

Greater Hansville Area Advisory Council
September 9, 2008
Transcript

>> JUDY FORITANO: We will call the meeting to order.

This is the September 9th meeting of GHAAC, called to order.

We'll go around the room as we usually do and introduce members of the Advisory Council and have an opportunity to introduce those here joining us as guests and members.

We'll get started with a presentation by the Ferry Advisory Council and they'll start after the introductions.

We have a special guest tonight, so introduce yourself first.

>> SCOTT DIENER: I'm coming and supporting this effort, filling in for Pete tonight, and Larry is unable to make it, too.

Pete just got married, so he's off on his honeymoon.

[INTRODUCTIONS]

>> JUDY FORITANO: And we'll introduce our guests.

Ready to do it now?

We do have a quorum present.

Welcome to everyone.

Now we have the great pleasure of introducing our guest and the presentation.

Many of you read that there's going to be a significant meeting having to do with Washington State Ferries.

I got to know Dennis because I was in my [indiscernible] before this organization was formed, and he asked for our support as he was going to be appointed to this group.

He represents our area and has a great knowledge of that.

We're lucky to have someone well known in the Kingston community.

If you read the Ferry information in the news, it's as a result of Walt Elliott.

Thank you for coming.

>> DENNIS CZISKE: Thank you very much.

We're indeed privileged to have Walt with us and he won't hesitate to jump in.

Our objective is to give you an update on Ferry issues so that, and to solicit your input and appearance at a couple of meetings coming up that we feel are crucial to the ongoing well-being of our Ferry system and users, in particular, commuters and riders.

You'll see numbers in our presentation and they're based on 2006 data because, unfortunately, Ferries, although required by law to give the statistics early on, have not made them public yet for 2007, so we're using data for '06.

We'll start by telling you a bit about the Ferry Advisory Council committees.

They're established by Washington State law for all the routes.

There is, for every Ferry port, an Advisory committee.

In Kitsap County they're appointed, five of us, by the County Commissioner for Kingston and for Bainbridge Island and Bremerton and Southworth.

We advise, by law supposed to advise Washington State Ferries, the County Commissioner and Legislature and the Kingston KRCC.

Unfortunately, it's not very often that Ferries or the Transportation Commission ask us what the constituency feels about ferries.

We have to go frequently, more than frequently, and lobby them and tell them what our people think about ferries.

In addition to this, there's a side note.

A Ferry Advisory Council Executive Committee that meets once a month and has a representative on it, the majority do attend and they're a primary point for feeding data to those government agencies.

Here are the people on the Kingston Advisory Committee.

[OVERHEAD PRESENTATION]

Rex K, who resides in Kingston; myself; Walt Elliott, our Chairman and member of the KCAC; and Paul Lundey, a commuter who resides near the grade school; and Lindy P, who is on the Planning Commission and a regular commuter, her office is in Seattle.

A note here as to why I participate in this thing.

I have two reasons.

One is I feel that I need to give something back to the community that gives me so much.

And the second reason is that it's like voting: If you don't do it and participate in it, you can't complain.

And the third reason is that I feel if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem, and I like to be positive in my approach to everything.

What's going on?

In '06, Washington State Ferries developed a long-range plan and that plan was based on additional funding from increased riders and increased fare growth.

And when they presented it to the jury, it was rejected and they said, go back to the drawing board because the growth estimates were too high, the funding was unrealistic, and the Legislature funded a Ferry Financing Study and other legislation.

That's where you see the surveys that have been coming out on the Ferries that are being guided by the Transportation Commission.

The problem, as defined by the Financing Study, is a shortfall of between one and two billion dollars over the next 16 years, and that's a lot of money.

The shortfall is in the area of budgets, a billion dollars short.

And it has to do with nine new ferries needed immediately, ferry overhauls that are going to run in the neighborhood of \$300 million. Note that this does not include nine additional boats needed in the following 16-year timeframe.

They feel that's important for necessary maintenance, [indiscernible] in the San Juans is deteriorated, and Edmonds is interesting and affects us in that they want to move the dock out of the City proper and south about three-quarters of a mile to the old oil farm station down there.

Coleman Dock needs upgrading.

Bainbridge, you know what that looks like.

The operating budget is \$1 billion short.

3 billion comes from the fares and one from taxes over the 16-year period, but still we're short a billion dollars and it looks -- 60% of the funds go for labor, 20% for fuel costs, and 20 for other costs.

Knowing what the situation with fuel and labor is, we can expect those to increase over the next few years during that whole 16-year timeframe they're talking about.

The Process

This is an interesting process.

This chart was devised by Washington State Ferries and should include all aspects of the planning.

We're up to this point, where they've come up with pretty good ideas that they want to have input on, and that's what's going to be presented in the near future.

But they're ready to go to the Legislature, and we need to make additional input to them.

This chart is interesting.

The Joint Transportation Committee, that's the, of the Legislature and the Senate together, have formed a small Ferry Policy Group, headed by Christine, our representative, and it gives guidance and direction and seeks input from these other organizations.

The Transportation Commission, if you listen to them, they're about how to squeeze more money out of the riders.

This one is looking at some other things and giving guidance in that area, and you can see what Washington State Ferries is interested in here.

The real reason that this whole thing has come about is that the Legislature did not support the 2006 plan by Washington State Ferries, believing the data was flawed.

Now, September 25th, this is where we're seeking input from you guys.

We feel you should consider this an action item, this public meeting and, on the Kingston/Edmonds plan, issues relative to our crossing has the most affect on our people, the local people here.

I did rough calculations and there is \$3,000 a day that goes out of this little local area in ferry fares alone, and that was before the last increase.

On September 29th there's a, Ferry's going to do a presentation on the Kingston Ferry.

That 25th meeting is in Edmonds.

We're hosting the meeting over here at the, the location is up in the air, either the Yacht Club or the Community Center.

Kingston Community Advisory Council.

And you're all invited along with the councils interested.

There's some thoughts about the fact that they have moved our meeting to Edmonds, and that while invited by the City to do that, they've had the greatest-number-ever turnout for one of these meetings for their, on that side of the water is about 5 to 6 people.

We think Ferries, I think Ferries is motivated in that direction.

In November the long-range plan is due.

In September they're having formal hearings and formal comment about that.

They have a tendency not to be local and low profile on that.

We have comments on that later, and January the long-range plan goes to the Legislature.

I'm not supposed to leave any moments of silence here.

These are the people who are key players.

Christine, Co-chair of the Ferry Policy Group.

The ones in red are our friends.

They understand the needs of riders, commuters, and the communities.

These are the ones that need lobbying.

These people in red understand what the situation is but need to know our opinion.

The ones in black need to be convinced.

Harriett is Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, and Judy is Chair of the House Transportation Committee.

Both of those individuals guide their committees and feel that the only place that transportation money should go is in concrete and asphalt.

They are eager to fund things like activities on Snoqualmie Pass.

Just as a point of interest, they are going to spend almost the equivalent of what the Ferries are needing on Snoqualmie Pass over the next 16 years, winter maintenance and re-routing to avoid the avalanches and so forth.

They serve [indiscernible] million people.

We're up to 7 million on our ferries.

These people need convincing.

These are the local Agency Review Team, where Ferries is going to go to get approval of their long-range plan.

We have some friends in this area.

This guy is primarily related to Roads, and he needs all the coaching we can give him.
Phil in Bremerton, Transit understands, but they don't have the sensitivity we have relative to this.
There are others, City of Seattle, City of Edmonds, they don't care about riders, but getting the traffic out of their cities.
>> SPEAKER: How about King County Metro?
>> DENNIS CZISKE: [Indiscernible] he's the Chairman of the Executive Council.
They're coordinating with Transit and looking at the processes to see how it coordinates with Transit agencies.

We have some system-wide issues.
We need, we're going to go in more detail as we move along.
We need sustainable funding source.
We're looking at dedicated funding through the State Government that will provide a constant and stable source of funding to fund capital costs, as well as subsidizing operating costs.
And there should be a significant subsidy and they should be tied to inflation, and that there be incentives to riders, not penalties -- we're talking about off-peak pricing.
They must assess the community impact.
There has been no effort on the part of the Ferries to assess impact on the communities.
We need to push information to the public because it's slow and difficult to get out.
Ferries is reluctant to be pro-active in advertising the meetings that are happening.

The next page.
The Kingston issues are the cost of travel.
Peak-hour fares are of primary concern for riders and then, also, reservations are of interest.
We've got land side versus rider interests.
Land side.
We have unreliable schedules and State Highway 104 has got congestion problems, which you're aware of.
The Transportation Commission justifies the peak-hour pricing on the fact that peak traffic drives acquisition costs, if you get people off the boats.
Moving to off-peak reduces costs for them.
And commuter fares, they think we should charge more for commuting instead of less.
Replacing old ferries is driving the cost.
Commuters pay their own way.
The requirements for the next 18 years, 18 vessels in the next 36 years.
Where am I at?
These are the replacements included in this 16-year budget, and these are the ones required in the next 16 years.

So we've got 32 years covered here, and these are the classes of boats that we're talking about.
None of these are capacity driven.
If you have more demand [indiscernible].
These boats are getting old and worn out and some are, they're as old as we are, some of them.
Kingston, we pay our way on this side of the water.
There's been talk about subsidies and who gets subsidized.
Notice how much Bremerton is undercharged.
San Juan Islands understand because they're isolated.
Kingston, on frequent user fare, we're still overcharged 1%, and for the regular fare 26% overcharged.
This is our operating costs, does not include Ferry capital.
But you can see there's good reason for fare reduction instead of increase on our crossing.
>> SPEAKER: With those overcharges, what does it cost us?
>> DENNIS CZISKE: I don't have the exact dollar amounts, but this is \$0.90 on a frequent user fare.
This is \$4 on a regular fare for car and driver.
>> SPEAKER: So if the fare is 9.50, \$4 of it [indiscernible].
>> SPEAKER: The frequent user fare is 9.50.
We can talk about the details, catch us after because we're running overtime.
Thank you, point is well taken there.
The impact of peak-hour pricing, assuming that they do discontinue the frequent user fares, about 50% of the people who cross at Kingston will be affected directly.
Car commuter fare would go from \$4,000 to \$6,000 a year.
This is according to surveys done that says how much can you spend on transportation for your going to and from work and affordability.
The affordable gets to households earning over \$100,000 a year.
Kingston's recovery rate is 106%.
That will mean it will jump to 130% of operating costs.
This goes to pay for Bremerton.
If we do have peak-hour fares, then we are demanding -- and this is where we need your support in writing to all the people with influence or communicating with them -- we must continue frequent user discounts.
They must measure the actual traffic and only impose peak fares during actual peaks.
They're talking about wide ranges and for those we don't feel are necessarily peaks.
They must have public hearings, locally, for all fare changes so they get input from the people, and that they have off-peak discounts before imposing peak hour.
We're talking about this because the real reason for this is that, they say is to get people off of those peak-hour boats so they don't have to increase the number of boats.
If they don't agree to this, then we know it's all about the money.

Reservations

Land side interests want a high percent of the boat reserved only for emergency vehicles and Transit and that kind of thing and some provision for commercial traffic.

They do that because they feel that reservations will reduce the traffic lineups in their communities.

They think it impedes business and traffic flow and causes disruption.

We think it's important that less than 50% of the boat be reserved and that we have preference for frequent users and commercial traffic and that reservations doesn't increase costs.

They all charge later for something that's free now.

And it should be easy to use.

The anticipation is that an impact for those of us who use the ferries frequently, but not regularly, is that it will have a significant impact on spontaneous travel, a health care crisis, or some event that we have suddenly been given tickets to, we may have to wait, without a reservation, for two or three boats to get across.

That's something to keep in mind there.

>> SPEAKER: Reservation, is it just for cars or walk-up?

>> DENNIS CZISKE: For car and driver.

We have several things affecting schedules: Unreliability of the ferries meeting their schedules causes people to miss trains and buses and have problems with meeting commitments.

So we're suggesting that they change the schedules to reflect the reality of vessel loading, train interference, and things that cause the schedules to be unreliable.

And we're suggesting for the peak usage time during the summer, Thursday through Monday, they find some place and get another boat to put on the run because we think it would be full and profitable during those timeframes.

Relieving congestion, they talk about that because people would quote unquote come in time to get on the ferry and not have to line up in the streets.

That's their hope.

They fully use the current holding areas.

Many times they don't start to refill the holding areas from the ticket booths until the ferry's loaded, which causes a long backup through the towns.

They're thinking of adding an extra holding area.

Here's one of the places they're thinking of, is the parking area on the side and using it for a holding pattern.

This is an idea that has been put forth and there are several ones.

>> SPEAKER: Where is that exactly?

>> DENNIS CZISKE: Here's the toll booths, and here's where you drive off the ferry, and that's the parking lot, Diamond Parking.

What to do?

We would like to ask you to speak up.

This is where we have an action item for you guys.

We'd love to have some or all of you attend this public meeting in Edmonds at the Senior Center, September 25, 6:00 p.m., and be prepared to tell them what you think.

Hopefully, we've given you ideas.

If you have a question, turn right off the ferry and it's halfway down the block.

A walk-on for us.

September 29th in Kingston, WSF will be there to brief anyone who comes, and we'd like to be well represented there and we can state our opinions once again.

It doesn't hurt for them to hear you twice.

You might send a delegation.

It should be all the Advisory Councils.

In December there's formal comments and public hearings, and that's a good opportunity for us to once again hear what they have to say and state our opinions.

We need to lobby the Governor and the legislators and we need letters to the editor and we enlist your support.

Remember, when you're lobbying the Governor and the legislators, Christine and [indiscernible] and [indiscernible] are all on our side and understand what we're doing, and we need to give them our support.

Others like Mary, Judy, it's important to tell them what we think and what we need.

Others in the Legislature and the Senate don't perceive because they aren't related to ferry-supported communities, don't understand what it means to us.

And if you have family and friends in those areas, ask them to put in a good word with us to their representatives because our representatives don't answer mail, email, or anything unless you're one of their constituents, and if not, they discard you.

So we need to know that.

That's where we're at.

I hope it gives you a little bit of information to work with, and if you have any questions, we'll do our best to answer them.

And if not, if we don't have the answers, we'll send you to the right place on September 25th to get them.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Our process is to have members to ask questions first and then members of the public have that opportunity.

>> SPEAKER: Please make this available for inclusion in our minutes so we have a comprehensive thing to share.

>> DENNIS CZISKE: Yes, I'll send it on email.

>> SPEAKER: When we go across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge they have that *Good To Go!* thing.

It seems like [indiscernible] with getting people through toll booths and ferry electronic cards, but why not have the ferry booths have a

Good To Go! place that you can drive through so you don't have to stop?

>> DENNIS CZISKE: There's a couple of things relative to that. First is that Ferries is looking at dedicated toll booths for frequent user passes.

It would be signed for frequent users.

We are in the process of preparing a position paper for our legislators, and one thing that's come to our attention is that many other state governments have got the *Good To Go!* kind of thing that works not only for the cars going across the toll bridges, but all the HOV lanes and ferries and bridges and buses and trains, and all you need is this one little thing that you can get on any one of them.

We're suggesting that Washington State look at something like that and not do the type of thing they did with our toll cards at the ferries when they reinvented the wheel, look at what is out there.

>> SPEAKER: Last time you gave us via email all of those legislators' email addresses.

If you could quickly put that together for the GHAAC, that could be sent to us, and you could write down what you'd like us to say and from our computers at home forward those on to the legislators.

But if you ask an individual group to look up their emails and formulate a letter --

>> DENNIS CZISKE: We'll provide those addresses for you.

What we are reluctant to do is put words in your mouth.

>> JUDY FORITANO: If we can get your presentation and some of your talking points quickly, of some of the recommendations, we could include those in our comments.

>> DENNIS CZISKE: This presentation will be in the email in the morning for you.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Anyone want to comment?

We'll have Art put it on the website with information about the date of the meetings and encouragement that people attend one of them.

>> DENNIS CZISKE: Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak with you and ask you, once again, to seriously consider sending a delegation or all of you participating in the event on the 25th and then at the KCAC in Kingston.

Thank you all very much.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Thank you.

And thank you for the great job you've done, Dennis, the time and energy you've put into this and keeping in touch with us through the media.

Linda, any speakers signed in?

>> SPEAKER: I wanted to talk about the GHAAC meeting that was held on July 22nd.

I had the pleasure of reading the transcripts taken by the County and that there was a discussion that took place whether or not you should make yourself known to the community that you represent.

Over the past year people in the community have been complaining they've been denied representation because they don't know who you are.

Alarming, page 22, one of your members referred to his constituents as rural rednecks.

I have three questions for you.

Doesn't using the term "rural rednecks" meet the definition of bigotry?

Would anyone want that published in the paper about this committee?

And how can you move forward as our representatives if you're afraid to communicate with the community?

>> JUDY FORITANO: Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

Linda?

Judy Roupe is up.

>> SPEAKER: Good news.

I came to you in July with a problem of the County Parks and requested support for GHAAC, and I think this is the definition of what GHAAC is trying to do, rather than -- solve problems, like the Futures things are implemented.

In our neighborhood we were having horrible problems with the park, which are detailed in the last minutes.

I made my presentation on July 9th.

July 10 we had our first meeting in the neighborhoods, I invited everybody to come, and neighbors, about the problems on Point No Point Road, and we made a list of the problems.

And I worked with Judy Foritano to write a letter to the Commissioner, Sheriff, and Humane Society, and that went out on the 11th.

And I got response from the government immediately.

We had two officers a day, patrolling the road and ticketing anyone parked over the fog line on the public road blocking accesses.

And I didn't realize this, the Sheriff has been enforcing the animal code in the parks within a week that the word got around.

Parking then wasn't a problem and animal control wasn't a problem, and they were going down to the park telling people it was closed and fires were put out.

It has to be the Sheriff.

The last meeting we had here on -- I don't have the date in front of me, August 19th, the meeting at my house of the neighborhood people -- Frank, who is the Parks Chair, Advisory Chairman, attended and gave us good advice.

And also I made notes because I knew I'd forget.

Greenways Committee joined us.

They have problems, too.

So [indiscernible] has been at the last two meetings and given us good advice, and so far the problem's solved.

At our first meeting we delegated people to go to Commissioner Bauer, and the County got on it right away.

And when I dialed 911, okay, here's this lady's name and pay attention.

So I would say here for once, maybe not once, but a good example of how GHAAC is working, and a lot of the problems we've had is due to financial budget constraints, and I'm aware that the response was mostly Sheriff and that was financed by the Parks Department. They found money all of a sudden to pay this kind of attention, but it did the trick.

>> SPEAKER: No trouble on Labor Day?

>> SPEAKER: Absolutely not.

After the police started patrolling several times a day, that was it. Even before that, the weather was better than it was on Labor Day.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Thank you.

You played a key role in this and thank you for bringing it to us and we're thankful.

Now I think it's yours, Linda.

>> SPEAKER: The next Planning Committee is next Tuesday.

We took off a month of vacation like GHAAC.

Yes, Pete is on his honeymoon and Larry is in Chelan.

And Pete and Larry advised me that since we'll meet next week, Communications Meeting will be held about half hour, 45 minutes ahead of time before the meeting, so I'll send an email with the communications team and whoever wants to participate.

We're actually offering it to other people, the Parks group, to participate in the Open House, and we'll have discussion on that. Our Open House on October 25th and 28th, we'll have discussion on that, as well.

That is it.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Questions anybody on planning?

>> SPEAKER: We're coming at 6:15?

>> SPEAKER: Yes.

>> JUDY FORITANO: As part of your agenda, you received a questionnaire, and Gerry Porter has received your input, though thin so far, so Gerry wants to talk about the questionnaire.

>> SPEAKER: I'll be happy, and after that we'll take action on the minutes.

>> JUDY FORITANO: They're so good, it always floats through us.

>> SPEAKER: The Executive Committee thought it would be helpful to have input about where GHAAC is and where we should be moving in months ahead.

A questionnaire was sent, as well as request for agenda items.

I've received from five people from the Council so far and am eager to get more.

They're interesting reading and I'm compiling them into one document so they'll be listed per question, so we'll get some helpful information.

You can -- I have extra copies, if you didn't get it, I'll give you one. Or if you want to give me your email address, I'll send it to you electronically.

Any questions?

>> SPEAKER: Why don't you send it one more time.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Then what happens?

I only read the first line of the email.

Thank you, Gerry.

I was remiss, does anyone have anything to add to the minutes of the last meeting?

>> SPEAKER: An update, I was going to check on email, adding them to the website so each representative could have an email box and their constituents could communicate better with them.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Not an add to the minutes, but additional info.

Anything about the minutes that needs to be clarified or changed?

>> SPEAKER: I move we approve the minutes as published.

>> SPEAKER: Second.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Okay, motion has been moved and seconded.

Is there further discussion?

Okay, a call for a vote here.

All those in favor of accepting minutes as published.

Any opposed, abstentions?

They've been approved.

And thank you, Gerry.

Community impact issues.

I thought Tony was going to be here.

It's important to share with you -- I, along with a large number of other people in this community, received a call from the Sheriff and it had to do with the concerns, complaints, and criminal activities associated with the vandalism of the Steve Bauer campaign signs on election night.

You're probably aware -- you've seen some cobbled together on people's properties -- someone went with a box cutter or knife or a sharp object and managed to attack virtually every Bauer campaign sign on Hansville Road and Twin Spits and went down Hansville Road and got ones on Bond Road, as well.

This is an act of vandalism and trespass, and there's also a mail tampering federal charge because of activities that took place here. The Sheriff is eager and asked me to share with all of you what had taken place.

And, secondarily, if you have any idea who might have been behind this to please call the Sheriff himself.

He's concerned, his Department is concerned, and they want to catch whoever was out doing this.

This is obviously inappropriate activity and criminal behavior, as well, and it's important this individual or individuals be caught.

If you have any information about this activity, please get in touch with the Sheriff's Department by calling 911 and saying it's not an emergency and they'll connect you.

Pilot Point, the County has acquired one more park, and Fred Nelson has the information to share with us on that.

>> SPEAKER: The Trust for Public Land purchased the Pilot Light, approximately 30-plus acres for a future park.

If you read the paper the other day, the Trust for Public Land has deeded that over to the County for future Park use.

However, the park at this point is way, way in the future, mainly because there's no money to develop a new kind of park at Pilot Point.

As you know, the County is strapped and the focus will be on two parks, Norwegian Point Park and on Miller Bay Road south of Kingston.

That's an update of what's been happening.

I know the people on 360th are concerned about public access to that park.

Right now there's no plans for public access as we know.

In one of the future meetings, next month or following, we'll have Chip Faver here to give us a talk and tell us what problems we can expect in the future.

That's an update on that.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Thanks, Fred.

Nancy, you had asked us to put this out about being able to have an interchange about people with medical equipment and might share that with neighbors.

>> SPEAKER: Well, since I needed some medical equipment last year, and the home health person when she came said, well, if you lived on Bainbridge, you wouldn't have to buy [indiscernible].

That ticked me off.

So the idea is for the area reps, not those of you that represent clubs, but many of us represent, not me, but many of you represent a particular housing area and you have access to your people through some kind of organization.

If that's the case, you might ask if they have equipment that they would be willing to lend to somebody who has temporary need for it.

I have a \$150 bath [indiscernible], that's expensive.

And I don't need it right now, but it's up in my attic and I will keep it there instead of sending it to Goodwill if we had a list.

And I'd hold that list, and probably every community organization in terms of neighborhoods ought to have it, as well.

So someone says, I need crutches, a walker, a wheelchair, bath stool, tada, commode thing, and if we bought it, we might as well share it.

We don't have a place to store it, so we're not collecting from everybody.

But if you have one and we put it on a list, then if somebody has a need, we can call you and ask.

>> SPEAKER: That could be done on the website, as well.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Becky?

>> SPEAKER: I know in the past there's been effort around collecting or having a communication pathway to get those things, [indiscernible].

The Coffee Klatch helped people out and this is, it would be easy to do.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Fred and I, maybe this is ideal for the Community Center to be the coordinate of those.

>> SPEAKER: Nobody wants to store it.

>> JUDY FORITANO: No, no storage.

>> SPEAKER: People have it at their own house, but we have a good list and if they don't want it published in the community, they can have a couple of central people to call and we can get it for you.

>> SPEAKER: Great stuff shows up every year at the yard sale.

>> JUDY FORITANO: A lot of it gets taken to other agencies just because it doesn't get sold.

>> SPEAKER: It is a problem with storage, but I personally don't mind holding something if I thought it would be of use to somebody else.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Super.

>> SPEAKER: One of the things the Community Center is looking at, we now have this as an emergency shelter, but we need to put the mechanism together for neighbor helping neighbor, and Ray will help us identify those single people who might have to have help in the event we have a natural disaster or power is out during cold weather.

So the thought is that we should have an Emergency Preparedness Committee put together that would incorporate that, incorporate what you're talking about, would coordinate with Driftwood Key, Shore Woods, Eglon, everyone concerned.

When there is an emergency, we know who to go to, contact people in need and need to be here, and that's the next step that we're going to be addressing.

>> SPEAKER: This is not necessarily catastrophic. Only to me.

>> SPEAKER: But it could be part of that coordinating effort.

>> SPEAKER: Fred and all of you, may I bring up again that the Soltarians themselves are visible and we know who they are.

It's those invisible ones that live near you, back in the woods that don't communicate with anybody, that we need to know about, and those I would not know about.

Thank you.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Thank you.

>> SPEAKER: May I ask something.

I'm not a great public speaker, but I neglected to mention 911. If you see an infraction, at this point they do keep a log, so if they need to know where the problems are in the County, the log is there even if the police haven't responded. They'll ask immediately how much of an emergency it is, and they're trained to distinguish so the law will be there, and if it's not a heart attack, you'll go on the list. And I think that's important for these people coming up on other public areas, as well as infractions up and down the roads. Let them know what's going on because it will all add up eventually.

>> JUDY FORITANO: That's a good point.

Gerry, we didn't have you on the agenda, but you sent out some drop, cover and hold.

>> SPEAKER: The County Department of Emergency Preparedness set September as the month of Drop, Cover and Hold. If you go on their website they have a program going on this month. Bring information to your groups that this month is the County's designated reminder month for Drop, Cover and Hold, through the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management, DEM.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Great, thank you. Hopefully, all of your communities are stirring the pot and getting going on emergency plans if they have not, so these are important things as we've heard time and again.

Wayne, there's a road out there, gravel for a long time, and there was a hole in the road. Tell us what's going on.

>> SPEAKER: We recently have driven through there, the road is paved and striped, and yesterday they put in safety railings on both sides, and there's a little bit of cosmetic work to be done, but it, more work on Ponderosa North, but it's a lot nicer. You come over the hill and you can see cars coming, and it's much wider and it's nice. I can't tell you what's going on [indiscernible] highway. They also finished ahead of schedule, two weeks.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Excellent, okay, thank you.

Gary, anything new on Road Safety? Summer's here. Scott, you're it.

>> SPEAKER: We don't have new news about the continuing adventures on the Eyer's nuisance property. For those of us who drive by, nothing seems to have happened.

>> SPEAKER: Quite an article in the paper, front page.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Do you want to enlighten the few of us who didn't get a copy of the paper?

>> SPEAKER: I would say that they were quite sympathetic for his position in that it has been there for years and years and he has a

license for a trucking company and he does the [indiscernible] declared it hazardous waste, but no detail for distances around it. There was lead, you have to read the article.

>> SPEAKER: The Herald has a good website.

>> SPEAKER: Recycling Center.

>> SPEAKER: He said he's removed most of the cars.

>> JUDY FORITANO: If somebody didn't see it -- and I didn't get a copy of the paper -- please take a look on the North Kitsap Herald website and you'll see it.

>> SPEAKER: I ran into somebody at work the other day and she lives next to him, within seeing distance, she said that things were looking better over there, and then all of a sudden on a Sunday big truck shows up, loaded with junk, and on the property it goes. So I don't know what the date was.

She took pictures, so I think I can get them to you unless she deleted them from a digital.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Cindy, if she has them, I'll get them to Scott.

Okay.

Stimulated by both some of our guests, as well as by our own reviews, it's time to establish a Governance Committee, where we look at the bylaws and a bunch of things going on with the group. We'll contact you by email relative to signing up for this committee. Our bylaws talk about review every odd year or so and we are essentially a fairly new group, but it's getting time to re-look at things.

We've had a chance to test them and we're going to take a look at some of these things.

We've had questions raised about issues like succession, and in most cases we've established homeowners associations and organizations, and those make it easy.

But where those don't exist, we didn't have a process in our bylaws about replacing people who might leave this organization.

When the organization got started, we were making it up, we didn't have a template and taking the nature of this unique community in mind, most of the people who filled the geographic things in order to make sure that people would have a representation in particular parts of the geography, most slots were filled with those on the Futures Project, and that was a part of making sure that crossover from Futures into this new kind of creation that was taking place.

The other people who ended up in some of the slots were typically people who had long histories of being deeply involved in our community, knowing people and having a broad reach, knowing what was happening, taking place, and I was involved in that process, other people who were part of that found people who agreed.

I know any of you who have been involved in volunteer activity knows that when you find people who are not only willing but eager, you sign them up quick because other ways can get ponderous relative to finding people who will represent things.

So that was our beginning process and [indiscernible] neighborhoods and trying to figure out in order to make sure people were best represented around the community, and that has always been our intent.

But the process for figuring out how people would be replaced in those circumstances was not one that we found in anybody else's bylaws because we are the most widely represented in all of Kitsap County, and this is something that we have been pushed to do and something we need to do.

So it's something our new Governance Committee will do, along with really taking a hard look at the bylaws and seeing if there's anything else about our structure that needs addressing.

Becky had an opportunity to attend the Central Kitsap meeting. Would you share a bit about your experience there.

>> SPEAKER: I went to the June meeting, it was held at the Eagle's Nest at the Fairgrounds, a big meeting room for the County there.

They used the facility because they were going to have some presentations on large issues like corporation, the Kitsap County Library was giving a presentation.

I was there to, yes, look at how, since we're new, how others operate, how the meeting's put together, and so I just made notes. Basically, the structure of the meeting was the typical business meeting.

A typical agenda, calling to order, introduction of members, adoption of the agenda, and the presentation of meeting minutes from the previous month -- and that's what it said on there, not adopting, but a presentation of the minutes -- so I'm not sure how it went on from there.

Their Commissioner Josh Brown was there, which I thought was nice.

I have a feeling that it did have a lot to do with the potential future incorporation of Silverdale.

So that was considered the business meeting.

And they have two times for public comment, one was after the business meeting and then the next one was toward the end after the committees' reports.

Presentations were Kitsap Regional Library, speculation for failed funding, they gave a good report on why they thought people voted it down.

Kitsap County studying of costs and urban [indiscernible] and urban growth area and importance of the role of [indiscernible] services in the area.

So it was a pretty heavy meeting.

Questions weren't held until after the presentations.

Comments were from the Board first and three minutes given to the public for comment, and they also required anybody speaking to sign in.

That was pretty much it.

Dates of the meetings for the next month were also given and that was for the Advisory Council meeting and the Community Council meeting.

The communication tools are the *Sun Newspaper Weekly*.

I guess they have a list of government meetings in there.

And other newspapers, *Kitsap Reporter*, *Bremerton Review*, and they also, for people that signed a request of notification of meetings or information -- meetings, I think, but I could be wrong -- that they sign in saying that they would like to know about the meeting.

Anyway, the Secretary emailed those if they had, gave the email or sent them a letter to their physical address.

If it's large, a really big consideration, to notify people they would hang a banner over the street: We're going to have a big public meeting.

They did that and used discretionary funds from the County to do that.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Great, Becky.

There have been some very nice outreach by some of the other Chairs of the local Advisory Councils to share agendas and the Communication Group we talked about.

Everybody kind of kicked back during the summer, but now getting started.

We have a meeting upcoming on that, so things are moving forward and there's nice interchange.

>> SPEAKER: Anything in that structure you thought we could improve upon or something we could add or change?

>> SPEAKER: The makeup of the Board was interesting, and I don't know if their makeup would lend, but there were about 15 on the Board and instead of representing communities, they represented, like, what do they call -- remember when we scanned on the Futures Project -- there were things like Parks, interests, technology, roads, whatever.

It seemed that the Council was made up of people in different areas like that that were in Central Kitsap.

>> SPEAKER: Does that include public official people or people just involved?

The Highway Department or something like that?

>> SPEAKER: I can get that information.

>> SPEAKER: I wondered because we're always open.

>> SPEAKER: I believe it's all local citizens, and none of those folks come to the table representing a government agency.

That's the one group that DCD does not support.

I don't think there's government officials.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Great, thank you.

Our community organizations and partners, Elizabeth, what's happening?

>> SPEAKER: I don't have news to report, but I can say that we're, as a company, doing our goals for 2009 and putting together our budget.

So I can get more information in December, at the latest January, that would give you our timetable for planning.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Is the economy affecting anything you're doing?

>> SPEAKER: Of course.

>> JUDY FORITANO: So we don't have to worry about your selling off the [indiscernible] soon for a shopping mall.

>> SPEAKER: Not in the next six months.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Okay.

[Indiscernible] Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe couldn't come.

They were one of the sponsors for the Great Peninsula Future Fair and they had a response for our local citizens regarding the world's largest geyducks, and, secondarily, they talked to a lot of folks about what they're doing relative to fisheries, water, natural environment kinds of things.

And, unfortunately, they weren't able to do it for this meeting, which is fine because we had Dennis, but they want their folks to participate in a presentation for this community and also have a couple of their divers come who were women who dive for geyducks for the Tribe, so we're making sure they can come and share.

He did indicate there's no new information about the [indiscernible], but they did talk about some of the things they're doing in fisheries and water that affect any of us who border.

And I know they've done dramatic things with storm water and water management, so might be an interesting presentation.

And we talked about maybe getting information out much quicker -- my fault entirely -- so we can have more members of the community participate in these excellent presentations we're having.

So that's upcoming.

Fred, Hansville/Sid Knutson Trail.

>> SPEAKER: We dedicated the Sid Knutson Trail for the Greenway, and for those who don't know, the County received a grant to purchase approximately 90 acres to add to the Greenway, and Olympic Properties also agreed to give the Greenway a right-of-way that will take it all the way from Shore Woods to Hansville Road.

That trail is now functional, the Greenway's been working, volunteers working all summer, and on August 16th the dedication was fairly early in the morning and they took people on a tour of the trail.

It was very interesting to see how many people would show up, and the parking lot was packed.

We had a huge turnout to honor Sid Knutson, and the Greenway is going strong.

And I know Ken and Sid have put a lot of work into it, and now you'll be able to park your car as soon as they get the construction equipment out of there, the gravel pit, you'll be able to park your car there and hike to Norwegian Point or Norwegian Point Park by the trail that goes by [indiscernible] and down to Point No Point, and it's an extensive trail system, and we have a lot to be proud of.

>> SPEAKER: The Norwegian Point Park, there were for-sale signs, I'd heard those lots had been purchased by the County to be added to the park.

Is that correct?

>> SPEAKER: Yes, the 1.8 acres directly across from Hansville [indiscernible] has been purchased.

>> SPEAKER: So from the Point No Point Road down to the waterfront is continuous Park property?

>> SPEAKER: That's correct.

>> SPEAKER: Do you know what the County paid for it?

>> SPEAKER: I think it was pretty close to 180,000 to 190,000. I don't have the exact figure.

They negotiated for a long time and finally came to an agreement.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Okay.

Kinley, anything new on solid waste or global warming?

>> SPEAKER: One, I wanted to let you know there's a Yard Waste Amnesty Day, 28th, College Road.

Usually they've been down in Mason County, so this is closer, so I encourage you to spread the word.

They take all forms of wood, stumps [indiscernible].

September 28th from 9:00 to 4:00,

>> SPEAKER: What were the items again?

>> SPEAKER: They take clean wood, branches, yard waste, stumps and painted wood, and nails are fine.

>> SPEAKER: What's different with that?

>> SPEAKER: It's free.

>> SPEAKER: Oh, free.

You didn't say "free."

>> SPEAKER: A new topsoil facility on Ecology Road.

September 28th.

It'll be in the notes.

>> SPEAKER: My husband's been using it for months and he puts yard waste in bags and dumps it there.

And they informed him there's a new bag that's biodegradable and Coast to Coast is the only place.

>> SPEAKER: Yes, they have bags that are kind of like paper grocery bags and a bag called "biobag" that's made from corn starch, and they have those at Central Market.

>> SPEAKER: Big bags?

>> SPEAKER: Yes, 33-gallon.

While on the topic of topsoil, I should mention at the Future Festival we did have a booth on the [indiscernible] strategy, and I helped with the collection of the food waste.

Even though there's 5,000 people there and a lot of people were diligent about recycling, we ended up with one full can, is all we had at the end of the day for food waste, and we took it to Emu Topsoil and they accepted it for free.

I hauled it in the back of my Subaru, but the Tribe donated the containers.

On the North Kitsap [indiscernible] strategy, a number of events coming up.

Saturday, September 13th, there's going to be a community discussion on traveling North Kitsap on less gas and other means of getting around.

September 18th, we're going to have Feeding North Kitsap, local food, talking about disaster preparedness and [indiscernible] programs, September 18th.

September 25 from 7:00 to 9:00 we'll have movie night on peak oil. Not sure which movie we'll show.

We're going to talk about that, the concept of getting to peak of when oil is available, and from here on out it's going to get more expensive and harder to get.

All these events are at the [indiscernible] Environmental Center.

And last, on October 9th, a Thursday, 7:30, a class on constructing your home energy [indiscernible].

And I recently, about two months ago, found out we have a company in North Kitsap that is selling wind generators.

It's Kingston Electric and they've worked with a generator company and have permits in the works, three, and a number of them here and on the east side of the mountains.

They do free assessments.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Kinley, I asked Scott about permitting for that.

>> SPEAKER: We do have one application for residential wind generator.

The tower itself is 35 feet tall and the blades, fans, add a few feet to that.

We don't have a permit for that in place, so we're modeling it after cell towers.

But we anticipate this is something we'll see approved by the Director pretty quickly.

Maybe [indiscernible] says you can't disapprove something like this and also the opportunity to buy back from the grid.

Kingston says they have one sold and a couple ready to go.

>> SPEAKER: They told me three in the works.

>> SPEAKER: They're pre-selling some of these and waiting on DCD.

>> SPEAKER: Are they using the propeller type?

>> SPEAKER: Yes, there's another one that looks like a [indiscernible] that they're using on buildings and they're nowhere near the size.

<< SPEAKER: Actually, Costco has one that's a propeller style, but it's \$600 and low wattage.

>> SPEAKER: A company in Eastern Washington that makes them?

>> SPEAKER: No, can't remember where they're based. If you guys are interested, I can give a presentation on them.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Sure.

Great, thank you.

Okay.

Fred, upcoming.

>> SPEAKER: October 3rd will be Meet the Candidates night, a Friday night, here.

There will be free pie and coffee, the actual Meet the Candidates program will get under way at [indiscernible], but 6:30 they'll be here and talk with you and you can go one-on-one with the candidates.

The candidates that have RSVP'd to me are the legislative candidates [indiscernible] and their challengers.

The County Commissioner's race, the County Auditor's race, and I haven't received confirmation from Dino or Christine yet, but I think the people we need to talk to and ask questions of will be here.

And I hope you'll all attend because it's going to be an interesting evening.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Any other announcements?

>> SPEAKER: I was following up on a thought that we had that -- oh, I said that.

The email boxes and the price, did I talk about that?

>> JUDY FORITANO: We'll pick that up.

Okay.

>> SPEAKER: I have some issues I'd like to bring before the group. My name is Gene and I live in Driftwood Key, and I met with Judy in June to discuss some issues.

And one of the issues that we had tonight, unfortunately, I couldn't find a map, and without the map to address it would be a waste of your time and mine.

So we're going to set that aside.

But one of the things that I've been asked, because I am a Board member as well, is that -- and some citizens in our community have asked the same thing, same questions that I mentioned to Judy at our meeting -- is that we would like to see some type of breakdown on the number of people that each group represents.

In Driftwood Key we have 599 lot owners, but 450 to 475 residents, and the question comes up, how many people [indiscernible].

And to me, I don't think it's anything to get excited about, it's merely a question.

But I personally have a problem when you ask a simple question and you can't get an answer.

So I'm formally making a request tonight, through Judy, to have a breakdown of the representation of the groups that sit at this table. If there's anybody that takes strong objection, speak up because I want to know who you are and I want to be able to address it.

I'm talking to the --

>> SPEAKER: Yes, I'm one of them.

Question, what do you mean by breakdown?

>> SPEAKER: I just explained it to you.

Driftwood Key has 599 lot owners, but 450 to 475 people that live there full-time, so that's my constituency.

So I want to know what the constituencies are for the other groups -- the Garden Club, are there people in Driftwood Key that are part of that?

>> SPEAKER: The Club has 230 members, some of them represented by you, as well.

>> SPEAKER: So if you have 230 members, do you know where your members live?

>> SPEAKER: Yes.

>> SPEAKER: It wouldn't be a big deal to say 85 live in Driftwood Key area.

Why?

>> SPEAKER: Because I'd like to see it.

Is there anything secret about it?

>> SPEAKER: No, but you're asking for a significant breakdown of the Garden Club.

>> SPEAKER: Shouldn't you know what your constituency consists of?

>> SPEAKER: There's a lot of overlapping.

>> SPEAKER: Then total the Garden Club.

>> SPEAKER: I'll refer to the Thursday Breakfast Group, how many people do you want me to put down there?

>> SPEAKER: What if people own property on one part, like in Hansville, and property out in Driftwood Key and out here in Shore Woods?

>> SPEAKER: You mean one person owns all these properties? Then count them as one or four.

I would like to see a breakdown, and if there's a problem, I'll have to report it to our Board.

A simple request.

>> SPEAKER: [Indiscernible] varies from month to month.

We don't necessarily have a large membership roster that we can go to, but people come from Eglon and Shore Woods.

>> SPEAKER: The membership lunch was given a seat at this table and they represent people, so who do they represent?

10 people? 100 people? 4 people?

>> JUDY FORITANO: You want the number of people?

If we're talking geographic area, you have a number of households, and we have no idea how many people are living in those households without knocking on the doors.

>> SPEAKER: There needs to be a breakdown, we'd like to see that.

>> SPEAKER: Who's we?

Would you personally like to know?

>> SPEAKER: Yes, I would, but I've been, people have come from Driftwood Key asking for breakdowns.

Now I'm getting additional requests, and it's time, there's nothing secret about it.

>> SPEAKER: Post office address, because I don't know 230 people.

>> SPEAKER: My assumption is that you would like the information as best we're able to provide it.

>> SPEAKER: Yes.

We're not asking for eight in this household and, but choose an area, and I have a personal reason for this later on, nothing to do with any preconceived notion or any hidden agenda or doing anything devious, but I want to make a point later on -- I think this organization could be, could have a sharper tip on the spear, let's put it that way.

If we look at things and the patterns and see what kind of, for lack of a better term, force we have.

After all, there are political ties here, and that leads me to another thing.

I'll get off of that.

I have one more comment.

>> SPEAKER: I think it's a great idea to get an idea of the numbers of people or residents represented.

I'm going to have trouble because I don't know the boundaries for Eglon.

It might take me a while with the numbers.

>> SPEAKER: Let me drift to another subject here tonight.

I guess I was disappointed, mainly from a citizen's point of view, certainly not from anybody in the room, but out in Driftwood Key we have a problem getting the attention of the Sheriff's Department to come and answer calls for us, and I was a little dismayed to find out that the Sheriff himself called for information about who was destroying Steve Bauer signs.

Being in political campaigns, I know that your signs are not only advertisement, but very expensive.

Unfortunately, when you run for public office, you'd be lucky to have one-third of the signs left after the election because of the various things that happen.

Sometimes it's vandals, but I can assure you they're intact at Driftwood Key.

I personally have called the Sheriff's Department for suspicious people, people prowling around the neighborhood, burglaries, thefts in the marina, and I don't want to be on somebody's call list.

To me that's a second [indiscernible] citizen.
We pay taxes and we want to have service out there, and we feel we're not getting it in Driftwood Key.
So now I'm going to have to call the Sheriff and tell him somebody's taking down my political signs to get help.
Did everybody hear me tonight?
Those are some of the things we need in our community.
I've been in law enforcement, so I understand understaffing, but crime is crime and all citizens need protection.
But I'm more worried about the citizens in Driftwood Key -- and no offense to Steve Bauer -- than about his signs.
That's all I have to say.
>> SPEAKER: I'd like to make a comment.
A question, I guess.
The GHAAC is about addressing issues like that.
And I don't know how long this has been going on, but my question is, why wasn't it brought to the Board?
>> SPEAKER: That's a fair question, but let me give you a rather straight answer.
If I have a problem in the community with crime or need law enforcement assistance, I shouldn't have to go to an outside organization.
I should have the same service everybody else has.
So the only reason I'm mentioning it tonight is because I heard the comment that the Sheriff wanted to know about the signs.
It's a citizens issue in that community, but as you just reiterated, it looks like, I would hate to think that GHAAC would have to get me the service that we pay taxes for in Driftwood Key.
>> SPEAKER: I know we've talked about it and discerned the [indiscernible] weren't there, but there were other areas going on throughout the year and we wanted more representation up here and we were told we just don't have the budget to have dedicated representation from the Sheriff's office out here.
>> SPEAKER: My opinion is that [indiscernible] when the Sheriff can call and talk about political signs tells me he has resources somewhere, wouldn't you think?
So let's use the resources.
>> SPEAKER: I've heard complaints like this from Eglon, and we expected minimal response and lack of staff, yatayata, and I think the reason we got our response is because we have a [indiscernible] who knows who to talk to.
>> SPEAKER: Maybe we should ask the Sheriff to come in at one of our meetings and air our laundry.
When we pay our tax dollars, we expect service, it's only fair.
>> SPEAKER: Discretionary funds, it didn't come from the Sheriff's Department.
>> SPEAKER: If we're not getting service, who is?
>> SPEAKER: Nobody.
>> SPEAKER: That's beautiful.

>> SPEAKER: Well, that's something, to me, that you really need to put a tip on your spear because all of our safety is at risk.

>> JUDY FORITANO: I don't believe we'd have trouble getting him to come out.

>> SPEAKER: Neighborhood watch groups, it's not just the A battery, it's to me a fair and sharp exchange of what we expect, what he can provide and what we can do to resolve these issues.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Very good point.

Cindy.

>> SPEAKER: Totally off his subject.

I just had a question for the resource person, I was over by Dragonfly, stopped at a mom and pop farm, and they had a petition going, about somebody going to put an easement through their barn and Olympic Properties is going to put in 250 houses behind their house.

So I was just wondering if I missed a memo some place.

>> SPEAKER: I can't remember the name, but that is an existing easement.

Their garage was built on the easement and they didn't know about it when they bought the place, so that's just the way it is [indiscernible].

It's not anything new.

>> SPEAKER: The 250 homes is a bunch of hooey?

>> SPEAKER: We have all that property that's behind the house, and we don't know how many, what the plans are yet.

>> SPEAKER: So there may be a planned development?

>> SPEAKER: We don't know what the plans are yet.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Linda, anyone signed up for speaking?

>> SPEAKER: I have one small suggestion.

Every meeting I come, it would be great to pull out my sign where I'm from, and I don't have one.

Could we somehow bring the materials or standardize it?

>> JUDY FORITANO: We'll make some up.

>> SPEAKER: I would like to hear details about the email addresses on Hansville.org.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Becky went to find out, can we expand the number of email addresses, so let's say the Buck Lake Road dot org can have one and everyone can have one, and instead of using a personal email, it could be from a neighborhood, so it can be passed from one representative to another without it being a personal email.

>> SPEAKER: We just needed to find out if it can be done. It hasn't been set up yet.

The status is that it can be done and it will be forthcoming.

>> JUDY FORITANO: Well, folks, if you had not spoken, we would have had a shorter meeting.

