

# Suquamish Community Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

ZOOM Meeting, March 3, 2022

### ATTENDANCE

#### Board Members:

Laurie Kadet (Co-Chair), Martha Burke (Co-Chair), Brenda Austin, Erin Bischoff, Tom Curley, Brynn Felix

**Quorum:** Yes

#### County Staff:

Commissioner Rob Gelder, Rebecca Pirtle (Communications & Volunter Services Coordinator for Kitsap County Commissioners' Office), Katherine Shaffer (Commissioner Gelder's office representative to SCAC)

#### Other Governmental Partners:

Scott Crowell, the Director of Community Development, Suquamish Tribe; Doug Washburn, Director, Kitsap County Department of Human Services

**Other Community Members Present (names collected via Zoom screen name):** Dee Axelrod, Louise Barbee, Karlena Brailey, Steven Buechler, Bea Dixon, Drew Gilliland, Michelle Gladston-Wade, Mary Gleysteen, Carolyn Hartness, Joanna Hopkins, Kate Ingman, Zann Jacobbrown, Mandy Maher, Sheila Marie,, Debra Stephenson, Jennifer/Alan Trunkey, Lisa Weiss, Ruth Westergaard, Miles (?), Joanne (?), Sarah or Dick (?), Davinah (?)

### PROCEEDINGS

- Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Laurie Kadet
- Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is within the ancestral territory of the Suquamish people. We are privileged to share in the natural beauty of the Central Salish Sea and honor its people's history and traditions.
- Approval of January Meeting Minutes; Tom made the motion, Brenda seconded the motion. The January minutes were approved unanimously.
- Approval of February Meeting Minutes; Tom made the motion, Brenda seconded the motion. The February minutes were approved unanimously.

### MEETING CORE

#### Public Comment #1:

- Brynn provided an update that there will be a meeting in mid-march regarding electric vehicle charging; will keep us posted
- Drew Gilliland, Olympic Community Health, is interested in doing housing in the future — he is here to listen and learn

#### Discussion on Housing and Homelessness:

**Scott Crowell - Director of Department of [Community Development](#) for the Suquamish Tribe provided an update on housing developments**

- A PLACE OF CHANGE - A low-barrier housing community that opened about two years ago. These tiny shelters are located across Suquamish Way from the gas station and are a warm and safe place for tribal members that may be experiencing homelessness or life difficulties. Includes electricity, heat and access to campground-like bathroom facilities. Units are 9x10 and were built for about \$6,000/each (supplies-only, used own labor). The units are dry, clean, lock, and each unit has a bed, a mini-fridge and a microwave. The Suquamish Tribe's Human Services Department oversees these units. Scott reports that this development has worked out well.
- FERN STUDIOS: Located at the corner of NE Fern Street and Division Avenue. These tiny homes consist of a small kitchen, bathroom, closet and open loft area. Perfect for one to two people. Two of the six homes include two bunk beds making the home perfect for a parent or couple with young children (bunk beds are not full-sized). All units are occupied. Each unit cost about \$30,000.
- LITTLE HILL - Buildable lot infrastructure development, located off Totten Road across from the Early Learning Center. Twelve ¼-acre buildable lots for qualified tribal members to construct single-family homes. Each lot will be a land lease arrangement. Tribal members will be required to get pre-approved for a loan to construct single-family homes.
  - By the time the tribe prepares the lots (including water and power hook-ups and sidewalks), the tribe will have put in about \$150,000-worth of expenses per lot.
- SUQUAMISH SHORES TOWNHOMES - Approx. 20-30 units. Each unit will be a 2-story design with two or three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Constructed slated to end 12/2024. Low to moderate-income housing. These will be rental units.
- Down Payment Assistance & Homeowner Maintenance Program
  - Down Payment: For tribal members and after 15 years they are eligible for one refinance
  - Home Maintenance Program: Helps keep homes up to code (such as replacing roof). Allow access to additional funding every 10 years

**Doug Washburn: Director of Kitsap County Human Services; provided an update on what his department handles. [Slide Deck](#).**

Housing & Homelessness Division: Receive funding from state, federal and local sources. Goal: Make homelessness rare, brief and one-time.

2022 Priorities

- Add two staff members
- Implement HEART Program (Homeless Encampment Action & Response Team)
- Develop Community Investments in Affordable Housing
- New state rental assistance program - July 2022
- Wrapping up FEMA-funded contracts
- Statewide coordinating committees

Housing Realities in Kitsap:

- Residents are facing a significant affordable housing crisis, leading to nearly 40% of households paying more than the accepted 30% of monthly income for their housing

- Lack of rental housing for low income and those vulnerable people requiring safe housing with support services is especially acute
- Rents and housing costs have dramatically skyrocketed in recent years while wages for low and moderate-income have barely increased - leading to major inequities
- “Kitsap has been significantly underproducing housing, producing only 42 new units for every 100 new households formed”.
- “Jurisdictions will need to almost triple their annual housing production to accommodate the expected 25,150 new units through 2036”.
- 1,747 Kitsap County households requested housing assistance in 2020
- Kitsap School District reported a total of 414 children experiencing homelessness in 20-21

#### What has changed?

- The cost of housing has increased
- Wages are stagnant
- Not enough affordability and available housing
- Once displaced, huge barriers to finding housing again
- The average rent has increased 40% in the last five years

#### The top three causes of homelessness in Kitsap:

- Eviction/loss of housing
- Health/mental health challenges
- Job loss/unable to work

#### COVID Relief Efforts

- Salvation Army continues 24/7 operations (through april 2022)
- Smaller shelters to continue 24/7 operations
- Continue Kitsap Rescue Mission operations at Quality Inn until Mile Hill facility is ready
- Eviction Prevention - contract with Dispute Resolution Center and Kitsap Legal Services
- Quarantine & Isolation Center closing 4/30/22

#### Encampment Response Initiatives

- Homeless Encampment Action Response Team
  - Approved by Board in Nov. 2021
  - Implemented in Spring 2022
  - New Heart Coordinator to be hired in March 2022
- Dedicated Encampment Outreach Team

#### New Housing Initiatives

- Increased Shelter Bed 150 over the pandemic
- Increased Rapid Re-housing 1st/Last/Damage Deposits + Rental Assistance
- Hotel Voucher Program
- Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance Program
  - The County has spent approx. \$15M

- Foster Youth Independence Voucher Program
  - Provide housing vouchers and case management to 30 individuals who aged out of the foster system
- Community Investments in Affordable Housing funded by 1/10th of 1% sales tax for Kitsap County Ordinance 608-22 Approved

**Public Discussion on Presentations:**

- Tom: Some truly low-cost options have disappeared (i.e. trailer in the driveway to house grown children)
- Brynn: What's the timeline Mile Hile? Answer: Going through environmental reviews right now. Anticipate it opens within 12-15 months. It will be a congregate living situation.
- Commissioner Gelder: One of the things we need to be thinking about is the preservation of housing. If a mobile home park in a rural area ceases to function, it would no longer be allowed. Available land is one of the biggest cost drivers in the housing crunch. How do we systematically acquire land (land trust)? Labor shortages are an ongoing concern, which drives up costs. Need to have a diversity of the square footage of homes.
- Scott: Suquamish Shores - some homes are currently being used to help house tribal members. Citizens have left homes/land to the Suquamish tribe. The tribe's housing program receives a small amount of HUD funds (federal), the rest of the money is from the tribe and rental incomes.

**Kitsap County Report:**

- Kitsap Community Advisory Council Meeting next week — Our Forest Fund, an effort to raise funds to purchase timber rights in the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park, with Lynn Shorn

An update on the Sound-to-Olympic Trail with David Forte, a transportation planner with Kitsap County Public Works

- Hansville: Reclamation of freshwater marsh in partnership with a fishery (restoration of saltwater marsh)
- Norwegian Point Park: Restoration of Thin Creek (?), remove tide gate
- Ferry out of Kingston — fix the problem of cars waiting along 104

**Public Comment #2:**

- Tom: Annual Neighborhood Clean-Up in Suquamish on April 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. A partnership between SCAS and Kistap Public Works (who provide the bags and the disposal). Meet at the UCC Church on Division.
- Garden Club: March 16, 7 p.m. Climate Activist presentation on what is happening to insects and how gardeners can help. Zoom.
- Rob: If you haven't already heard, Curb Side Composting is available in N. Kitsap. Contact Waste Management if interested. \$8/month. Twice a month pick up. No noxious weeds. Ivy and blackberries are ok.

- Brenda: Easter Egg Hunt in Suquamish looking for volunteers, collecting eggs and candy at Sully's. Pantry at Church is needing some refrigerating and freezer items. You are encouraged to donate if you are willing and able.
- Jennifer: One thing we all can do to contribute to the housing crisis is to contribute positively to online discussion.
- The NIMBY problem about tribal housing? No matter who is doing there will be those who wish to see it remain untouched. It can get intense at times. Rhodium - found a new home.
- Commissioner Gelder: Title 17 Allowed Use Tables: Trying to make ADUs more permissible where possible. We are always challenged by density.

**Adjourned:**

- Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 pm by Martha. The next meeting is April 7 at 6:30 pm.m

Minutes submitted by: Recorder, Erin Bischoff

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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**(Chairperson's Signature)**

**(Date)**