

SUQUAMISH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 2, 2025 (first Thursday of the month)

In person only – Suquamish UCC Church

18732 Division Avenue NE, Suquamish

Suquamish Board Members Present:

Ed Mullaney, Tom Curley, Patty Charnas, Stuart Scadron-Wattles, Martha Burke, Bruce McCain.

Suquamish Board Members Absent:

Kristan Webster, Steve Warnert, Faith Williams, Hanna Moss

Quorum: Yes (10 total, 6 for quorum)

Kitsap County Staff: Christine Rolfes, District 1 County Commissioner James Bunn, Commissioner Office Policy Analyst

Community Members: Kevin McDonald.

Meeting Called to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Agenda:

Opening Items

- o Land Acknowledgement (read by Patty Charnas)
- o Initial Public Comment

Ongoing or Old Business:

- o Motion to approve the December meeting minutes (with one correction), motion by Tom Curley, seconded by Ed Mullaney, unanimously approved.

New Business

Workplan discussion: Stuart Scadron-Wattles built on last-month's discussion, and is color coded. First column is the focus area. Green is ongoing work, to keep moving and do business in Suquamish:

- o Review of the Comprehensive Plan since that's one of our guides
- o Community Outreach and Sponsored Events – reaching and involving the community
- o SCAC membership – acute, since it's difficult to achieve a quorum
- o SCAC Work Plan – these are the things we must have to keep going

Blue are areas of focus that we selected for 2025: (2026 items will be reviewed later)

- o Traffic Calming including pedestrian safety, sidewalks, and street lighting (Tom Curley)
- o Public broadband/WiFi access (Tribe?)

- o Parks and Trails development and maintenance (Martha Burke)
- o Expanding public transportation options (Tom Curley – coordinate letter of support and assess rider experience)

Any more than these would be unrealistic – just ticking boxes without getting anything done.

These four items seem pretty ambitious for the small number of active SCAC members.

- Gold areas – have to be reviewed as a strategy: (“Projects” are separate) o (green: community outreach and sponsored events) Improve community engagement using multi-modal communication tools that raise awareness
- o (green: SCAC membership) Maintain an active membership that reflects the diversity of Suquamish residents.
- o (green: SCAC Work Plan) Establish, maintain, and refresh the SCAC Work Plan.

Patty pointed out that 2025 is ‘The Year of the Rural’, and we are surrounded by ‘rural’ and while traffic will affect Suquamish, though Suquamish is pretty well set as far as density. Martha Burke suggested there should be a way to time the light at Suquamish Way and 305 to accommodate traffic volumes. Or, return to having the Suquamish CopShop direct traffic at that intersection. Bruce McCain pointed out that the same backed-up traffic also slows Kitsap Transit, since there are no transit jump lanes. It’s also a crapshoot whether a ferry will be there in the later commuter times. Christine Rolfes suggested that getting the 391 bus again was a big deal, and it would be nice to have a letter of support for that to Kitsap Transit and the Kitsap Transit Board – it would be good to have a voice from the middle of the route (Suquamish). Backups are pretty much done by 9am. Stuart Scadron-Wattles suggested that transit would be a good meeting topic, as a way to get feedback from the community and generate some community interest. Traffic calming is also something everyone wants to talk about. There is a member of the Bainbridge Ferry Advisory Council who lives in Suquamish. Just like motorcycles can, if traffic is stopped at the ferry terminal, move to the ticket booth – and wouldn’t it be nice if Kitsap Transit could also do that? Tom said he’s already working on a Tribe/BIA Transportation Safety Grant, which will come up with a plan and identified projects the first year, then obtaining funding in following years. Christine Rolfes pointed out that the shoulder project on Augusta Avenue scheduled for this year has been drawn up, but grant construction funds weren’t obtained, so it will have to wait until construction funds are available. Tom Curley will champion the Traffic Calming/ped safety/street lighting area. The Kitsap Transit bus 391 from Kingston to Bainbridge is again active, though Kevin MacDonald said it’s pretty consistently 20 minutes late, so the schedule may need to be adjusted. Kevin MacDonald suggested that even if commuters want to rush through Suquamish, we are here and this is our neighborhood - our safety and the safety of the children supercedes commuters wanting to get through town fastest.

The new stormwater treatment facility on Parkway (in front of Sully’s) is scheduled to start this summer, working around salmon spawning times and Chief Seattle Days, and the Canoe Journey hosting. The Suquamish Tribe will be the host for the 2029 Canoe Journey, in Suquamish. Suggested to get Public Works in to talk about the Augusta Project, and also the stormwater treatment facility.

Public WiFi and broadband access: the Tribal Center and Sackman Housing/Snooker Lane has wirelessly-broadcast 5G. Suggested that with the recent court ruling that broadband providers are not public utilities, potentially changes the service delivery landscape – and getting KPUD and perhaps the Tribe’s IT director in to talk about the possibility of broadband in Suquamish.

Patty Charnas suggested having a police report at the beginning of each meeting. Christine suggested also including the Sheriff’s Office. Tom will coordinate with the Suquamish CopShop. James Bunn will contact the Sheriff’s office.

Parks and Trails: Christine said Kitsap County has budgeted money for the Sports Court to

be re-paved. Martha will talk with Jan Hall about participating in that. James Bunn and Christine said the county is planning a North Kitsap-focused county parks PROS Plan presentation, probably in February (along with a presentation for Central Kitsap, and South Kitsap). Eric Martin expressed interest in parks maintenance earlier, after the Suquamish Nature Preserve field trip. Martha Burke agreed to champion the group. There is Angeline Park, Sports Court, Cowling Creek Preserve, Place of the Bear. Christine will bring to the next meeting a hand-drawn map of parks. There are also maps that Jan Hall did, of which there is still a supply, though they need to be updated. Tom offered to provide mapping support. The Garden Club takes care of Angeline Park, and the plantings at Sports Court, Sports Court is mowed by community members, Nature Preserve needs a small, two-car parking area and the trails cleaned and maintained. Christine suggested that until Parks knows what's needed, they won't act – so ask.

Community Outreach: Stuart would like to see increased in public attendance at meetings, and what events would attract and benefit the community. Patty offered to help with that, and with the topics calendar. A community survey came up, through postcards, several years ago. Martha will provide that. James Bunn offered that the county did a youth survey, and what youth want to see. Stuart, Steve Warnert will meet with Rebecca Pirtle about generating a survey. Patty suggested that individual postcards were the most effective way to connect with the public. Christine suggested that the county does mailouts all the time. Stuart and Patty will work on outreach via mailout. There used to be an email list of folks who had attended meetings – anyone who has come to a meeting is a much more likely candidate for the SCAC. Once the meeting topics are nailed down, the county could generate a mailout announcing that.

Need to prioritize meeting topics. February is set, March could be Tribe DCD, and/or have Steven Kurtz talk about the Healing House Clinic and offering Medicare/Medicaid services. Have the police report be more of a monthly update rather than a monthly meeting topic. Short-term vacation rental topic would be very popular, could be put in April. Christine suggested a general list of topics. The list was approved, just not the priority of each. Bruce McCain suggested that Aging and Long Term Care would be a popular topic. Traffic calming would be a little later, perhaps June to September when the Tribe's traffic safety plan would be better developed.

Upcoming meeting topics from online survey:

- o Suquamish Tribe's Community Development Department to give an update on tribal housing and other development that might be coming up, including Suquamish Shore property development.
- o Kitsap County Division of Aging and Long-Term Care with a presentation by Mark Doty to share information on the services offered.
- o Engage with Suquamish Museum to hear about their exhibits, their archive and public events, and to learn more about volunteer opportunities within the community. o Engage community for comments regarding the Sports Court Park and Angeline Park for future maintenance and/or improvements.
- o Suquamish Department of Emergency Management and Kitsap Department of Emergency Management presentation about coordinated neighborhood emergency planning efforts.
- o Kitsap County Noxious Weed Program – what are the noxious weeds and how can the community assist in their removal or abatement?

- o Kitsap County Short-term Vacation Rental policy and potential ordinance regarding short-term vacation rentals and how that affects the housing market.
- o Kitsap County Public Works and/or WashDoT on future SR305 roundabouts – what is next and anticipated timing of construction.
- o Traffic calming measures in Suquamish – how SCAC may work with KC Public Works for implementation of SCAC recommendations.
- o Orientation session regarding the laws, land status and how the US Constitution applies to the Port Madison Indian Reservation.
- o Other topics also suggested:
 - ☞ community cleanup of Suquamish Nature Preserve and more parking;
 - ☞ downtown business development;
 - ☞ county government priorities; Suquamish Tribe representative to Kitsap Coordinating Council on transportation and land-use;
 - ☞ PTSA and Suquamish Elementary principal to talk about volunteering opportunities at Suquamish Elementary;
 - ☞ Miller Bay Road history trying to make it safer for bikes and pedestrians
 - ☞ Rebecca suggested that having a firm list of topics and dates ahead of time is a way to encourage public participation.

Public Comment & Good of the Order

Kevin MacDonald said the increased traffic requires a higher level of county maintenance – brush on the road shoulders needs to be cleared. We live here, in this community – so go slow. Despite where you're going, you're here in Suquamish – our neighborhoods. Who maintains sidewalks? Garbage bins clog the sidewalks and pedestrian spaces. People park in such a way that it forces pedestrians into the center of the street. You can't safely ride on Miller Bay Road. Shoulders need to be maintained so they aren't dangerous. Instead of responding to individual complaint spots, Kevin is looking for Public Works to be proactive on maintenance. Tom offered to GPS the big shoulder potholes and send them to SeeClickFix.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

The next meeting will be February 6th at 6:30pm at the UCC Church, 18732 Division Ave. NE.
Minutes submitted by Tom Curley.

Minutes Approved 13 February 2025