

CLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clinton, Washington 98236
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Clinton Community Council Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM

1. Call to Order 6:03pm Jon Forbes

Attendance:

Present: Curt Gordon, Jon Forbes, Dave Hoogerwerf, Don Simmons, Michael Clyburn, Katie Grindon.

via ZOOM: Brandon Wise

Absent: Jennifer Cox, Shauna Causey, Joe Greenheron, Carol Flax, Mike Gerhardt

Guests: Emily Neff – Island County Planner, Phyllis Alexander – FOCL Vice President, Bryan Tidwell – Clinton Library Manager

2. Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2023 Meeting All
Mike motion to approve, Dave second, approved

3. Treasurer's Report – Account and Budget Status Don Simmons
Written report submitted. Don noted that we pay \$176 / year for our PO box and we receive very little mail.

4. Project Updates/Discussion
 a. Clinton Gateway Update Emily Neff
Emily (born and raised on Whidbey Island) is a new long range planner for the County. She is working on updating all elements of the County's Comprehensive Plan. These updates are due in 2025. She noted that the state made significant changes to the requirements for the housing element of the plan. Cities and counties are now required to include planning for affordable housing. The draft Public participation Plan is now available for public comment through September 30, on the County's website. Emily will work on the county-wide planning policy. The individual element updates are scheduled throughout 2024.

 b. Affordable Housing Update Michael C.
The Goosefoot Housing Group has now incorporated as a separate nonprofit organization – Island Roots Housing. Michael is the Vice-President of the new organization. The comment periods for the Coles Valley Neighborhood project's

environmental assessment and for its development application to the city of Langley are now open. The Port of South Whidbey is working with the Island Fair Association on the design of its work force housing project at the fairgrounds.

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 will be sent to the committee in late October. There will be a 30-day public comment period in February or March of 2024.

d. Legislative Committee

Katie G.

Katie asked us to review the 5 priorities for CCC from the 2020 document and provide feedback. The five priorities are:

Walkability

Traffic calming

Beautification

Zoning

Infrastructure

There was general agreement that housing (infrastructure) and traffic calming are the top two priorities.

5. Member/Organization Updates

a. Clinton Water District

Don Simmons

Water still flowing. Hilltop replacement of some water lines completed. Backup generator for Heggenes Rd wells will be online by October. First shipment of electronic meters received but waiting to receive the reader tablets before installing any meters. The survey of water lines for lead presence has found none so far. Will be completed in 2024.

b. Friends of Clinton Library

Phyllis Alexander

We had a successful book sale last week. The next one is December 9. Bryan T. reported on the Future of Clinton Library. Sno-Isle has determined the current building inadequate. Now in feasibility phase to determine whether to expand current building or build new library. This will be Sno-Isle's next capital project but there are six currently in progress. More information will be in FOCL's newsletters. Community engagement and feedback are very important to the process.

c. South Whidbey Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Cox

Jennifer absent. She will bring a representative from the aquatic committee to the October CCC meeting to discuss the new aquatic center project.

d. Clinton Community Hall

No report.

e. Chamber of Commerce

Katie Grindon

The Chamber is currently recruiting for a Secretary and a Treasurer. The art project and the website project continue to move forward.

f. South Whidbey School District Joe Greenheron
Written report submitted. School is back in session, with new start times for all grade levels (earlier for Elementary School and later for Middle/High School), as requested by families. We're also running fewer buses which is saving money and the environment.

The board set annual goals for the Superintendent, around the themes of academics, mental health, and maintaining our infrastructure. Next, the board will set goals for ourselves, likely around better communicating with the community (especially people who don't have children or grandchildren enrolled in the district).

Speaking of infrastructure, remember that the school bond initiative is back on the November ballot. A YES vote will ensure we protect our investment in the community, by making the needed repairs and upgrades that will allow our facilities to safely last another generation. Please let me know if you have any questions.

g. Port of South Whidbey Curt Gordon
The Port is working with the Fair Association on the housing project. We are in the permitting process for the passenger – only ferry dock in Clinton. We have \$1.7 million of the \$4 million total. Working with WSF to gain access to the new WSF charging station scheduled for the Clinton dock. Working with WASHDOT to clean up the beach next to the dock. We have a new report from our consultant. Curt will have the Port's E.D. send it to the Council. One note: the largest age group of south Whidbey population is 65-75 years old.

h. Ferries Dave Hoogerwerf
There is only one extra boat for the entire WSF system. The Edmonds / Kingston run is using a small replacement boat. The four largest boats in the system are all due for upgrades. Each will be out of service for several months. The new hybrid-electric ferries are way behind schedule.

6. New Business

a. Council open at-large position
Jon reports this will be posted soon.

b. Holiday meetings
We agreed to keep October and November meetings as scheduled and to cancel December's meeting.

c. The Council's Secretary position remains open.

Next meeting: October 30, 6pm at Clinton Community Hall and ZOOM.

7. Adjourn 7:18 pm