

June 2010 Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Public comment on topics which are not listed on the agenda
- Review and approve agenda
- Approve minutes

7:15 PM

Ravensdale Park Update – TJ Davis, Project Manager King County Parks

TJ works with the Parks Budget, and assists the community with Parks Department projects. He coordinates projects that the public wants to fund. There were several groups that wanted to get involved with Ravensdale Park. There was some controversy but they were able to work through it. Matt Miller from the Ravensdale community was with TJ, and he spoke to us on the community area that begins construction this fall. TJ reviewed the current plan, and then reviewed the long term master plan. Phase 1 is currently funded, and the dirt field will be converted to a synthetic field soon. Long term plans include two soccer fields, and two more ball fields. The large community meadow will be built in phase one, and there will be more discussion next year. A skate park and community meeting center have also been discussed. The plan is currently 9 months behind because there are some new drainage requirements. Because of this the permitting process on the meadow was split from the permit on the ball fields so that the meadow could move forward. Drainage was the issue on the permit. The size of the meadow area was reduced slightly so that more trees can be kept. They have planned a mix of longer grasses and wildflowers with a picnic area. There will be a graveled path for accessibility and maintenance purposes. The entire parcel is eight acres, and Phase 2 includes restructuring the road. They are looking at the American's with Disabilities Act in designing the park. Phase 1 includes a grant for \$100,000, and they are looking for someone to do the clearing and grading for a reduced fee or for free. Part of Phase 1 is mitigation planting around the road. There is also a plan to enrich the native trees. A radius mailing will go out to the community announcing the meeting; however, the date hasn't been selected. Ravensdale is classified as a rural recreation park and not a regional park. While the park is being developed to serve the rural area, it is larger than a normal recreational park. There will be a community of Ravensdale meeting proposing the common park portion of the development in the next few months.

As far as TJ knows the City of Maple Valley is still looking at designing their ball fields. Part of the Donut Hole agreement includes planning a park. TJ was asked to notify us when the city starts working on the Donut Hole project because it could impact the Unincorporated Area. Steve asked about the renovation of Gracie Hanson. TJ said that this will probably be pushed into Phase 3. TJ said that the plan is to continue to rent out the building.

Phase 2 is projected to be over \$10 million dollars, and currently we don't have the budget. The Unincorporated Area currently has fewer open spaces than we really need. The plan is long term, and May Valley is also underserved. They are looking for volunteer resources to assist with the invasive plant removal.

7:35 PM

Municipal League, John Jensen – The Municipal League is a non-partisan organization, and their goal is to raise the caliber of candidates that run for election. They have an Issues Committee, and he came to speak to us about the Candidate Evaluation Committee. There are North, South, East and Judicial committees, and they are looking for diversity on the committees.

The South committee meets at the Renton Technical College. They do not endorse candidates they simply look for candidate qualifications, and their investigators actually investigate a variety of ways. They can say that candidates are equal, and they have to justify their scores.

They are underrepresented in the Greater Maple Valley Area. If you volunteer for more than 3 years then you'll literally meet most of the candidates that are running for office. The question was asked where the funding comes from. It's private funding and volunteer run. There is one paid employee with an intern that helps. Candidates do not have to participate. They will still rate candidates that don't participate. The question was asked, "Would being a stay-at-home-mother work against you?" No. In South County there is a change going on. Most of the people that are coming in are incumbents. The

committee is very diverse, but they still look at experience in relationship to the candidates. This is the 100th anniversary of the Municipal League. The rural suburban unincorporated areas are underrepresented in groups like the Municipal League. They have a structured list of questions, and select which questions to ask based on the candidates qualifications.

8:00 PM

King County Strategic Planning, Michael Jacobson – He's been involved with the Strategic Plan for about 18 months. In 2008 there was a performance and accountability act that put this department in place. One of the first things that Executive Dow Constantine did was look at the strategic plan, and made changes based on his vision. The plan includes a reform agenda. This is a county wide strategic plan. It's not just an Executive plan. All parts of the county were considered, and this is the guiding document. They have not had a plan like this that encompasses the entire county. It's not a political document, but there are issues that came out in the campaign. They did some background on what other jurisdictions are doing. They wanted to ensure that they got the opinion of all King County residents. They did a survey, which can be found on their website.

They also did an employee survey, and asked employees how happy they are working at the county. They had a special session of elected officials. Dow Constantine participated as a council representative before he became the Executive. On March 4 a draft came out, and in May a new version was submitted to the Council. They also looked at how they can implement the plan. They also gave different departments assignments. King County is trying to address customer service. The question was asked, "With the state of the budget what are the chances that this will happen?" It's a 5 year plan so regardless of the budget they are hoping to use these principles and strategies, and hold to the spirit even if they are not adding strategies. It will be harder to implement the plan with less money, but they are going to work to it the best that they can. The question was asked, "Is this changing the attitude of the people at the county." Michael says that yes this is making a difference. This is a culture change, and Dow is working collaboratively with other people. He's been mending relationships with the cities and other community groups. The recent tax proposal could not even be agreed upon.

Part of the plan is to look at the expenditures within the budget. One of the principles in the plan is to ask people what they want, and whether or not they will pay for the plan by voting for the solution. They are looking at getting their cost of doing business under control. The question was asked, "How does this flow down to King County Code?" We see a lot of good stuff in the code, but we don't see it executed. The question was asked, "How will this be executed?" The Strategic Plan is more focused, and there are performance measures attached to it. It is an alignment effort to measure the effectiveness of the budget. A handout was provided on the blueprint, which can be found on the King County website. On June 30th and July 7th the Council of the Whole will be meeting. Their focus right now is collaborating between jurisdictions.

They are proposing a measurement structure attached to the Comprehensive Plan. Providing measurement will be a way to hold departments accountable. 2012 is the next major update to the Comp. Plan. Over the next 6 months is the best time to weigh in on how the comp plan should be reviewed. Michael recommended contacting our Councilperson now. One of the departments that is getting the greatest attention is DDES. John Starbard is the new head of DDES, and with annexation he is trying to craft the department into a rural services area.

8:45 PM

Fire District, Mike Scott and Matt Cowan Deputy Chief, Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety Mike and Matt spoke to us about emergency services. They are part of the King County Medic 1 system where transports were originally provided by ambulance services. Because they were seeing longer response time, they made a decision to transport in order to expedite the trip. Currently they are billing insurance companies, and then they send a letter asking if you have secondary insurance. If you don't have insurance, then they waive the rest of the fee based on the fact that you are a resident of the district. If you don't have insurance, then you don't pay. The fees help subsidize the department, and they have 7 positions that are funded through this process. Their fee is actually less than AMR. Their total is \$900. AMR's base begins at \$900, and you pay for all the equipment along the way. The quality of the care has improved. The King County EMS funding typically goes to wages for EMTs but it only covers a portion of the costs. The question was asked if there are other extraneous costs that aren't covered. This process is saving tax dollars, and the community is getting better services. They looked at trip time, and mileage to the closest hospital to get an idea of what the additional wear and tear on the equipment will be.

Valley Medical coming into the area will help. You can go to any hospital you want, and they will transport you to the point that another ambulance will pick you up. The patient care is better under the current system. The ambulance service provided to Maple Valley by the Fire Department receives really good feedback. They are giving better service at a reduced price. The difference is that the Fire Department will not send you to collections. Under the other system you might get sent to a money collection service. The Board of Commissioners can make the decision to not charge a resident. The question was asked if a citizen can break the traffic laws in order to transport someone quickly. The answer was they cannot. It would

be better to stabilize the person, and then let the fire department transport the person. Mike can be contacted at 425-433-2125

9:00 PM

Council Business

Black Diamond MPD Update: On May 10 and 17 the Hearing Examiner Phil Obrechts recommended approval of the Yarrow Bay-proposed Master Planned Development (MPD) Applications (Permit) in Black Diamond. While recommending approval, the Hearing Examiner (HE) also recommended several conditions on the applications. These included: (1) Transportation--development and validation of a new traffic model, route and intersection analyses using the new model, and the resulting identification of needed mitigations; (2) Construction Noise--additional study and mitigation (unfortunately, there is no way to "soundproof" a home against 90 dB noise levels expected); and (3) Fiscal Impacts--additional analyses to address the projected annual and overall shortfalls in jobs created and revenue generated. To voice Area Council concerns, Chair Steve Hiester, testified on these and other issues during the HE's MPD Application Hearings. Individual Area Council members testified as private citizens as well.

The Black Diamond City Council, which will make the final decision to accept, modify, or reject them has scheduled Closed-Record Public Hearings on the MPD Applications to start Monday, June 21, at 7 PM at the Black Diamond Elementary School. Members of the public who originally provided testimony in the MPD Hearings before the Hearing Examiner will be allowed to testify before the Black Diamond City Council. However, since these are "closed-record" hearings, no new evidence can be presented. These Public Hearings are open to all members of the public.

At recent Black Diamond City Council meetings members of the public have repeatedly requested the rules of conduct (time limits, number of sessions, topics allowed, etc.) for Public Testimony be discussed, but city attorneys have invoked a "quasi-judicial" cloud surrounding the City Council. This effectively has barred any discussion of such rules before the Public Hearings actually start--even discussion amongst City Council members themselves!

Specific Area Council concerns remain the impacts of urban development both directly and indirectly on the Rural Area and its citizens. Members of the public can check the City of Black Diamond web site for hearing dates:
<http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/>.

KCC Committee Report/Discussion : The next meeting will be this Wednesday at 7 p.m. This week we will draft recommendations on changes to code. At the next council meeting the committees will present their recommendations, and the information will be submitted to Harry with copies to the relevant departments. We want to ensure that what we recommend is listened to.

Train Show: This is the 13th Annual Train show. It will be there third weekend in October. Steve spends a lot of time organizing this, and doesn't have the time this year. The train show has a lot of momentum, and there are people that want to do this again. This is part of our community, and people don't even have to be told that the train show is the third week in October. Dick may have a plan of events from start to finish, and with our permission John Huson a former Councilmember would like to implement the plan. He'll need help the day of the event, and would like to see 5 members help. The Black Diamond Historical Society has also been a great partner. The question was asked about where we get the door prizes. About \$200 dollars will be allocated for prizes. They also send out letters asking for donations. The Council agreed that John will implement the plan.

UAC/Joint Forum Hosting: Once a year the chairman's and Presidents from the UAC's along with State and County officials have a forum. We've been asked to host this event, and we will need a larger venue. There is typically an hour of Q and A. They are thinking about the last week in July. We need to find the location; Marissa will help with food and staffing the sign in area. It would be our responsibility to get the word out. All the Council Members should be there. Normally the time frame is two hours, and we agreed that we will host the event.

10:10 PM

Adjourn