

May 2016

Newly Elected Members Welcomed by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, May 2, the Area Council held its regular monthly meeting. Topics included: (1) Introduction of New Members; (2) Marijuana Operations; (3) King County Comprehensive Plan Comments; and (4) Onsite Sewage Systems Work Group.

Introduction of New Members

As a result of the recent Bi-Annual Election, four new Area Council members were introduced (Community Areas each will represent are in parentheses): Stephen Deutschman (River Heights), Linda Harer (Hobart), Adam Sterling (Hobart), and Teresa Sweet (Francis). All new members were sworn in and took their seats. The Area Council thanks all the citizens who voted and welcomes its newly elected members.

Longtime member, Rob Morris, citing an increased work load at the Hobart Church and many other community duties, has decided to resign from the Area Council. Rob has served the community well in many capacities and will continue to do so. The Area Council thanked Rob for all his years of service as a councilmember.

Marijuana Operations

The full Area Council discussed a permit application for a Marijuana growing operation on 269th Ave SE in Hobart. The Area Council's Executive Committee developed and submitted a set of comments to the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER) late last month to meet its April 25 deadline.

Comments focussed on several concerns including Odor Control, Septic Systems, Road Culvert Integrity, and Inconsistencies with King County Code. However, the primary concern addressed was that of Public Safety and the Sheriff's office lack of funds to properly patrol the Rural Area, and especially Marijuana operations that deal with a high-value crop and often deal only in cash. After deliberation, the full Area Council approved the Executive Committee's comments and their submittal to KC DPER.

Also discussed was the April 25 King County Council 8-1 vote to establish a 4-mo Moratorium on Marijuana permitting in the Unincorporated Area. The King County Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Moratorium on Tuesday, May 25, at 1:30 PM at the King County Courthouse at 516 Third Ave in Seattle.

The Area Council discussed what King County Code including zoning regulations could be modified. The Area Council's Growth Management Committee was tasked with researching and developing a set of Code recommendations to submit to the King County Council for consideration before the Moratorium runs out at the end of August.

King County Comprehensive Plan Comments

The King County Council's Transportation, Economic, & Environment (TrEE) Committee is reviewing the King County Executive's proposed 2016 KCCP 4-yr major update submitted to it on March 1. The Area Council's major committees have been reviewing the Executive's proposal and developing sets of detailed Written Comments. The Area Council has decided to submit its comments to the TrEE Committee in major pieces: Transportation, Growth Management, Economic Development, and Environment, which also line up with the Area Council's major committees.

The Area Council's Transportation Committee presented a set of comments which addressed several issues including: Need for county-wide "road networks" (which know no jurisdictional boundaries), as well as a better funding mechanism, to help address the dearth of Unincorporated Area road funding; Need for enforcement of Transportation Concurrency and better collaboration between jurisdictions; and Elimination of the use of Transfer of Development Rights to satisfy Transportation Concurrency anywhere within the Rural Area. Following discussion, the full Area Council agreed to a final set of comments.

Written Comments under development by the Area Council's Growth Management and Economic Development Committees will be discussed at the Area Council's June 6 monthly meeting and by the Environment Committee at the Area Council's July 11 monthly meeting.

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

Onsite Sewage Systems Work Group

Public Health – Seattle and King County (Public Health) is undertaking a process to update its Onsite Sewage Systems Management Plan (OSS are also commonly called Septic Systems). The 2007 plan is being updated to incorporate new information, highlight current problems, address new issues, and more thoroughly evaluate all King County OSS.

A Work Group has been formed consisting of representatives from: the OSS Service Industry; Government Agencies; Builders; Homeowners and Businesses with OSS; Public Sewer Service Providers; and Realtors. Warren Iverson will represent the Area Council on the Work Group.

The Work Group will evaluate critical OSS issues and provide feedback to Public Health, which will draft an update to the OSS Plan. Dr. Jay Watson from EPM, LLC has been contracted to facilitate the Work Group. For more information, please contact Jay at (206) 842-7781 or jay.watson@environmentalpolycymatters.com.

Next Area Council Meeting

Monday, June 6, 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.