

GREATER MAPLE VALLEY UNINCORPORATED AREA COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING – December 7, 2020

The monthly regular meeting of the GMVUAC held virtually via Zoom due to the COVID-19 shut down was called to order by McDonald at approximately 7:05 PM on Monday, November 2, 2020.

Roll Call: Present: Hiester, Rimbos, Neuner, Harvey, Hansen, Haynes, and McDonald.

Absent, But with Designated Proxy: Iverson: Proxy- McDonald, Buchanan: Proxy- Harvey.

Absent: N/A

Resignation: N/A

Logistics Note: Due to the COVID-19 shut down, the meeting was held virtually over Zoom.

Agenda Items

Addition agenda item: Add Task Status Matrix to the end of Meeting.

Motion: McDonald- Move to approve agenda as amended. Second: Rimbos, Approved – Unanimous.

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1. TSD Update-- Val Paganelli (TSD Board Member) (7:08):
    - Mike Hanson thanks GMVUAC for last month's meeting.
    - Still full remote learning.
    - January, 2021 is target date for some in-person learning, but that was before Jay Inslee's new recommendations.
    - Planning on a new Remote vs in-class survey- last one was in September, 2020.
    - Decision Tree for in-class learning, ok to start in-class learning is cases are 75 or less per 100,000- KC has about 360 cases per 100,000 right now.
    - 9 teachers/ adult staff have contracted Covid-19
    - May have a pilot program to do Covid-19 testing if in-class learning starts.
    - Stakeholder survey sent out today.
    - School Board members met with legislators.
    - Focus has been on core learning and students are being given grades.
  
  2. John Taylor (Department of Local Services Director) (7:16):
    - Department of Local Services (DLS) Director, John Taylor; his Roads Division Director, Tricia Davis; his Permitting Division Product Line Manager, Ty Peterson, King County Road Engineer, Joann Kosai-Eng; DLS External Communications Manager, David Daw; King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Manager, Ivan Miller; Roads Division Business Support, Kim Williams; and Community Liaison, Marissa Alegria attended the meeting.
    - John Taylor:
      - Had a successful budget process, lot of investment in urban unincorporated King County.
      - Created a new Community Service Liaison position.

- Seeing a spike in Covid-19 cases with 2121 cases reported today in King County.
  - Preparing for a tough couple of months, the vaccine should help by spring/ summer 2021.
  - DLS has a good relationship with Sheriff office.
  - 2 charter amendments about Sheriff:
  - Sheriff is changing from an elected to an appointed position, this will expand pool of applicants.
  - No adverse effects on staffing in the rural area.
  - New Sheriff will be a member of the executive, hope to create a stronger relationship to the rural unincorporated KC.
  - Change was due to Black Life’s Matter and what happened in the urban and urban unincorporated KC, probably not a lot of change in rural unincorporated KC.
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- Steve Hiester, asked each of the major subject-matter committees to pose questions for the King County guests.
  - Permitting and Code Enforcement--Growth Management Committee Chair, Peter Rimbos, posed the following questions on behalf of the Area Council:
    - Q1. What process does the Permitting Division use to evaluate highly technical reports supplied by an applicant? Does the Permitting Division solicit outside consultants to do such evaluations? If not, what in-house expertise is available and how is it used ? [examples: Pro-proposed Asphalt Facility; Erickson Trench filling]
      - A1. Ty Peterson mentioned they have a wide range of professional experts and engineers who conduct ~90% of their reviews in-house. They do outsource for structural engineering and geotechnical engineering reviews. Have some contracted consultants or sister agencies within KC like roads or water and land resources.
    - Q2. What process is used to screen permit applications that request something that could violate KC Code or KCCP Policies? [example: Upzone (Ravensdale)] King County Regional Planning.
      - A2 Director, Lauren Smith, provided us “Tools for Protecting Rural Character and Limiting Rural Development” (as called for by RCW 36.70A.070): “15. Prohibit upzones; consider downzones. Establish clear criteria for all rural zoning categories to protect rural character and control rural development.”
      - Ty Peterson previously had provided the following response: “Where a rezone proposal is within the same land use classification and does not require a Comprehensive Plan change, Permitting is required to consider and process a complete application for such a privately initiated rezone. This process includes a hearing before the Hearing Examiner, whom will consider any public testimony, the Applicants request and Permitting’s recommendation, then forwards a recommendation to King County Council for a final decision. Permitting will consider whether the proposal meets the policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan in making our recommendation.”
    - Q3. One of the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) Update “strategies” is to “Integrate social equity and public health into local and countywide planning.” How is social justice and equity taken into account when permitting large industrial operations in the Rural Area? [examples: Cedar Hills Landfill expansion; Queen City Farms grading & soils delisting; Cedar Grove Compost—all three in the Cedar River Canyon’s “Sacrifice Zone” of multiple industrial scale operations]

- A3. John Taylor mentioned that current KC social justice and equity policies deal with communities of color and historical disparities. Ty Peterson mentioned that some of these policies are relatively new and they have not applied them in a big way yet. KC has a different definition than we do. Ivan Miller stated that current KCCP policies do not cover our concerns, that it might be more of a Comprehensive Plan, the 2020 update may try and address this.
- Q4. Is the Permitting Division expected to be “self-sustaining”, if so, should it be?
  - A4. John Taylor said: “Yes, permitting is self-sustaining.” Funding model is a policy decision.
- Q5. Does the Permitting Division have sufficient staff and resources to properly process the many permit applications it receives?
  - A5. John Taylor said: “No, and there is a big backlog.” Permit funding is down, due to Covid-19 we have reduced staff by about 25% from a year ago, we have left vacancies unfilled or encouraged early retirement.
- Q6. Does the Permitting Division have sufficient staff and resources to adequately monitor issued permits to identify potential violations?
  - A6. John Taylor said: “Yes” there are enough staff to monitor, we are reactive not proactive.
- Q7. How is Code Enforcement funded? Are there sufficient Code Enforcement Staff and Resources to ensure King County Code and permit conditions are enforced and taken seriously? Do permitting fees adequately cover such downstream code enforcement?
  - A7. John Taylor stated: “Code Enforcement is funded by the General Fund and collected fines. Code Enforcement, primarily, is complaint driven.”
- Q8. Are Permits issued with specific Conditions the Permitting Division does not have the resources to enforce?
  - A8. John Taylor stated: “There are extreme cases at each end of the spectrum. Some people are incredibly egregious in not meeting conditions. Unfortunately, King County does not always have the tools and code to handle some of these. The Code Enforcement part of the King County Code is inadequate, as it is based on past concerns that dealt with strong property rights. King County does not have injunctive power.” Services Indirectly Provided by DLS Area Council Chair,
- Steve Hiester, sitting in for the Environment Committee Chair, LarKen Buchanan, posed the following question on behalf of the Area Council:
  - Q9. What services does DLS procure or coordinate with other County departments to serve Rural Area residents?
    - A9. John Taylor stated: “There are Service Partnership Agreements (SPAs) with other King County departments. The King County Council authorized the development of Community Needs Lists to identify desired connections for services. When your organizations contact other King County departments, please keep DLS in the loop (by contacting either David Daw and Marissa Alegria / Ernesto (Bong) Sto.Domingo) to ensure we stay aware of your concerns and can help facilitate responses and solutions with those other King County departments. DLS has SPAs with: Natural Resources & Parks (DNRP), Public Health, Regional Animal Services, Community and Health Services (DCHS) (under negotiation), Executive Services, Sheriff, and Metro (under negotiation).
- Transportation Committee Chair, Susan Harvey, posed the following questions on behalf of the Area Council:

- Q10. How do the Roads and Permitting Divisions interact in the formation, maintenance, and financing when contracting for Haul-Route Agreements (HRAs)? How can King County be certain that Rural Area roads are actually getting reimbursed from issued permits?
  - A10. JoAnn Kosai-Eng: HRAs typically are for 5-yrs. The Roads Division monitors the agreements and works with the Permitting Division to address cases where number of trips are exceeded and works this through the issued permit(s). HRA may be monitored annually. An HRA also can be renegotiated should operations change or are much different than originally planned. The Roads Division has flexibility.
- Q11. How do you handle several HRA on the same road?
  - A11. We look at the percentage of each and the public use to determine how much each is responsible for.
- Q12. What happens if someone does not provide their HRA logs?
  - A12. We look at the roads, if there is more damage than expected we may do a truck count.
- Q13. How often and by what methods are road classifications (Principal, Minor, & Collector Arterials) updated based on new traffic flow and volume data?
  - A13. JoAnn Kosai-Eng stated: "Road classifications are updated in the periodic King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Update process." Next update is 2024, last update was 2020.
- Q14. We are running out of money to maintain roads, when will that change?
  - A14. Seeking grant and more federal funding- working with state for additional funding for the rural roads. Road services has a stable budget for the next couple years. Eventually there may be some issues, might not replace bridges or let some roads fall apart.
- Q15. Why does the right-of-way (ROW) road tax money for utilities go to the General Fund and not to help support roads in the Rural Area?
  - A15. John Taylor stated: "That was a decision by the King County Executive and King County Council."
- General Questions
  - Q16. How does DLS interface with the King County Council Local Services Committee?
    - A16. John Taylor stated: "The Local Services Committee (<https://www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees/local.aspx>) hasn't met since the pandemic."

#### Council Business (8:59 PM)

1. Issues and Questions for Bill Ramos:
  - JTI had a meeting, decided to involve Bill Ramos.
  - Want to send questions to Bill Ramos
  - Hiester- This can be completed via email.

Motion: McDonald- Motion for Rimbo and Harvey to compile and send questions to Bill Ramos and other District 5 representatives by December 21, 2020. Second: Haynes, Approved – Unanimous.

2. Website Management:

- GMVUAC needs a website revision and management plan.
- Rimbo would like to people to update the website- Recording Secretary to upload the minutes, or each committee chair to update each committee page.
- Ryhs Sterling made a user's guide, Rimbo would like everyone to try to do something.
- Website recently crashed- updates needed to be done by an administrator.
- There is a lot on our website, would be very difficult to switch to a new platform.
- GMVUAC should use our grant to put Leif Robertson on a retainer to keep the website running.

3. Officer Elections

- Hiester- Does anyone want to step up or down?
- Normally there should be a committee to nominate an officer, however since no one wants to step up or down no committee is needed.
- Vote for officers will take place during January 4, 2021 regular meeting.

4. Task Matrix:

- Rimbo- There are 5 major tasks, 2 of which are done, there are 3 left.
  - 1- CCP- Committee Chairs and Hansen.
  - 2- Strategic Action Plan- Buchanan to coordinate.
  - 3- Final Site Development Plan (Cedar Hills Landfill).

Reports on Committee (9:27)

Economic: N/A

Environmental: N/A

Executive: N/A

Growth Management: N/A

Public Relations:

- McDonald met with Peter Eberle of Four Creeks UAC, they don't/ can't take a position on Cedar Hills Landfill.
- They provided a few neighborhoods that might be interested in joining one of our Committees.
- GMVUAC possibly expanding boundaries was not discussed.

Train Show: N/A

Transportation: N/A

McDonald Adjourned the Meeting at approximately 9:45 PM.

Minutes by Hansen.

