

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2009
6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Nancy Conard, Councilmembers Bob Clay, Ann Dannhauer, and Jim Phay.
Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Phay, to excuse Councilmembers Dianne Binder and Molly Hughes. The motion passed 3-0.

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Director Malcolm Bishop, Town Marshal Dave Penrod, Clerk Treasurer Judy Thomas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Phay, to amend the agenda to add one Discussion item, 'Closure of Ft. Casey and Ft. Ebey State Parks. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 24, 2009, were approved as submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Conard received notification from the Department of Ecology that they received the Town's notice of approval (approved by Council on February 24, 2009) on the Shoreline Master Plan, and the effective date of the plan is February 26, 2009.
- She noted that the copies of the State Auditor's Reports on the audit for 2005 to 2007 were distributed to Council with their agenda packets.
- The Town contracts with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Trust for the employees' medical insurance; and they (AWC) offer health screening to all employees with AWC Trust medical insurance; and to Council members. The health screening is scheduled for Monday, April 6th. The health screening is to learn more on height and weight, blood pressure, triglycerides, cholesterol (including HDL and LDL), glucose, and includes a confidential review of results with a health professional. If Council members are interested in participating they should contact Ms. Thomas to schedule an appointment.

AUDIENCE INPUT

John Kohlman, president of the Coupeville Lions, and I. R. Lion, presented a check for up to \$20,000 to the Town of Coupeville for the Rec Hall Kitchen equipment.

Mayor Conard read and presented a proclamation to the Coupeville Lions Club recognizing them and Central Whidbey Lions Club, for their outstanding service to the community and declaring March 11, 2009 as Lions Club Day in the Town of Coupeville.

Mayor Conard called for a short recess at 6:44 pm and reconvened at 6:52 pm.

PRESENTATIONS

Quarterly Update on Climate Protection and Sustainability Project – Cathy d'Almeida

Cathy d'Almeida distributed a handout on the Climate Protection Update as of March 10, 2009. She gave an update on the following activities:

PSE's Multi Family Audit - This is an energy savings program replacing light bulbs and shower heads with energy efficient light bulbs and shower heads at most of the multi-family facilities in Coupeville. Approximate Savings: 640 tons of CO₂ and \$116,468 over 11 years.

Coupeville School Projects - The school district is working to get grants and for promoting low energy performance, and turned in Solar 4R School Grant application; presented at Sound Waters. Some of the things the school district is doing to reduce energy usage and cost, is turning the heat down in the buildings, reducing the warm up time, programming the holiday hours, shutting down computers and lights, and turning down vampire loads. They are working with an ESCO (energy saving contractors) through the GA (General Administration) to evaluate HVAC and lighting upgrades. Approximate Savings: 1980 Tons of CO₂ and \$508,000 over 11 years.

Green Power Challenge - Collaborating with PSE and other towns/cities to increase participation by 30% = \$20,000 grant towards renewable energy project. Taking steps towards a green community. Adopt energy efficiency measures and participate in PSE's green power program. Get early commitment from local businesses (partnership or leadership levels) and communities, will be promoted in our marketing. Mayor Conard explained that the Town of Coupeville agreed to purchase at least 6% Green Power; and will assign 100% of that to Town Hall. A banner to be hung across Town Hall building to advertise and promote the Green Power Challenge.

Sustainable Living Film Series - This was a film series that will start back up again for May and June. May 21: Modern Marvels Renewable Energy or 11th Hour; and June 18: Good Food documentary.

Porch Light Campaign, Update - Delivered 750 bulbs in January by 60 volunteers who participated in training and distribution of bulbs. Prairie Center went from selling 7 bulbs in November to 80 by February. Approximate Savings: 295 tons of CO₂ and \$53,668 over 11 years.

Public Transit Field Trip - There will be a field trip on Island Transit on May 7th, with the council members from Coupeville and Langley to promote the use of public transportation

What's Next?- RCM work for Town of Coupeville & School; Green Business Seal - Different seals for energy, water, transportation, waste, green power; RCM for County and Hospital; Green Neighbor's Program.

Can We Meet our ICLEI Goals of 11,049 tons CO₂ Reduction? - With the Multifamily Direct Installs, School Energy projects, Town of Coupeville Projects, recycling in Town of Coupeville, Porch Light Campaign, Green Power Challenge, Commercial lighting projects, and other community efforts (reusable bags, reusable mugs) - Total savings identified over 11 years is estimated reduction of 5,421 tons of CO₂, and \$703,000.

Ms. d'Almeida responded to Councilmember Dannhauer's question that she is working with the Library toward energy efficiency in the new building.

Mayor Conard called for a short recess at 7:56 pm and reconvened to regular session at 8:05 pm.

DISCUSSION

Community Garden Update

Mayor Conard has been meeting with a variety of people on developing a community garden, to be located on the east side of the Four Square Church on Broadway; and an area has been staked out to define the boundaries. They are proposing to till a total of about 60 strips, leaving strips of sod between the garden strips. She is working on a proposal for Council approval at the March 24th Council meeting. She would like to put something in the next Town newsletter about the

community garden, and the application process to get a garden space. Some suggestions were that if there were more than 60 applications they could have a drawing. Several ideas have been discussed: an annual fee of \$30 per lot per season; locating a water tank at the site for watering the gardens with water buckets, no hoses; a small garden shed; a porta potty. Rules are being modeled after other organic-only pea patches; with some restrictions, such as if you don't start your garden by a certain date you forfeit your space. An 8-foot tall deer fence will have to be put up around the whole area. She asked the Council to consider allocating \$2,000 for expenses. Council consensus was positive and they felt this would be a good idea.

Sustainable Whidbey Coalition Participation

Mayor Conard explained that the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition is looking for grant funding to continue the three regional coordinators and collaborative projects. She asked Council if they would support \$3,000 participation to help fund a grant writer. These funds would also be used as matching funds for grant requests. Councilmember Clay responded that if the funding is available, then this would be a good idea. Councilmember Phay was interested in considering the request and Councilmember Dannhauer would like more information. Mayor Conard responded that she will bring the request back for Council consideration at the next meeting on March 24th.

Closure of Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks

Mayor Conard discussed a memo she prepared based on information from Rex Derr, Director of Washington State Parks, about the potential to close Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks. Washington state parks initially received direction from the Governor to prepare for a 10% budget cut; and the State Legislature has suggested a 23% cut. Based on budget figures, Parks responded it would require the closure (or mothballing) of about 25 more parks. The House asked for a list. Parks prepared criteria which resulted in the list that was made public last week, from which about 25 medium-sized parks may be selected and Ft. Casey and Ft. Ebey State Parks were two of the parks that may be mothballed. Parks is reviewing the list again today, may revise, and will submit it to the Legislature this week.

Based on the information, and other input she received from our state legislators and concerned folks, Mayor Conard offered this opinion: Short term, we need to communicate to our legislators and governor about the value of these parks to our community. In the event the legislature or governor decide to make specific decisions about which parks are closed, we need to be sure we have our interests well expressed. We should develop suggestions for criteria for the Parks Commission to consider, if they are given the authority to determine which parks are closed. Perhaps special consideration given to parks that are located within a national reserve, or special consideration given to a community that is already suffering the economic impact of reduced ferry service. We need to distinguish our needs and circumstances from the other parks on the list. She encouraged a significant letter writing campaign to Governor and legislators, from all groups, expressing the importance of these parks to our area.

Long term, if the worst happens, we could look at how we could fund these parks locally. One option is to organize a Central Whidbey Parks & Recreation District, which is being discussed by others; a new tax district could be created to generate funds to pay the State to operate the parks or to operate them locally.

Councilmember Dannhauer thanked Mayor Conard for all the work she did and offered to write a letter for the Council's signature.

Agenda for Town Meeting on April 30, 2009

Mayor Conard explained that the Town meeting will have roundtables and discussed with the Council some of the potential topics to be discussed. Ideas were: Sustainable Whidbey; the tree ordinance; recycling; DRB guidelines; and expansion of the municipal parking lot. She will ask for more suggestions at the next Council meeting.

Agenda for April 3rd Council Workshop

At the last meeting, Council agreed that April 3, 2009 would work for everyone for a Council workshop.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Phay, second by Councilmember Clay, to set the Council Workshop for Friday, April 3, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. The motion passed 3-0.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Tom Graham explained that he had an experience about 40 years ago, with a pea patch in east Boston, which was in a high density area and the cost was \$25 per year. He expressed some concern that there may be an issue with the parking lot at the Four Square church.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

Nancy Conard, Mayor