

September 2014 Meeting Minutes

Roll Call: Hank Haynes, Steve Hiester, Peter Rimbos, Les Dawson, Lorraine Blacklock, Rhys Sterling (Nikki Long's Proxy), Warren Iverson, Craig Duckering, Tara Larson, Sue Neuner, Susan Harvey, all present.

Absent: Todd Mitchell

Motion made by Warren Iverson, seconded by Hank Haynes, to accept the agenda.

Public Comment:

Mike Chase spoke about the permitting of the marijuana warehouse. His main concerns were: 44% impervious soil on the site only 125ft. from Jenkins Creek. Everyone in the area is on wells and there is concern about what kind of chemicals would end up in the aquifer.

Laura Casey questioned that there had been a proper study of the area and a proper EIS. She mentioned the terrible location in a residential area with over 30 children living close by. The road issues were a major concern as it is a narrow road without stripping or marking, full of pot holes and needing improvements. With the estimated 279 trips per day during peak operation, the road would not hold up to this kind of traffic, and there would be danger to the children before school, after school, and recreation time (bicycle riding, etc.). Where was the SEPA check list? Who would be charged for road improvement? How about protection problems because of the volatile industry? About 40 houses on this road that would be affected. Also there is the problem of increased illumination that would affect the area.

Melvin Codd who lives in the first house on the corner of this intersection expressed his worry about the 10 different school bus routes using the road every day. He also contested the low estimation of accidents that happen at the 3 way intersection. It would be a terribly dangerous intersection for the added trips estimated. Over forty citizens attended the meeting with many providing comments on the proposed warehouses to produce and process marijuana in their neighborhood. Many citizens expressed wide-ranging concerns with public safety, traffic, and environmental protection.

Guest Speaker

Ty Petersen of King County's Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER) provided an overview of two proposed warehouses to produce and process Marijuana on 6 1/2 acres in the Rural Area just northwest of SR-18, west of Maple Valley, and north of Covington. Maple Valley Industries, LLC has applied for a Commercial Site Development Permit for two one-story (~30 ft. high) 20,000-sq. ft. warehouses.

Area Council members asked Mr. Peterson several questions regarding the Commercial Site Development Permit application, other applications submitted, total project contemplated, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review, and Public participation opportunities.

Mr. Peterson stated only the application for a Commercial Site Development Permit (Type 1) has been received by DPER and they have found it to be "complete." There was much discussion about the definition of "complete" and what that meant as to vesting.

The Area Council asked about any vesting conferred upon the Applicant by such a finding of "completeness." Mr. Peterson stated DPER solicited the opinion of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's office and was told the Applicant's project is vested upon such a finding. The Area Council vigorously questioned this based on Court of Appeals cases showing such vesting can only be conferred upon an application for a Building Permit. The Area Council decided to talk with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

When asked about the process from this point on, Mr. Peterson stated DPER is reviewing over 100 Public comments it received by its September 2 deadline and ensuring it has all the information necessary to make its decision on the permit application. Mr. Peterson stated he expects DPER to release its "Technical Review" by Friday, September 19. The Area Council will maintain close contact with Mr. Peterson and request a copy of the document when released.

The Area Council's Growth Management Committee will evaluate the document and provide comments to DPER. The Area Council will provide all information it obtains, including reviews it conducts, to the concerned citizens. The Area Council also discussed specific technical concerns related to: Stormwater Infiltration Pond, Health Hazards, and Traffic Impacts and Mitigation.

Dave Fields, former council member expressed concerns for safety issues, gangs, police response times, as well as fire and emergency issues. The Area Council asked that these issues be considered as well in the permitting processes. Traffic, environmental issues, and road improvement were topics that were widely discussed. Information was shared between the Community groups and Area Council so that there would be open lines of communication in sharing any new information gathered and concerns that need to be addressed.

Transportation Issues:

Plans were finalized and announcement made about the upcoming Traffic meeting. The Area Council's Transportation Committee, in

conjunction with the Four Creeks UAC, Upper Bear Creek UAC (northeast), and Green Valley/Lake Holms Association (southeast), has finalized preparations for a meeting with local State Legislators. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss transportation issues facing the Unincorporated Area and potential solutions that could necessitate changes in State law.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the the King County Library Administration Building at 960 Newport Way NW in Issaquah. The meeting is open to the Public.

Other Council business was tabled until next meeting because of time restraints. A motion was made by Lorraine Blacklock and seconded by Hank Haynes that the August minutes be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved unanimously by everyone after a very busy meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Rob Morris.