “living in the country.” She reported increasing incidents of shooting, dirt bike use and incessant dog barking that degraded the quality of life and threatened to harm her business. Several other members agreed that the problem was on the increase, and were particularly concerned with illegal hunting and target shooting on private property. Sue remarked that the Hansville Futures project assigned a high priority to maintaining the quality of life (peace and quiet) in the GHA so the issue was of concern to the GHAAC. It was suggested that an article be put in the GH Log to make people aware of the

problem. Other suggested that the Kitsap County noise ordinance, or State Fish and Wildlife regulations be used to enforce regulations against noise pollution or illegal shooting. Philip said he would try to get a sense of what could be done to assist from the County's side.

Judy noted that the Eyer junkyard, consisting of 800+ vehicles, after many years of violations, was being cleaned up pursuant to action by the Kitsap County Nuisance Abatement Team. The vehicles were in the process of being crushed and sent to a recycling facility in Port Townsend. Concern was expressed over damage to the environment. Philip said the County was also well aware of the potential presence of hazardous and toxic materials, and that the abatement process was taking that into consideration.

Announcements – Tom Ritley noted that the following night, Wednesday, March 21, the Greater Hansville Community Council (GHCC) Building Committee would meet to solicit public input on the future role of the GHCC. He encouraged all interested to attend.

Other - Lynn Hicks reminded members of the GHCC semi-annual book sale scheduled for April 13-14<sup>th</sup>. Judy also noted the GHCC would host an antiques and better collectables sale June 9.

The next GHAAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, at the Driftwood Key Club House.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm