

# SUQUAMISH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

6:30 – 8:00 PM

**In-person only** – Suquamish Police Classroom

18490 Suquamish Way, Room 118B, on the lower, west side of the building

## **SCAC Board Members:**

Tom Curley, Erin Bischoff, Ed Mullaney

Quorum: No

Presenters and Community Members: Stella Vakarcs, Senior Program Manager Kitsap County Public Works, Eric Martin, Bruce Miller, Tom Alexander, Andy Nelson, Chris Miller Jan Hall

Meeting Called to order at 6:44 p.m.

## **MEETING AGENDA**

### **Opening Items**

1. 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.

2. Introductions - We went around the room and introduced ourselves

### **Old Business**

1. Updates on Workplan - A reminder to look at the Workplan periodically

2. Approval of June and August meeting minutes - Move until the next meeting; there was not a quorum

3. Vacancy Update - Patty Charnas has joined the SCAC; Still have two vacancies

### **New Business**

1. Kitsap County Public Works update on sewer rate change - Stella Vakarcs, Senior Program Manager

- Utility is solely funded by ratepayers
- Over 90% of the revenue comes from monthly service fees
- Four wastewater treatment plants
- 64 pump and lift stations
- 200 miles of piping
- 70+ employees
- Proposed sewer rate increase for 2024 & 2025
- 2024 Budget
  - Operations \$6,593,197
  - Collections & Maintenance \$6,746,852
  - Engineering & Admin \$4,448,387
  - Bond Obligation \$4,838,962
  - Capital Projects ~\$25,000,000
- Purpose for the sewer rate increase
  - Produce sufficient revenues
  - Provide long-range financial stability
  - Proposed rate increase of 6.31% for each year (2024 & 2025)
    - 2023 rate increase was 4.5%
- Outreach & Public Comments
  - Notice of the proposed rate increase will be sent to all sewer utility customers
  - Presentation to Community Advisory Councils
  - Rate info and comment form at [kcowa.us/sewerrates](http://kcowa.us/sewerrates)
  - Public hearing to finalize rates Monday, Oct. 23 at 5:30 p.m.
- Rate Increase for 2024-2025

Monthly Sewer Charges	2023 Rate	2024 (proposed)	2025 (proposed)
Single Family Residential	\$92.24	\$98.06	\$104.25

2. Review of Community Map, Tom Curley and Jan Hall

- Jan is looking into updating Community Map but needs access to the new Adobe software

3. Suquamish Day Planning

- County staff / community resources - we may not do one if we don't have a volunteer to take the charge

4. Canoe Journey Debrief, Tom Curley

- 4,000-5,000 people attended
- Very successful

### **Informational Items**

Upcoming events:

- a. September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.: Kitsap County virtual workshop on the Comp Plan (Environment/Climate Change/Land Use) - [kcowa.us/compplan](http://kcowa.us/compplan)
- b. October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4-7 p.m.: Discover Kingston Open House; SCAC will have a table – call for volunteers
- C. Community Work Party Sept. 9, 2023 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Suquamish Sports Court. The Garden Club will provide some beverages, treats and pizza
  - Looking into if the court can be resurfaced
  - Having water at the park would be a wonderful addition

### **Public Comment & Good of the Order**

- Construction project on Genva - tribe building two homes
- Suquamish Shores
  - 20-unit townhome development for tribal members
  - MasterGardeners have a program to help divide plants, remove established plants
  - Update Elder Lodge - in the future
  - Overflow Parking Lot - in the future
  - Division / Suquamish - Larger Medical Clinic - in the future

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**The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.**

**The next meeting is October 5, 2023 at Suquamish Police Classroom**

**Minutes submitted by: Recorder, Erin Bischoff**

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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**(Chairperson's Signature)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Date)**