

CLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Clinton Community Council Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM

1. Call to Order 6:07pm Carol Flax

Attendance:

Present: Dave Hoogerwerf, Don Simmons, Michael Clyburn, Katie Grindon, Jennifer Cox, Shauna Causey, Carol Flax, Mike Gerhardt, Brandon Wise

via ZOOM: Joe Greenheron

Absent: Curt Gordon, Jon Forbes

Guests: Melanie Bacon, County Commissioner, Jim Swan, IT tech

2. Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2023 Meeting All
Brandon motion to approve, Shauna second, approved

Discussion of using draft minutes to create newsletter. Brandon offered to create a newsletter using information in the draft minutes. It was generally agreed to try this based on this agreed – on timeline. Draft minutes will be distributed within one week of a Council meeting. Brandon will re-format the information into a newsletter. A draft of the newsletter will be distributed to Council members by the 10th of the following month, with five days for Council members to comment or make corrections. Brandon will distribute the newsletter by email on the 15th of the month.

3. Treasurer's Report – Account and Budget Status Don Simmons
Written report submitted. Don noted that we received a service donation grant from Whidbey Telecom to cover the cost of our landline and internet service. We now pay only the tax, \$1.33 a month. Don suggested we consider dropping our land line though it does not cost us anything now.

4. Project Updates/Discussion
a. Clinton Gateway Update Melanie Bacon
Melanie Bacon gave a brief update on the comprehensive plan project. The public participation plan is on the website. Melanie said two topics the Commissioners definitely want to address in the housing element are short-term rentals and increasing ADUs.

b. Aquatic Center presentation Jennifer Cox
Jennifer Cox substituted for Matt Simms (who had a work conflict) in reporting on the South Whidbey Aquatic Recreation Center. She reported this has been part of SW Parks and Rec's comprehensive Plan for 30 years. A survey in 2019 showed strong community support for a pool. This project is being managed by a joint committee of Parks & Rec and the Aquatic Council. They have received \$800,000 from the state for pre-design costs. The bond on the ballot now is \$27 million construction bond for 25 to 29 years. The cost for the owner of a \$500,000 home would be about \$7/ month. They will put a

maintenance and operations levy on the ballot when the facility is close to opening. There will be a user's fee comparable to other area pools. The Foundation is creating a fund to cover the user's fee for people with low incomes.

The Center will have 2 pools, a hot tub, a sauna, showers and changing rooms, community rooms and a walking trail. There will be a mobility lift to help people with disabilities in and out of the pools.

c. Affordable Housing Update

Michael C.

The County awarded \$3.9 million to the Opportunity Council for a project in Oak Harbor with 89 affordable apartments. The public comment period for the Coles Valley application has ended. Island Roots Housing's project in Langley - Generations Place – is moving into the design phase.

c. Island County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Michael C.

The committee is currently reviewing draft goals and subgoals. A first draft of the full document was promised by EOD today but Mike has not received it. The committee will review the draft and discuss at a November 9th meeting. There will be a 30-day public comment period in February or March of 2024.

d. Legislative Committee

Katie G.

The committee had their 1st meeting and identified three priorities: Safety, Walkability (including traffic) and zoning. We also want to focus on the park, as a priority. There was a brief discussion of people feeling unsafe there because of illegal activity. Melanie said she would look into this. We want to develop a clear understanding of the process to get projects on the county / state priority lists. Melanie suggested they contact Ed Sewester, an Assistant County Engineer in Public Works. She also recommended contacting Nikki Davis, a traffic engineer in Public Works. Nikki recently received a grant for research and planning Safe Streets for All.

5. Member/Organization Updates

a. Clinton Water District

Don Simmons

Water still flowing. Jill Engstrom (former Council member) is running for re-election against one opponent. Backup generator for Heggenes Rd wells should be up and running. We have installed about 70 electronic meters so far, with 300 on-hand. Hope to complete the conversion in the next two years.

b. Friends of Clinton Library

Phyllis Alexander

Annual meeting is November 14th at the hall. Dinner at 6pm and meeting at 6:30pm. We will have an update on the plans for the library and be electing officers.

c. South Whidbey Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Cox

We have hired a new Executive Director – Brian Tomisser. He is working on the campground project, which has three phases: dry camping, facilities and RV parking. We see these as three distinct projects but the County planning dept. wants to see plans for all three phases.

The Deer Lake swimming dock is damaged and un-usable. Fish and Wildlife came to look at it but they will not fix it or take it out. Parks and Rec cannot do anything – they are only responsible for the picnic grounds. Jennifer will provide the Council a contact at Fish and Wildlife for us to contact. The new park trails on the west side of Maxwellton Road, are open, with a new sign by Pat McVay, local carver.

d. Clinton Community Hall

The hall is in the middle of its annual membership drive. There were more than 120 events at the hall in 2023. 80% of those were at the community group discount. We are working on plans to repair the reader-board. The Hall will host a Holiday Market on Dec 2nd and 3rd: 10am – 6pm Saturday and 10am – 2pm Sunday.

e. Chamber of Commerce

Katie Grindon

The art project and the website project continue to move forward. The new website will allow businesses to enter their own events on the calendar. The site is almost complete. The art installation: we have approved the final design and Kelly, at Madrona has started making them. We will have 15 to start. Each business will decorate their own or get an artist. We will host a Trunk-or-Treat on Oct. 31 at the Thirsty Crab. The Chamber is currently recruiting for a Secretary and a Treasurer.

f. South Whidbey School District

Joe Greenheron

Fall sports are almost completed. Many cross country students will be going to State. Each school has now completed an improvement plan focused on academic improvement and mental health improvement. Remember the school bond for capital improvements is on the ballot.

g. Port of South Whidbey

Curt Gordon

No report.

h. Ferries

Dave Hoogerwerf

The first electric ferry is now expected in 2027. Our run will get the second one, expected in 2029. A Lack of crew continues to be a problem here.

6. New Business

a. Council open at-large position

Carol is leaving FOCL, so Phyllis Alexander will become FOCL's rep to the Council and carol will be appointed to fill the current at-large position.

b. Carol reported she had initial conversations with two people who conducted the 2012 Future Search. They are interested on doing a ten-year update. Carol will follow up.

Next meeting: November 27, 6pm at Clinton Community Hall and ZOOM.

7. Adjourn 7:30 pm