

CLINTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clinton, Washington 98236
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Clinton Community Council Meeting Minutes March 25, 2024 6:00-7:30 PM

1. Call to Order 6:01pm Jon Forbes

Attendance:

Present: Jon Forbes, Don Simmons, Michael Clyburn, Dave Hoogerwerf, Carol Flax, Katie Grindon,

via ZOOM: Joe Greenheron, Brandon Wise

Absent: Curt Gordon, Mike Gerhardt, Shauna Causey, Phyllis Alexander, Jennifer Cox

Guests: Melanie Bacon, County Commissioner, Emily Neff, Island County Planner, Christina Swan, Sherryl Christie, Dorothy Baumgartner, Doug Brand, Marie Shimada (on ZOOM)

2. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2024 Meeting All
Mike: motion to approve, Carol second, approved

3. Treasurer's Report – Account and Budget Status Don Simmons
Written report submitted. Our current balance: \$1820.98. Don noted that our expenses are still outpacing income.

4. Committee Report

Carol Flax and Christina Swan are leading a committee for planning our next public meeting. They have brought in Sherryl Christie and Dorothy Baumgartner who were key planners of the original future search. They described the purpose of that event was to support businesses and bring people together – bring all stakeholders together to discuss the question – how to create a vibrant, resilient community. Then they asked the current Council “What do you want to do this time?” General themes of the individual responses: look at big picture, learn what people want, opportunity to listen and learn issues of community, inform community of county plans for Clinton, develop Council advocacy skills. Dorothy said that the most successful community change comes when there is unity of purpose and a respectful exchange of ideas. Cheryl said they would take this input and come back with a proposal.

Public Input

Doug Brand said the Council needs to create a sense of relevance to the community.

5. Project Updates/Discussion

a. Clinton Gateway Update

Emily Neff

Emily provided an update on the county's revision of its Comprehensive Plan. The county has hired a consultant who will draft the Clinton Sub-Area Plan, a new element of the Comp Plan. Questions being considered include: Can Clinton accommodate new housing as a RAID? Can the county change Clinton to an NMUGA? Does Clinton need to be expanded? She noted that the boundaries of a RAID cannot be changed, but an NMUGA can be expanded. She reported that the county will engage in broad community engagement during the summer (June – September) concerning the Clinton Sub-Area Plan. The county is also conducting a study of septic alternatives. That kicked off this morning. There is also a water availability study being conducted by a hydro-geologist. The county staff is currently conducting a series of workshops with the County Commissioners and with the Planning Advisory Board. After they have worked through each element of the Comp Plan, staff will revise all elements and then have another round of public input.

b. Affordable Housing Update

Michael C.

Island Roots Housing's project in Langley - Generations Place – is still moving forward with a goal to break ground in the fall of 2024. The Coles Valley project application is on hold pending further information supplied by the applicant. The Langley Planning advisory committee recommended denying the Port's request for a zoning change to allow workforce housing at the Fairgrounds.

c. Island County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Michael C.

The draft strategy has been presented to the County Commissioners and the public comment period will begin soon.

c. Legislative Committee

Katie Grindon

The committee's wants to be involved in the Comp Plan update and the future search planning.

6. Member/Organization Updates

a. Clinton Water District

Don Simmons

Water still flowing and tastes good. We have installed about 200 electronic meters so far. Columbia Beach and Brighton Beach are complete. Hope to complete the conversion for all customers in two years. The deadline is October for completing the study of water lines that may contain lead or other hazardous materials. So far, the study has identified approx. 150 homes for physical inspection of water lines..

b. Friends of Clinton Library

Phyllis Alexander

Phyllis was absent so Carol reported for FOCL. The board chose not to participate in the Easter event due to change of location. The book sale last week and the Trudy Sundberg lecture were both great successes. The next book sale is June 15. No update on The future of the Clinton Library capital project.

c. South Whidbey Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Cox

No report.

d. Clinton Community Hall

No report.

e. Chamber of Commerce

Katie Grindon

Easter event is this Saturday at the Thirsty Crab. The grand launch of the art sculpture project will be May 18. The Chamber wants to participate in the park cleanup.

f. South Whidbey School District

Joe Greenheron

The district has hired a construction company to manage the capital projects funded by the recent bond passage. The Superintendent reported on progress toward institutional goals. All school board meetings are open to the public on ZOOM and als available by recordings posted on You-Tube.

g. Port of South Whidbey

Curt Gordon

No report.

h. Ferries

Dave Hoogerwerf

The new Director of Ferries Operations will be Steve Nevey. Dave thinks he will do a good job because he has experience in the system. Dave and others from the Ferry Advisory committee had an op-ed in the Seattle Times which recommended a change in the governance of the WA Ferry system – similar to British Columbia’s model – a private company owned by the state and run by a board of directors.

7. New Business

Katie moved to appoint Carol Flax to fill the vacant at-large position on the Council.

Dave 2nd: motion approved.

Dan Porter Park clean-up: The Council adopted the park several years ago and has conducted a park clean-up 2-3 times a year. Christina will coordinate with the county and work with Brandon to set a date for the next clean-up. There was general consensus that the Council continue holding periodic clean-ups.

Budget discussion: Options mentioned during discussion of our budget: creating a fundraising committee, giving up our PO Box, raising our dues, making dues mandatory. Melanie Bacon suggested we contact the County Budget Director to inquire about potential County support.

Dave moved that we cancel our PO Box and use the mailing address of the current Treasurer as our contact info. Carol 2nd. Motion passed.

Dave moved that we raise recommended dues to \$100. Mike 2nd. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Monday, April 29, 2024 at 6pm at Clinton Community Hall and ZOOM.

8. Adjourn 7:52 pm