

May 2015

Ravensdale History

by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, May 4, the Area Council held its monthly meeting. Major topics included: New Ravensdale Historical Markers; Area Council's Bi-Annual Survey/Ballot/Newsletter; Four-year update to the King County Comprehensive Plan; and Status of proposed Marijuana Processing Facility on 200th Ave SE.

Ravensdale Historical Markers

Michael Brathovde of Ravensdale provided an overview of the historical markers being created to be installed this Fall in and around the new Ravensdale Park.

King County Parks and the Ravensdale Park Foundation have received a grant from 4-Culture and a generous donation from Rock Creek Sports, to develop and install interpretive signs along the walking trail in the Community Meadow (south of the Post Office) and at selected sites in the Park. The signs will address Ravensdale / Georgetown History, area geologic history, pre-European settlement times, the coming of the railroad and coal mines, through the collapse of the town following the mine explosion of 1915, and the long, slow recovery to the Ravensdale we know today.

There will be fifteen (15) 2' X 4' signs similar to the interpretive signs recently installed at Lake Wilderness Park. Sign text and illustrations are being finalized with graphic design, production, and installation remaining. All work has been through volunteer efforts, with the grant and donation used to cover sign production costs.

Volunteer assistance is sought in sign graphic design and for installation. If you would like more information or wish to volunteer, please contact Michael Brathovde (mabrathovde@q.com; 206-793-2915).

Community Survey / Area Council Election / Newsletter

The Area Council's Biannual Citizens' Survey will be mailed this month to all registered voters in the unincorporated area of the Tahoma School District.

There will be a Ballot to elect your Area Council members, a Newsletter, and a Map of the Area Council's four Community Areas: Francis, Hobart, Ravensdale, and River Heights.

The Area Council uses Survey results to help keep abreast of citizen concerns and to help direct communications with County and other government officials.

Citizens are requested to look for their Survey/Ballot/Newsletter in the mail and take a few minutes to respond and help our local community.

King County Comprehensive Plan Update

The Area Council discussed its first major input for the 2016 major 4-year King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Update. The Growth Management Committee reviewed existing KCCP chapters on Rural Areas and Services & Facilities. It identified key issues of importance to local citizens (e.g., RA-2.5 zoning impacts, siting of urban-serving facilities in the Rural Area, Mapping of Transfer of Development Rights sending and receiving sites, annexation bonded debt, etc.).

A set of Recommendations for changes to the existing KCCP were developed. The Area Council discussed and approved those recommendations. They will be forwarded to the King County Executive's Office for consideration of inclusion in the Public Review Draft to be released in October. Citizens can submit comments to: COMPPLAN@kingcounty.gov; follow the Update:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/psb/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan.aspx>; and provide comments to the Area Council at its monthly meetings.

Marijuana Processing Facility

The application for a Commercial Site Development Permit (CSDP) for the proposed Marijuana Processing Facility (at the southend of 200th Ave SE due south of the SE Wax Rd/SE 240th St) has undergone a second County Technical Review. The Area Council provided inputs to that review, primarily related to traffic concerns. The County has decided to do another site visit and it is not clear at this time if additional questions will be sent to the Applicant.

Last Summer the King County Council placed a one-year Moratorium on all isolated Industrial-zoned parcels in the Rural Area and asked the County Executive to conduct a study of those parcels that met certain requirements, such as road access.

The County's Department of Permitting and Environmental Services (DPER) prepared a Report on Isolated Industrial-Zoned Parcels in Rural Area. It identified the 200th Ave SE parcel as the only one that met the criteria.

Consequently, the King County Council proposed the property be rezoned from Industrial to RA-5. However, such rezoning will not impact the pending approval of the Applicant's CSDP, as the proposed Facility is an allowed conditional-permitted use.

Next Area Council Meeting

The Area Council's next monthly meeting will be held Monday, June 1, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Fire Station on the southeast corner of the intersection of SE 231st St & SR-169. Meetings are held the first non-holiday Monday of each month. A Public Comment period at the beginning of each meeting provides an opportunity to voice issues of concern to Area Council members and government officials in attendance.

Your Area Council serves as an all-volunteer, locally elected advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District. Please visit: www.greatermaplevalleyareacouncil.org.

*** NOTE: There currently are three positions open on the 16-member Area Council. If you live in the Tahoma School District outside the City of Maple Valley (see Service Area Map on our web site), you are eligible to apply to become a member of the Area Council. Interested Rural Area citizens can send a brief letter of interest to GMVUAC, P. O. Box 101, Maple Valley, WA 98038 or an e-mail to gmvac_chair@hotmail.com. ***