



## Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC)

### Meeting Minutes

Sept. 10, 2025

**Notes taken by:** Alena Wolotira

This meeting was held in person at the Village Green Community Center

#### **Present (in person):**

At Large representatives present: Tim Davis (co-chair), Glen Hutchinson (co-chair), Steve Marchese, Kate Joncas, Kaitlin Murray, Patrick Heye, Dave Bomalaski, Alena Wolotira, Cynthia Logan

Representing representatives present: Allena Cook, Chris Gilbreath, Glenn Malin (for Shep Griswold-Kiwanis)

Ex Officio representatives present: Beth Berglund, Marla Powers, Breane Martinez, Steve Heacock

#### **Absent:**

At Large and Representing representatives absent: Shep Griswold

Ex Officio representatives absent: Jan Skalbeck (Chamber)

**Also present:** Commissioner Rolfes

**Welcome & Call to Order:** *Co-chair Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 6:31.*

- **Initial Public Comment** (2-minute limit per person)
  - Member of the public: Concern about the boundary of the Port of Kingston changing. Why do you travel up through tribal land and cross the water to access Port Gamble
  - Member of the public: Road in Dream's Glen neighborhood. Barber Cutoff-no sidewalk.
  - Member of the public: Why is there a proposed restriction on horse stables? Provide lots of benefits to the community, economy. Would like to understand why the proposed constraint.
    - Seven members of the audience echoed the comment and agreed with it.
  - ● **Quorum:**
- **Introduction of KCAC members**
  - Opening remarks: at large position open

### **Commissioner Remarks:**

- Incorporation Study
  - Smaller subset of this group formed to advise the county on developing an RFP to hire a consultant to conduct an incorporation study. Met in July.
  - Chris Cooley is the lead staff. We have a draft ready, needs to be run by a few administrators before the next meeting.
  - Perhaps we'll host a meeting for starting a conversation with the community regarding options
- Outdoor Preschool at Salisbury Park—first in the county
- Hosted two field trips. Scott Diener, director of long range planning. Showed folks vacant lots, development, and some of the issues for businesses in downtown. Additional trip with public Works to look at Barber Cutoff and West Kingston. They have some ideas and plan to come back to this group
- Sheriff's office and Public Works are willing to look at a red light camera on Barber Cutoff. These are controversial and there's discussion to be done. He is separately elected and has been hearing from people.
- Last commissioner meeting—bylaws approved and Allena approved. In the same budget shortfall as many counties are. Commissioners directed all agency heads and separately elected officials to submit neutral budgets from spending in 2025.
- Port of Kingston question—commissioners put it on the ballot and it's the port's decision as to whether they want to annex. Hoping for a public meeting with the port (she hasn't yet spoken to them).
- Year of the Rural—presentation today. Afterwards, Heather available to answer questions about equestrian facilities.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Hutchinson [moved to approve](#). Joncas [seconded](#). [One abstention, all other attendees approved unanimously](#).

### **Ongoing or Unfinished Business:**

- **9/29 from 4 to 7 pm—Discover Kingston Open House**
  - Still slots to sign up for in the volunteer matrix
  - Flyers to be distributed on the ferry
- **Bylaws changes approval**
  - Eliminated an ex officio group (Friends of the Library, due to inability for their appointee to regularly attend). Means there's a new opening for an at-large member—tell your friends!

### **New Business:**

- **Kingston Ferry terminal updates**—trestle construction, will continue until June 2026 to ensure the terminal remains resilient to earthquakes
- **ATMS**—an automated system to control ferry traffic with no officers in place. We've been working on this for ages, construction is to start September 15. Hopefully operational by end of November. Will not operate all the time.

## **Committee Reports**

- **Transportation (Tim)** see above in New Business
- **Environment and Land Use (Beth)**
  - Waiting for the Year of the Rural documents to discuss points of common interest for comments and forwarding to the larger committee.
  - Dave: we'd like direction from Heather during her presentation
- **Parks, Trails, and Open Space (no attendees from this committee)**
- **Community Services–**
  - Met with the county reps from the dept of community development and the depts of health and human services
  - Discussion of the results from the KCAC community meal
  - Affordable housing working group presentation discussion
  - School principals will be contacting them to underwrite the cost of the leaderboard for the next year
  - Event at Heronswood
  - September 19 is the next meeting

## **Organization Reports**

- **Port Gamble S'Klallam tribe–**
  - **S'Klallam Days start on Friday!**
    - Begins with a royalty ceremony, dancing, and dinner
    - 1K, 5k walk/run on Saturday place games
    - All invited to visit and engage
  - Heronswood: 9/13 Autumn Plant sale
  - Heronswood: 10/17 and 10/18: Haunted Heronswood!
  - Tribe is working with NOAA and Long Live the Kings to try to understand the needs of the community and the ecosystem for a Hood Canal Bridge that can function well for everyone.
    - Fish passage barrier, despite being a floating bridge because the silvers only swim in the top 15 feet of the water. Hoping to come up with a new design that will allow for better fish passage.
    - Community survey coming out soon
    - It's already been 20 years, will likely take another 20
- **Chamber of Commerce**–no attendee
- **School District–Breane**
  - School year just started. Off to a good start. School Board meeting tomorrow with the facilities advisory committee making some recommendations to the board about the future for maintenance, facilities, upkeep, etc. 5:30 tomorrow, with communication going out to the public in the next few weeks.
- **Port of Kingston (Steve)**
  - Lights show–already working hard on fixing things up from last year to prepare for this year. Plan to leave them up in January as in previous years.
  - New restroom construction, with showers.
  - Regarding the agreement and activities with the Port of

- Eglon–boundary line adjustment with Eglon with all of the commissioners, who unanimously approved the boundary line adjustment so that the boundary of the Port of Eglon could be adjoined with the Port of Kingston. Port Gamble piece that was recently restored (where the mill site was). Discussed annexation with Rayonier. Will be a ballot item. Nothing is changing in the Port of Eglon. The Port of Kingston did this so that they could help with restoration activities and writing grants to benefit the community of Port Gamble. Tried to get it on the ballot for November 2024 but missed the deadline. Hopes to do a presentation at a future KCAC meeting to provide more information, in addition to adding some information to the Port’s website.
- **Village Green Foundation (Beth)**
    - Village People’s Chorus–for people who want to sing with other people. If you like to sing and want to find people to sing with, this is your group!
      - Mondays, 12:30-2
    - Performances-
      - 9/12 at 6:15, Kitsap Opera performs the *Daughter of the Regiment*
      - Celtic and Irish performance. Four Shillings Short–9/20 at 7 pm.
  - **Rotary (Chris Gilbreath)**
    - VG Community Meal this Friday
    - Saturday-KHS Booster Club Meet the Bucks 5K, Gordon @ 9 am. Proceeds benefit fields, teams, clubs, and sports facilities
    - 9/20: rotarians will join the VG parks improvement project. Restoring areas previously impacted by invasive species
    - 9/27 9 AM: will take down the town’s flower baskets.
    - 10/4 10 AM: join the highway 101 cleanup team. Meet at Starbucks at 10 AM. Provide vests and garbage grabbers
    - Rachel Davenport will be speaking to Rotary on 9/24
    - School Board Candidates will speak at separate meetings as well
    - Kingston Rotary Exchange Student from Italy. All American food potluck
  - **Kiwanis (Glenn Malin)**
    - Coho Derby–28th–sold out
    - Halloween Carnival on the 31st
    - Music Circle at the VG playground is nearing completion. There will be a stylized music stand added to commemorate the original donors

Reminder by Co-Chair Davis–anyone in the community is welcome to join any of the sub-committees. Please ask us if you’re interested!

### **Guest Speaker:**

**Heather Cleveland, Kitsap Community Development Long Range Planner**

Promotion of the Year of the Rural. Invites feedback from the community, that’s

what this report is about.

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## **Year of the Rural**

Information about the presentation, including slides, is here on the DCD Year of the Rural [website](#).

## **Q & A from Council Members**

- Beth: interest in how the rural aesthetic is preserved on the edges of lamberts. Striebel's corner and Gunderson/Stottlemeyer LAMIRDS. Very commercial feeling.
  - Response: please add this comment to our website, good comment!
- Dave: studying the future question
  - Developing the idea of overlays. What does that mean and what does that get people? When you have agricultural zoning separate from commercial allows for different things. Could help agricultural communities. Just starting to plant the idea. Work done in 2012 identified something similar Looking at how to apply this time. Not agricultural zoning in the sense of resource lands–looking for the working lands version of that
    - Will there be an economic viability of current farmlands in Kitsap County study? Last one from a decade ago was grim.
      - A: no, but the agricultural community has been advocating for preservation and economic viability. Not specifically requested but please add this suggestion
- Tim: was the DCD part of the open house?
  - A: yes–noxious weeds, shore friendly, year of the rural, and one other in attendance
- Chris: explain more about what a rural lands analysis is?
  - A: buildable lands report and capacity analysis focus on urban. Has to do with how much can you build, with what's left over being rural. Why no analysis of rural? Because it isn't required. Similar to the question about economic viability just asked, how much current land use agriculture do we have? Where are the legacy lots? What's buildable of the rural and resource lands. What can we build on and what can we protect?
    - Chris: Environmentally critical areas wehere you would not be able to build would be part of this?
      - A: Yes.
- Chris: when will critical environmental areas be analyzed?
  - A: outside of the UGA.
  - Q: in time for the 2035 plan? A: Yes, possibly sooner.
- Chris: removed vs. denied
  - Denial–reviewed through the 2108 process and criteria and determined why it is or isn't meeting the requirements of the process

- Removed–never assessed. Wasn't a priority with respect to housing.
- Q: difference in consequences?
  - A: one of the current requests has three denials. Whether that denial impacts future outcomes depends on the person making the assessment.

## Public Q & A

- Member of the public: at an earlier presentation, we heard about battery energy storage systems. Moratorium. One has been approved and is going through–will there be sound sensors, will you talk to the fire department about extinguishing a huge battery fire, etc. Planning group to assess?
  - A: separate project webpage for the battery system. Not currently approved. Noise study requested. Long range and current parts of this are working side by side. Could be approved by the state from the top down but we'd prefer that it go through a local process. All the concerns you raise are being considered.
- Member of the public: Equestrian facility supporters 14 attendees in the audience. Concerned about the proposals. Where is it coming from, what were the credentials of the people being consulted. What economics were talked about–barns are struggling right now. Equestrian facilities bring a lot to our community. Commenter just sold everything they had to buy and develop a property for when their horse retires and these proposed changes are frightening. Could you add people from this community so that everyone can have a voice?
  - A: agricultural working group steering committee meeting on 9/16. This topic will be discussed, specifically additional outreach.
    - Q: Anyone on that facility who operates a lesson business? No, but the discussion there would be about future outreach. Topic on the agenda already. But please add your feedback in the places identified.
- Kate: how can you design outreach to this community so that it is represented on the Steering Committee? Can you commit to incorporating someone from this community into the committee?
  - Commissioner Rolfes: commissioners are hearing this. Your voice is heard. Healthier: the working group is what it is but the 9/16 meeting will talk about outreach.
- Member of public: lots of people in this community have smaller parcels of land with horses, and one or two boarders. These regulations will impact these small private barns as well.
  - A: this is coming from impacts on the commercial level where folks are impacted. Working lands is conserving lands.
- Member of the public: I'm not a horse owner. Our community will lose the opportunity to engage in equestrian activities. Rural and horses are inextricably linked.
- Member of the public: wildlife corridors–glad to hear they're getting considered. We're losing so much wild land. People commenting all the time about wildlife. We don't want to lose that so when we talk about industry in the county and the three different types–farms and horses are appreciated in

the county but we can lose wildlife and small farms without thinking about those.

- A: oversight that wildlife corridors weren't addressed
- Member of the public: has DCD discussed limiting the size of rural projects such as residential, industrial, the things associated with industry, the projects in the last year have included hundreds and hundreds of acres. Has DCD thought about this?
  - A: no other zoning is changing. This topic could be part of a future rural lands analysis.
- Member of the public: will be you be looking at cottage license laws in the future?
  - A: not at this time but definitely in the future.

### **Final Public Comment**

**None.**

**Closing Items: None.**

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- October 8–Kingston Sewer Update: Nick Martin, Sewer Utility Senior Manager
- November 12–Kingston Stakeholders–Update on their activities from Nancy Langwith
- December 10–Council Work Session
- January 14–NKSD Update from Superintendent Rachel Davenport

**Motion to adjourn by Glen Hutchinson, seconded by Dave Bomalaski.**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.*