

GMVUAC June 4, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order – 7:02 pm

Members Present:

Steve Hiester	Susan Harvey
Peter Rimbos	Rhys Sterling
Adam Sterling	Celia Parker
Lorraine Blacklock	Warren Iverson
LarKen Buchanan	Stephen Deutschman (Dutch)
Luke Hansen	Paul Schultz

Members Absent:

Hank Haynes (proxy to Peter)
Sue Neuner (proxy to Steve)
Mike Thompson (no proxy)

Agenda:

Rhys moved to approve the agenda, Lorraine seconded.

Motion passed

Public Comment Period:

Val Paganelli: Member of the Tahoma School District Board, last month the Board selected Tony Giurado as successor for Rob Morrow as superintendent, he's coming from Grand Junction, Colorado, served as chief academic officer. Quick selection process last month, Giurado will be coming next week, here Monday and Tuesday, if you would like to meet or participate please let me know, he will be joined by his wife and son. I also want him to come to a GMVUAC meeting, see the rural aspects. Something that came out late in selection process was his connection to school safety, was in the same school district during the Columbine shootings. He's very teaching oriented, will help us honor the past and think about the future.

Rhys: Yesterday Adam graduated from UW School of Law, maybe now he can finish the minutes on time.

Warren: Now two lawyers on council, got Adam a congratulatory certificate signed by all GMVUAC members and a graduation gift (rubber duck).
(Adam accepted)

Guest Speakers:

King County (KC) Sheriff's Office, Major Troy Olmsted

Troy Olmsted: I'm the precinct commander for Precinct 3, was assigned 6 weeks ago, was also here a year before as operations captain, been in law enforcement for 30 years, 10 years in Arizona, 20 in KC. Originally from here, but joined Air Force and moved around. My philosophy toward law enforcement, I'm passionate about being good stewards of public money, want to do the best job we can do and serve with integrity. My background is in internal investigations and community outreach, strong community ties are important but also need accountability. Another part of my philosophy, as a leadership role, if something's going wrong you should own it, if it's going right then you should let others take credit. Cannot make all crime disappear, just do the best we can do, but we can fix some things, want to have open discussions.

I brought crime statistics for 2015-2017, shows a decrease in most criminal activity except aggravated assault, that only increased a little, I was asked to concentrate on reducing burglaries, so there's a considerable drop there. We faced a number of budget cuts, mentality of providing more with less, philosophy was to pick one thing to be good at. Difference between burglary and robbery, burglaries mean taking something from a dwelling, robberies mean taking something from a person. Statistics are from areas F2, F3, F4, F5, and F7, which includes southern Issaquah and the Greater Maple Valley (MV) area, boundaries are different from the council area boundaries, but data is only from the unincorporated area (UA), cities of Covington or MV would have their own statistics. Burglaries are down in other areas as well. Crime stats are broken down into different categories, mail theft would be included in lesser theft data, that was not requested so I did not bring it, but generally every area is at the same level or lower. Aggravated assault might include domestic disputes.

I also brought a list of questions to answer that I received for this presentation. Problems in Dorre Don, there are 1 or 2 problem areas, evictees able to return to buildings, it's a work in progress, there can be more teeth with a home owners association, and evictions are easier with rentals. Our special enforcement team (SET) is looking at issues under the bridge with potential drug use, if you see activity you must call 911, only those calls are counted.

LarKen: Officers need to learn how to deal with animals, have had gates left open.

Troy Olmsted: Seen loose cows, that's not taught at the academy, many officers are afraid of animals, can try to work on that.

Bonnie Curran: I live on Maxwell Road, people with backpacks on a dead-end road are stopping other people from going back there.

Troy Olmsted: Will send a narcotics unit, you need to call 911 when it happens. As for mail theft or vandalism, I've been a victim too, must report it to the police,

we work with the Postmaster General but they're mostly interested in larger cases, best way is to lock your mailbox. Also had success with neighborhood block watches, "3 D's" of crime prevention: deter, delay, and detect. Getting vehicle descriptions are also important, we know it's an issue.

Regarding staffing, there are 15 districts, not all have an individual deputy assigned, we keep 8 minimum across all, but would like 11, all vehicles only have single officer unless it's a training car. All of unincorporated KC (UKC) is 1700 square miles, Precinct 3 is half of that, a Forest Service contractor patrols area F99, but these are big areas with only 1 car. We're honestly understaffed, law enforcement is different, criminals don't have boundaries or limited numbers, we partner with city agencies, need to work together. We have "Top 5" meetings, process was used to address burglaries, many perpetrated by organized groups or serial burglars, numbers go down when we take down a group, by focusing on the top 5 criminals, can charge them with multiple crimes when caught, more effective in reducing crime, now shifted to drug issues. Legalizing marijuana has increased illegal marijuana growth, some shipping out of state, organized overseas, not a societal downfall like some thought but there are other problems, illegal grows are not paying taxes, dark market still exists.

???: If there are 8 officers on the road in Precinct 3, and KC Sheriff's Office employs over 1,000 people, how do you determine where officers go?

Troy Olmsted: We have 730 deputies, add the total civilian staffing then it's over 1,000. Precinct 4 is smaller in numbers, only 2 people on Vashon Island, lesser density so fewer officers, but maybe more calls. Sheriff's Office purchased software to better determine staffing numbers, now mostly determined by how much money is given, but I was also told it's based on the size of the district or calls for service, but now making an effort to record calls, measure how much time it takes to complete calls, etc. A company will then use that info to determine staffing, which is why we emphasize calling 911 to report issues, also telling deputies to be accurate with dispatch reports, time arrived, time taken, etc., since that info is important to determine staffing. We're not 100% accurate, but I asked them to be 30% better on numbers, hopefully this will get us more staffing, but to be determined.

Steve: The 700 number includes all precincts in the Sheriff's Office? What percentage per population?

Troy Olmsted: Total officers in Precinct 3 is 70+, 700 is in all of KC plus contract cities, which depends on the contract. Shoreline has 55,000 people, but they have the same number of staffing as Precinct 3. 1 per 1,000 is often stated as the reasonable patrol response, were currently at 0.8 officers per 1,000.

Dutch: 2 officers, is that for full-time equivalent? On duty 24 hours? Hour shifts?

Troy Olmsted: On a shift, usually at minimum levels, so 8 are on duty every 24 hours. We have contract partners, could be city cars on duty that will help us when nearby, there are benefits to contracting, we work together, use the same radio. Contract cities usually work 4 10-hour shifts, while UA does 8-hour shifts, work 5 days then off 2, then work 5 days and off 3. It takes 4.2

people to have one officer on patrol, 52 on patrol w/ 8 minimums, only running 46 now, paying overtime. People don't want to be cops anymore, unpopular as a career, hard to find new recruits.

???: I work at the federal level, people don't want to work for us either. Been there for 31 years, just not an attractive career anymore.

Troy Olmsted: Could be a generational thing? My son is also a police officer, works on a MV contract.

Susan: So are issues not tallied if there's no 911 call?

Troy Olmsted: That helps, the department's on-view also goes into the system, but not general calls, e.g., about speeding problems in an area. If you call the desk, the department might still follow up but it's not tracked when informal, a new report-writing system is being implemented, but calling 911, the complaint center, or the individual department are the best ways.

Dutch: Have some complaints about no muffler on a vehicle, do you send notices? (No)

Peter: You mentioned there was a 50% reduction in burglaries, but have you evaluated what you did right? I live in the Lake Francis area, some houses were wiped out by burglars, we organized with Major Thomas a neighborhood block watch meeting, put up "Block Watch" signs, etc. I want to know what works.

Troy Olmsted: I was not in charge back then, my observation is that "Top 5" meetings and focusing on groups responsible for large numbers of burglaries helped, numbers went down after arresting groups, but was not here at the time, need to track. Community banding together for block watches, organizing community awareness is important, serves as deterrence, even just asking questions to suspicious people can help.

Lorraine: Wanted to make a statement, KC must fund first responders off top of budget, I also learned recently why it takes 3 cars to stop 1 person, there's lots of paperwork, it's faster to have many cars.

Troy Olmsted: I was also asked a question of what crime would I want to change the amount of time we spend on, it takes 3 hours to process a DUI, that's lots of time for a misdemeanor.

Warren: Mail theft, if it's taken off someone's porch is it burglary? I also got complaints about lots of bikers, cop escorts?

Troy Olmsted: It's just theft unless they enter a residence. People have been doing a triathlon recently, groups pay deputies to work off duty. I will also leave my business cards.

LarKen: Wanted to say that Officer Britney rocks, been very helpful.

Troy Olmsted: We need more great officers like that, want community help, usually done with lateral hiring, very few new hires, if you know people please send them our way. Sheriff's Office always hired best people, responsibilities are greater because out by selves covering wider area, I told my sergeants we could lower our standards and hire anyone or we look for the best people and deal with shortages, was told not to lower our standards. Offering the best service is important to us.

Susan: Do you cover Green Valley Road?

Troy Olmsted: Yes, drive it regularly.

Warren: The county closed Precinct 3 a while ago, we pestered the county to reestablish it.

Troy Olmsted: I was here at that time, did a tour in 2006.

Rhys: Wanted to say that Micki Christensen with the KC Sheriff's Office is also great. Please let us know if you want anything distributed to community.

Troy Olmsted: She's great, the staff run everything.

Council Business: 8:06

John Henry Mine:

Rhys: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has given notice in the process of reissuing the mining permit for the John Henry Mine, it's surface coal mine, and the federal government has authority over surface coal mines. It is up to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) whether to take the program back from the federal government, but it has not done so yet. Washington is one of 12 states where the federal government issues permits, but that does not mean the state is out of the loop. The Department of Ecology (DOE) submitted an application regarding pollution, requested to be put on mailing list, KC is also involved in grading permits, but OSMRE takes primary control over coal mines. Would like to invite someone from DNR, ask their position, what they do when the federal government reactivates an inactive mine after 10+ years. We all have different perspectives on coal, we offered comments in the past to the federal government, but the mine is outside of our primary service area.

Peter: The trucks will travel on SR 169 and come through our area.

Rhys: Our website has info on the John Henry Mine under the Environment Committee, also a DOE link for public notice. etc. We will keep on top of it.

Peter: DNR made the decision not to take over regulation? Why only coal mines?

Rhys: The legislature deferred to DNR in the laws of 1984, chapter 215, section 8.

Adam: Some observations, the reason why the federal government is concerned with coal and not other mines probably has to do with energy and national security, strong interest in ensuring fuel can be mined within United States and shipped between states, used to have steam-powered battleships. Why DNR declined to regulate probably is due to there being only 2 surface mines currently in Washington, both have been inactive for 10+ years, would probably have cost more to regulate than it would be worth.

Peter: I also heard the purpose was to delay reclamation? DNR is in charge of reclamation normally, what about DOE? It's a local control issue, I don't like that Black Diamond (BD) residents or anyone had any say in the matter.

Rhys: DOE is involved, they issue permits for water.

Warren: Should let federal government regulate, presidential order.

Susan: Washington is 1 of 12, do other states have local control? The Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER) also wrote a letter not favoring, DNR and the city are also against it, the data used in assessment

was 20 years old, it probably has more to do with federal renewal of coal, they disregarded facts.

Paul: What about the Ashland kilns in Oregon burning coal? Economically it makes sense. We can invite the Pacific Coast Coal Company (PCCC) who owns the John Henry Mine.

Steve: That coal comes from Canada or the Midwest, also Centralia used to have a mine.

Rhys: Should we invite PCCC, DNR, and DOE to our next meeting? Others? We can see who's available.
(More discussion)

Paul: I will take charge of this, can send out invite letters, will forward you a draft.

Warren: I would also like to invite the KC assessor.

Steve: What about a budget presentation? Dwight Dively?

Peter: I also have an open invitation to Adam Emerson with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding the Issaquah-Hobart Road/Front Street study.

Warren: I have on-site septic (OSS) meetings on June 18 and 25 in Kent, I'm an alternate for the property rights group, subject to us showing up.

Paul: I will ask for next month, but we will see what works for them.
(Discussion about changing July meeting date, next meeting will be on July 2)

Draft Black Diamond Stewardship Plan:

Rhys: Mike Thompson is not here, but I want to thank Michael and Donna Brathovde, Mike took on task of going over the draft of the BD stewardship plan, highlighted items where the draft fell short, we asked for an extension until June 11 to submit comments to KC DNR and Parks, Peter will craft a letter and submit. I e-mailed the council on comments, but it's hard to comment on a plan prior to implementation, a lot that we raised in our 2017 letter was not addressed, it seems that the county doesn't care what we say? I would like to put motion on table to put together a letter based on our comments and submit them by June 11. Michael and Donna Brathovde have been involved in the multi-use, multi-user, multi-area plan.

Susan: I would like to see something added not to have bikers overwhelm the land by organization, it should favor horse riders, I saw a sign on the MV Highway for delays due to bikers, they have a lot of power, I want it written in that hikers and horse riders can use the trails, urban areas see us as a park.

Lorraine: Equestrians are organized but they're not aggressive enough.

Rhys: Could this be done by area or trail?

Michael Brathovde: One area is designated to mountain bikers, that use doesn't mesh with horse riders, trails are dense and serpentine with jumps, even though the permit is for backcountry trails, the plan dedicates those trails to bikers and hikers must yield.

Peter: If the plan is dedicating a certain number of miles to bikes, is it also dedicating miles to others? Bikers can go on any trail, what does the steering committee think about this? Will the plan be marked?

Michael Brathovde: No, bikers and hikers can use all trails, but none are dedicated to hikers or bikers. There is a voluntary agreement between bikers and equestrians on use, bikers already posted no horses signs in Henry's Ridge trails, in plan they agreed to take signs down and label the trail as open to all but horses discouraged, still pretty wishy-washy.

Donna Brathovde: One undesignated land, but the bike community already has plans drawn up, already have lots of exclusive areas, but biker groups have own funding to build and maintain trails, so the county leans toward them.

Lorraine: Equestrians also maintain trails, they just don't advertise.

LarKen: Where is the biker base?

Michael Brathovde: The main group is Evergreen Bike Alliance, they're well funded with lobbyists, based in Seattle, currently 17 miles of bike trails to be expanded to 40, this area is not yet designated, the stewardship plan is to accept proposals and then evaluate how the 268 acres should be used.

Peter: Money talks?

Rhys: A voluntary, quasi-regulatory program will not work on public lands, bought with public funds, would like to see a strong pitch to KC Council for an ordinance for the designated areas, not just signs, it needs teeth.

Steve: Need to have designated single-use and multi-use areas.

Peter: I'm relying on the Environment Committee to give me their comments, I will then write a submittal letter.

Rhys: I was hoping you would take our rough comments and mold them into a letter along with the suggestion to add teeth with a county ordinance.

Peter: I will submit a letter with comments.

Warren: The Backcountry Horsemen did not want to participate, said it was not worth it to be involved, Rhys should contact Linda.

Michael Brathovde: They had a representative on the steering committee who showed up for 2 meetings, said they were not interested in the area because all mountain bike trails with signs posted, all that was left is 1 mile of trails for horses, so horses stopped using them.

Lorraine: In the meeting I watched, the horse riders folded.

Donna Brathovde: They've been able to take over Duffy Hill, strictly mountain bikes only, they want to turn it into a mountain biking destination.

Peter: Is the county sitting back and doing nothing?

Rhys moved to have Peter write and submit a letter based on the Environment Committee's comments, Lorraine seconded.

Motion passed

Committee Reports:

Transportation: Susan Harvey

Susan: Chad Magendanz was here last time, said he was interested in taking a corridor approach between BD and Issaquah, he followed up and we will be having an ad hoc meeting on Wednesday with Chad, me, Dutch, Peter,

Lorraine, and Tom Goff, who is Reagan Dunn's chief of staff. The purpose is information gathering, Chad asked about funding for a local improvement district (LID), also Les Burberry with the MV City Council will be there, he had a proposal for a transportation benefit district (TBD) for SR 169 which was shelved, we're trying to work together, there are 5 different organizations in charge of different parts of that corridor. We will be at the Hobart Church at 6:00 pm.

Second thing is the Ravensdale Park truck situation, KC Parks is in control of that road, we sent a reminder to TJ Davis about signs, and permanent signs were produced, installation will take place some time this month, proposed locations on the gate on the south end near Ravensdale Way. They were going to narrow the lanes, it should not prevent school buses, will have a gate for cars to get around, but just to stop trucks. Should be resolved now.

Third thing, we told KC DOT about the danger on 196th Avenue SE and 195th Avenue intersection, sent our situation-target-proposal (STP), and got a response, Dutch is the focal for that project.

Dutch: Peter wrote the STP letter, that intersection was deemed dangerous in 1994, I cringe at the thought of having a bus stop there, they did put up some caution signs for busses, but need them up the hill, I'm happy that the county has responded positively.

Val Paganelli: I forwarded the info from KC, suggested to the school board that they revisit the issue.

Susan: Peter is writing to Rose LeSmith with KC DOT, thanking them for their response, asking for more contact.

Warren: Got speed signs on Issaquah-Hobart Road, KC DOT dragged their feet, took a year, now asking for 2 more near the hill with bus stops, north of 200th and 196th Avenues, I suggested it to Reagan Dunn and they brought out speed signs for 2 weeks.

Peter: Our letter will say we would like to be involved in any conversations or on-site visits, and I will give Dutch as our contact. It also talks about a 6-month study.

Val Paganelli: I've been telling the school district to keep looking, should include someone from Tahoma on correspondence. Put me on CC until I know who is paying attention, I've been forwarding e-mails to Sean Kelly, head of operations, also Tom Misfeldt. They dismissed the first round, then Dutch provided more ammo, the county moved, and the issue was brought back up.

Dutch: Tom Misfeldt did his own study as individual, I also sent an e-mail as a private individual.

Val Paganelli: The transportation office looked at it, not planning to change the route, doing so would cause kids to take longer rides. In Tom Misfeldt's e-mail he said it was an existing bus stop, can see busses over the hill, and kids would not be happy with a change.

Peter: Usually KC would ask the school district if there was a problem, and here the school district might say there is no problem at all?

Val Paganelli: I have heard complaints about the length of bus rides after redoing routes because we couldn't pass the bus levy, I haven't heard any complaints about safety.

Steve: These are separate issues, general traffic safety issue and school bus.

Peter: I mentioned both in the STP letter, I'm surprised there's no concern, it's probably based on no data of accidents, might not be big concern to the school district, but we're trying to help.

Val Paganelli: I forwarded it as FYI, we're not done having this conversation.

Susan: Would it be helpful to set up a meeting with Tom Misfeldt and Dutch?

Val Paganelli: Dutch already offered, that might help.

Warren: New administration is coming in so staff may change, it's important to keep Val in the loop. On the Issaquah-Hobart Road, I always talked with John and Lisa with KC DOT, schools do not pay for or put up signs, but if the school district requests one then the county will put them up.

Val Paganelli: Same issue at Tahoma Elementary, at the intersection of 216th Street and 244th Avenue.

Susan: Should have a meeting, Dutch can coordinate, Peter can write a letter.

Val Paganelli: My suggestion is to include other areas, would like to have a larger conversation about bus stop safety rather than piecemeal, at least two spots and mention that there could be more, due to redrawing boundaries, I will look at that.

Dutch: We can meet after school is out, I live right next to that bus stop.

Warren: Might want to meet sooner to see busses on that road.

Val Paganelli: School is out June 20.

Environment: Rhys Sterling

Rhys: No permits have been submitted yet on the asphalt plant or the mini-casino.

LarKen: I've seen surveyors at the asphalt plant site.

Rhys: There is an ongoing enforcement action against Lakeside as the property owner, but it could be caused by Sunset Materials continuing work when it should have ceased. Hank also contacted Senator Maria Cantwell when they met on Veterans Day about coming to a GMVUAC meeting? Please also take a look at committee assignments, think about changing, members only need to be on 2 committees.

Peter: Fewer commitments allows people to devote more time.

Rhys: I will try to set up a PR/Bylaws meeting next month.

Growth Management: Peter Rimbo

Peter: I heard the adult beverage and asphalt moratorium ordinances have gone to die, because they're in the KC Planning, Rural Service and Environment (PRSE) Committee which is too busy to address, might want to have members of the public contact, unsure when they will get around to anything even though the moratorium was designated an emergency, other issues.

Rita: I've been trying to get in contact with Rick Hess from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the area near the asphalt plant has a 25-year burn ban due to carbon monoxide, but I haven't gotten the map yet, couldn't find any regulations, should be with KC DOT because carbon monoxide comes from cars. Cannot seem to get a yes/no answer, was told it was a "former" ban, but got a partial map from the fire department.

Dutch: I can get a larger map from DOE, the ban is ongoing, considered maintenance.

Peter: If there was a 20-year study, and a map is with DOE, did the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the concern? Someone should know who to contact at the EPA to find it, then give it to the PRSE Committee on KC Council, without that info the Committee might not move forward.

Dutch: I will try to find that map online.

Rita: Keep me informed, I will go in to talk in person.

Susan: There are many underground mineshafts near the asphalt plant, have you contacted the City of Renton? Any fear of water or air pollution?

Dutch: Lewis has contacted them, also KC Water District #90 doesn't want it.

LarKen: I wrote to the mayor, no response, but I heard that half of the city council is for the asphalt plant and half against. I sent to a letter to Mayor Denis Law, and then to Councilmember Armondo Pavone, Renton has aquifers off of Cedar River.

Peter: Reagan Dunn wrote a letter 2 months ago, told DPER to address the KC Water District #90 letter, but haven't heard anything yet.

Rhys: I also sent an e-mail, but heard nothing.

Warren: Also regarding Voice of the Valley subscription, they're available for \$100 per year, we don't need 15 copies, but they're on a tight budget and do a lot for us, I would like to discuss next meeting donating \$500 as thanks.

Rhys: I want to bring it up to the PR Committee, we also need to submit a grant application.

Steve: I agree, we need to roll a lot of things into a grant application, did not do one last year.

Approve Minutes:

Lorraine moved to approve the April and May minutes as amended by the feedback received, Rhys seconded.

Motion passed

Open Discussion:

Peter: We should devote some time on our next agenda to discuss committee membership, 15 minutes right after the guest speaker.

Chair adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned - 9:31 pm