November 2011 Meeting

King County Comprehensive Plan

by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, November 7, the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) held its regular monthly meeting. Major topics included: King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) 2012 Update and DDES Fees.

King County Comprehensive Plan

Paul Reitenbach, Comprehensive Plan Project Manager of KC Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES), discussed the 2012 major 4-yr update to the KCCP. The KCCP is the guiding policy document for all land use and development regulations in unincorporated King County, and for regional services throughout the County including transit, sewers, parks, trails, and open space.

Every year the KCCP can be amended to address technical updates that do not require substantive policy changes. Every fourth year a complete review of the KCCP is done, as is the case for 2012. In this review, broader policy issues can be addressed and the plan amended accordingly. A Public Review Draft (PRD) of the 2012 KCCP Update is available here. Public Comments are due Friday, December 23, and can be e-mailed.

The Area Council's Growth Management Committee and the Transportation Committee have been reviewing the PRD. The committees have focused on specific Chapters (Ch) and Appendices of particular interest to Rural Area citizens:

Ch 3--Rural Area & Natural Resource Lands;

Ch 4--Environment:

Ch 6--Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Resources;

Ch 7--Transportation;

Ch 8--Services, Facilities, & Utilities;

Ch 9--Economic Development; Area Zoning Studies; and Transportation Needs Report.

These Area Council Committees submitted a set of Questions on the above KCCP sections last week to Mr. Reitenbach for which he provided written responses from various County departments. The Committees will present their final recommendations to the full Area Council for discussion at our December 5 Monthly Meeting.

Any comments or questions about the PRD or requests for a hard copy can be sent to Mr. Reitenbach: Comprehensive Plan Project Manager, DDES, 900 Oakesdale Ave SW, Renton, WA 98057. Mr. Reitenbach also can be contacted at (206) 296-6705 or by e-mail.

Following review of all comments received, the King County Executive's proposed 2012 KCCP Update will be presented to the King County Council on March 1, 2012 for final consideration.

DDES Fees

Warren Cheney, Chief Financial Officer in the Administrative Services Division of King County DDES, discussed Permit Fees. DDES is in the process of converting from an hourly charge system to fixed fees based on project size and complexity. Highly complex major projects still will be handled on an hourly basis tied to DDES services provided. The King County Council currently is looking at the proposed final stages of DDES conversion to a fixed fee system with a vote expected by the end of the year.

New Members

Dave Fields re-joined the Area Council following a medical leave as a member from the Hobart Community Area. Bevel Hoffpauir joined as a member from the Ravensdale Community Area. The Area Council has received additional applications and will contact those people.

Four Area Council positions remain open: three in the Francis Community Area (precincts: Atkinson, Francis, Dorre Don, Shadow Lake, Sweeney, and portions of Lake Youngs) and one in the River Heights Community Area (precincts: Cedar Park, Milwaukee, Riverside, Spring Lake, and portions of Morris, Elliot, Daniel, and Valencia).

The next Area Council Monthly Meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, from 7:00 - 9:30 PM at the Fire Station at 231st St & SR-169.