

# SUQUAMISH CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, June 2, 2022, @ 6:30 PM

## ATTENDEES:

### SCAC Board Members:

Laurie Kadet (Co-Chair), Martha Burke (Co-Chair), Brenda Austin, Erin Bischoff, Tom Curley, Brynn Felix, Carol Larsen, Emily Klein, Marian Pierce

**Quorum:** Yes

**Presenters:** John Clauson, Executive Director, Kitsap Transit; Our Forest Fund, Kim Greenwood, Lynn Schorn Alia; Katherine Schaffer(Kitsap County Commissioner's Office)

### Community Members:

Ed Mullaney, Kevin McDonald, Kim Greenwood, Ace Haynes

## OPENING ITEMS:

**Meeting Called to Order at: 6:31 p.m.**

**Reading of the Land Acknowledgement:** We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is within the ancestral territory of the “People of Clear Salt Water” (Suquamish People). Expert fishermen, canoe builders and basket weavers, the Suquamish live in harmony with the lands and waterways along Washington’s Central Salish Sea as they have for thousands of years. Here, the Suquamish live and protect the land and waters of their ancestors for future generations as promised by the Point Elliott Treaty of 1855. “Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished.” Chief Seattle 1854.

## MINUTES APPROVED:

- Approval of the April 2022 Meeting Minutes and May 2022 Meeting Minutes: Tom motioned to approve the minutes, and Martha seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT #1:**

Laurie shared that there will be a Community Vaccination Event in conjunction with the Department of Health on June 7, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Casino

### **MEETING CORE:**

#### **Presentation on Transit Issues affecting Suquamish – John Clauson, Executive Director, Kitsap Transit**

- Kitsap Transit ran a community survey and received 2,700 responses; about 23% were from North Kitsap, 29% from South Kitsap, 13% from Bainbridge Island, 33% from Bremerton
- The survey solicited input regarding Kitsap Transit's long-range transit plan
- On June 7, 2022, the Transit Board will be presented with the survey responses/overview
- Kitsap Transit is still recovering from the impact the pandemic had on ridership. Even though reductions were made to routes, the increase in physical distancing requirements necessitated the need for additional operators so Kitsap Transit did not have to lay off any employees. Instead, if a bus reached capacity, a standby bus was enacted.
- Ridership has been increasing due to people returning to in-person work/school/activities and the price of fuel. John said they are operating at about approx. 50-60% pre-covid ridership.
- Kitsap Transit is a government agency but is not part of Kitsap County government. Kitsap Transit is supported by a sales tax 8/10 of 1% for the transit system. Additional voter-approved funding in 2016 supports Kitsap Transit's Fast Ferries; Kitsap Transit received COVID relief funding as well
- Kitsap Transit is governed by a board comprised of
  - Three members of the Legislative body of Kitsap County
  - The mayor of Bremerton
  - The mayor or a member of the city council, chosen by the council for the cities of Bainbridge Island, Port Orchard and Poulsbo
  - A member of the Bremerton City Council, as appointed by the City Council President
  - An at-large member is chosen by the Transit Board Chair from among the elected officials of the three smaller cities, Bainbridge Island, Port Orchard and Poulsbo, who express an interest to the board chair
  - A non-voting member who represents the agency's labor unions

- Q: How is Kitsap Transit affected by the Move Ahead Transportation Bill? A: Kitsap Transit received an allotment for an all-electric passenger ferry between Port Orchard and Bremerton. Received \$1.4 million and Kitsap Transit anticipates \$3.4 million in the future.
- Q: What is the status of the local Park & Rides? A: There is a Park & Ride at the United Church of Christ on Division Avenue and one at the Clearwater Casino; Kitsap Transit is working to improve Park & Rides in the North Kitsap area and is working to improve the lot at Day Road on Bainbridge Island as well as putting Park & Rides near the new roundabout in Poulsbo and one on Bond Road. Kitsap Transit is also looking into adding electric vehicle charges and electric bike chargers at some Park & Rides.
- Other Kitsap Transit developments: Broke ground on a new transit center in Silverdale adjacent to the new hospital; In the process of replacing diesel buses with all-electric ones; Hoping to bring back Sunday service but different from the previous Sunday service – looking to see how to provide service to a larger % of the county; In the process of implementing no fares on Kitsap Transit for children 18 and younger
- John shared that Kitsap Transit is in the best financial condition it has ever been in — but the challenge is that the organization doesn't have enough drivers. Hiring a marketing consultant to help optimize outreach to potential employees. However, it is a nationwide problem.
- Kitsap Transit is initiating late Saturday service to enable people to attend sports events or concerts and take the fast ferry. Last run will be around 11:15 p.m.

**Presentation on Port Gamble tree preservation - Our Forest Fund, Kim Greenwood and Lynn Schorn, Alia P.**

- Our Forest Fund is a non-profit under the umbrella of Kitsap Community Foundation
- The organization's mission is to save trees from a clear-cut type of harvest
- The organization has been working 3-4 years to buy the trees in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
- Received grants from the tribes and family foundations to fund the project; the first priority is to save the living trees
- A forest is much more than trees — habitat, soil, watersheds, wildlife habitat and foraging
- Campaign targets - raised \$47,990 and need \$500,000 to open negotiations with Rayonier to purchase the trees; The goal of Our Forest Fund is to raise \$5 million - it would not be enough to buy all the trees that are standing in Port

Gamble Forest Heritage Park, but it would be a very good start. Once trees in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park are saved, the organization will work with other areas that need to be saved

- [Ourforestfund.org/donate](https://ourforestfund.org/donate)
- [savingtrees@ourforestfund.org](mailto:savingtrees@ourforestfund.org)

### **Follow-up on Transportation Improvement Plan – status of projects in Suquamish area**

- Tom C. gave a brief update: Money is a challenge; projects raise up because if there is money tied to the project, it will rise higher on the list. Miller Bay road is expensive because of culverts, etc.

### **Updates on events**

- The Chief Seattle Days event is going to be only for the tribal community this year due to COVID

### **Status on moving to in-person hybrid meetings**

- Try for a hybrid-style meeting in July. Check the website as the date draws near.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT #2:**

- Question: What is going on at Totten/305? Answer: It is being used as a construction storage yard
- Brian Albro is leaving the SCAC. Thank you, Brian, for your service.
- Brynn- Kitsap County Bike & Electrical Vehicle Code Committee — more to come.
- Brenda - wondered about the status of the Disaster Relief Committee? Tom will follow-up
- Tom - There is a black SUV on Suquamish Way coming down the hill towards the gas station that went off the road. No tow companies will come and retrieve it because of utility lines.
- Ace Haynes- He shared that he is running for State Representative.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. The next meeting is July 7, where there will be a presentation on recycling. The SCAC may plan a community picnic in August — more to come.

Minutes submitted by: Recorder, Erin Bischoff

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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<b>(Chairperson's Signature)</b>	<b>(Date)</b>
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