

May 2013 Ravensdale Park

by Peter Rimpos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, May 6, the Area Council held its regular monthly meeting. Major topics discussed were: (1) Reserve Silica; (2) Ravensdale Park; and (3) Citizens' Survey and Ballot.

Public Comments

During Open Public Comments, Dorre Don resident Shelly Evans described the proliferation of Methamphetamine houses in her neighborhood. She said the police have done drive-throughs, but have made no arrests. Ms. Evans' concerns also included increased thefts in the neighborhood. Area Council members offered several ways to draw attention to these problems and eventually get them resolved. In addition, Ms. Evans was encouraged to attend the May 21 Community Service Area meeting at which top King County officials, including the Sheriff's office, will be taking questions and listening to concerns from unincorporated area residents (see item below)

Reserve Silica

The Reserve Silica rezone Demonstration Project (approved by the King County Council as part of the 2012 King County Comprehensive Plan update) remains an issue that unincorporated area communities throughout the County continue to voice to King County officials. The Middle Green River Coalition recently submitted a letter to the King County Council that details research conducted by member Greg Wingard regarding historic contamination and continuous permit and environmental violations by previous Reserve Silica owners.

These serious concerns add to the issues already voiced by the Area Council and other Unincorporated Area Councils in letters and oral testimony to the King County Council. The Area Council remains committed to seeing the King County Council reverse its misguided and misinformed decision. Please see our web site for more details: www.greatermaplevalleyareacouncil.org.

Ravensdale Park

At the Area Council's April 1 monthly meeting, Ravensdale resident Joe O'Dell described concerns with the Ravensdale Park plans. Mr. O'Dell spoke about the following with respect to Phase I: Synthetic field material impacts, incomplete buffer planting, and incomplete invasive species removal. Mr. Odell stated the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist did not disclose that the entire area was a Category 1 critical aquifer recharge area. One of Mr. O'Dell's major concerns was that SEPA analysis only looked at the site for stormwater collection, not removal of organic contaminants that he stated are typically associated with the type of field turf used.

In response the Area Council tasked its Natural Resources/Parks Committee to review Mr. O'Dell's concerns and documents, then present its recommendations on further action to the full Area Council. The Committee met on April 29 at Ravensdale Park to tour the facilities, study available information, and review the SEPA process milestones.

The Committee recommended the Area Council wait for the SEPA public process (i.e., public comments are due May 13 with follow-up responses by King County by the end of the month) to be complete. The Area Council would then decide if the issues were adequately addressed by King County in its responses to Public comments.

[For more information click here.](#)

Citizens' Survey/Area Council Ballot

The Area Council conducted its Bi-Annual Member Election and Citizens' Survey with help from a Community Service Area Grant. A combined Election/Survey was sent by mail to all unincorporated area registered voters in the Tahoma School District--a total of ~11,000. The response was excellent with over 1,800 returned (~16%).

The Area Council would like to thank all who participated. Your participation makes the Citizens' Survey important and timely. Final results of both our member election and citizens' survey are now being compiled and will be published in local newspapers, posted to our website, and sent to King County officials.

Community Service Area Annual Meeting

King County officials will attend the 2013 Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Community Service Area Meeting on Tuesday, May 21, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Hobart Community Church. The Public is strongly encouraged to attend and present it's concerns to King County Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett, King County Councilman Reagan Dunn, and all major King County Departments.

Next Area Council Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Fire Station at 231st St & SR-169. Area Council meetings

are held the first Monday of each month (except holidays). A Public Comment period at the beginning of each meeting provides citizens an opportunity to voice issues of concern to Area Council members and government officials in attendance.