

## SUQUAMISH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2026 (first Thursday of the month)

In person only – Suquamish UCC Church

18732 Division Avenue NE, Suquamish

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

**Land Acknowledgement** was read.

**Suquamish Council Members Present:** Ed Mullaney, Stuart Scadron-Wattles, Bruce McCain, Steve Warnert, Tom Curley, Brian Hegre, Korum Bischoff, and Martha Burke

**Suquamish Council Members Absent:** None

**Quorum:** Yes/No (7 TOTAL members, 6 for quorum)

**Kitsap County Staff:** Commissioner Christine Rolfes; and James Bunn, Kitsap County Commissioner's Office

**Community Members:** Nine were present

■ Introductions were made by Council members

■ **Initial Public Comments:** Lynne Schorn of Our Forest Fund reported on a project to save as many trees as possible in the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park (PGFHP). They hope to buy the last timber harvest rights from Rayonier, and they spearheaded the 2022 tree campaign which saved 756 acres of trees. Recently, they submitted a budget request/application to the Washington State legislature for \$750,000.00 to purchase 680 acres of trees in the PGFHP from Rayonier timber company. The exciting new development is that the House of Rep. is supporting their budget request, and if the Senate gives their approval, Our Forest Fund will be able to offer the timber company \$1,000,000.00 for the next tree purchase.

■ **Commissioner's Comments:** Commissioner Rolfes suggested that articles related to the SCAC could be published in the Suquamish News. She has spoken with the Publisher who agreed that that would be a good idea. Articles need to be submitted by the 15th of the month.

■ **Guest Presentations**

- **Mark Williams, Chief of Police, Suquamish Police Department** reported that there were no arrests for illegal drug possession in the past year, which has never happened in the past 27 years. He also reported that there has been a decline in DUI arrests. He stated that (1) the SPD will be hiring two new officers this year, (2) the SPD officers completed refresher training in Tactical Medicine in February, and (3) the SPD will be purchasing three new electronic vehicles this year.

- **David Forte, Planning Supervisor, Kitsap County Public Works** summarized its current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP plan deals with capital projects over the next 6 years. The planning process begins with a list of candidate projects which are evaluated by a number of criteria and financial costs and income, and are given scores. The scores tend to be highest for projects that deal with safety and non-motorized transportation. The sources of revenues for the projects have radically changed over the last 10 years, going from mainly levies and gas taxes to Federal grants. Another current source of funding is transportation impact fees on new projects paid by developers. With respect to Suquamish, the project to improve Augusta Avenue by adding a curb, gutter, sidewalk, and bike lane from South St. to Winfred St. is in its preliminary stages. Also, non-motorized routes from SR 305 to Division Ave. and from Winfred St. to Gunderson Rd. are in the pre-design phase and feasibility phase, respectfully.

### ■ **Ongoing or Old Business**

- Minutes from the February SCAC meeting were moved/seconded/approved (with one abstention).
- The 2026 Work Plan Status: Within the Community Outreach and Sponsored Events Focus Area, the establishment of a facebook group was discussed.
- The Suquamish Cleanup Day will be on April 25. Tom stated that tools will be provided. A suggestion was made to provide the participants with a SCAC T-shirt which would include the SCAC logo.
- SCAC Membership – A new member will be joining, as well as a youth member. They will be introduced at the April meeting.

■ **New Business** --- SCAC Resources Sheet Discussion. A draft of a County Resources Sheet was examined and discussed; this sheet could include links to various County agencies and their websites, such as the Suquamish Health Clinic. James Bunn would be the contact person on this sheet.

■ **Public Comments** -- There were none.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

The next meeting will be on April 9 at 6:30pm at the UCC Church, 18732 Division Ave. NE. The meeting will include a presentation from the Kitsap County Public Works on “Traffic Improvement Projects in Suquamish”.

Minutes submitted by Bruce McCain