

July 2016

King County Comprehensive Plan by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, July 11 (the 2nd Monday this month due to the July 4 Holiday), the Area Council held its regular monthly meeting. Topics included: (1) King County Comprehensive Plan Comments; (2) Fire District #43 Proposition #1; and (3) Cedar River Open House and Tour.

King County Comprehensive Plan Comments

The King County Council's Transportation, Economic, & Environment (TrEE) Committee has been reviewing the King County Executive's proposed 2016 KCCP 4-yr major update. The Area Council's major committees have been reviewing the Executive's proposal and developing sets of Written Comments. The Area Council has submitted comments to the TrEE Committee in major pieces: Transportation (submitted on May 3) and Growth Management (June 7). Tonight both Environment- and Economic Development-related comments were discussed.

The Area Council's Environment Committee presented a set of comments which addressed several issues including: Use of in-lieu fees should not replace environmental mitigation; Development in coal-mine hazard areas incurs unjustified risks to the Public; and Siting of urban or largely urban-serving facilities in Unincorporated or Rural Areas should not be allowed. Following discussion, the full Area Council agreed to a final set of Environmental comments to submit.

The Area Council's Economic Development Committee presented a set of comments which addressed several issues including: Lack of a County Economic Development Organization to coordinate, execute, and implement policies; Lack of recognition of aquaculture and fisheries; and Needed emphasis on homegrown firms which demonstrate innovativeness, intellectual property development, production, and/or services. Following discussion, the full Area Council agreed to a final set of Economic Development comments to submit.

All approved Comments will be submitted to the King County Council's TrEE Committee and be posted on the Area Council's web site: www.greatermaplevalleyareacouncil.org

Fire District #43 Proposition #1

The Area Council discussed the pros and cons of the upcoming August Proposition #1. It is proposed to change the method of financing from the existing levy system to a Fire Benefit Rating System (FBRS) that would provide funding for 6 years and re-staff stations to the pre-cut 2008 levels.

The average base charge under the proposed FBRS for a \$360,000 home would be \$5.40/month (\$64.80/year). Staffing the Hobart and Ravensdale fire stations would add \$8.70/month for each station, or a total increase of \$208.80/year for both stations staffed full time. However, the proposed ballot measure does not include staffing either of these stations. Consequently, it does not appear the Rural Area will receive any added benefit from this change.

For these reasons and because the current levy and assessments will support District operations through the end of 2017 (i.e., there should be time for the District Commissioners to make changes to any future proposed FBRS), the Area Council does not support the Proposition #1.

Cedar River Habitat

The Area Council Environment Committee reported the Cedar River Council will hold an Open House on Tuesday, July 26, at 5:00 PM at the Riverbend Mobile Home Park Clubhouse located at 17410 SE Renton-Maple Valley Highway (SR-169).

This is an opportunity for the Public to learn about river habitat and flood protection. There will be a tour of and a presentation on the Riverbend Levee Setback and Floodplain Restoration. Also, Cedar River invasive weeds and wood hazards will be discussed.

Next Area Council Meeting

Monday, August 1, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, at the Fire Station located at the SE corner of SE 231st St & SR-169 intersection. All members of the Public are welcome.

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.