

Snowden Community Council Meeting Minutes 02.07.2024

(02.17.2024)

Council Members present: Roger Gadway (Chair), Lloyd Olson (Vice Chair), Jenn Sharp and Chris Stein. Absent: Robert Conner, Chuck Kleish (Treasurer), and Tom Montag. There were eleven additional Snowden Community members present. With thanks to Fire District #3 for use of the Community Room of the Cherry Lane Fire Station, Roger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes for the January meeting were approved as corrected. In Chuck's absence Roger gave the **Treasurer's Report:** We began the month of January with a balance of \$1,213.06 which included \$38.00 in table donations from the January meeting. The SCC received \$1,250.00 in donations towards paying for the SEPA Appeal (see January Minutes). Another \$100 was donated on behalf of the SCC directly to Klickitat County Planning Department when the appeal was filed. The current balance, including \$0.03 accrued interest, is \$1,495.09. As donations are still coming in dedicated to the effort to appeal the Wilson-Monroe SEPA DNS, and to contest the current County re-zoning process, all such donations will be dedicated to that purpose. There will likely be more expenses yet to come. After questions, the Treasurer's Report was approved without further comment.

Correspondence: None. **Additions to the Agenda:** None, but everyone introduced themselves.

Old Business:

Website Committee: Bea reported that the Committee is keeping the site current and will be meeting in a few days to discuss on-going improvements. Chris Stein shared some ideas on developing, and retrieving Snowden history. Some has reportedly been collected by Henry Ballsinger. Chris is researching traditional Native foot paths, and old settler trails that criss-cross Snowden.

Broad Band Committee: Committee Chair Roger attended the State Broadband Office monthly zoom meeting in January. He reported the good news that, because of the robust response of the citizens of Klickitat County to various speed tests and internet accessibility surveys, the Washington State Broadband Office received a total of \$1.23 billion dollars; proportionally much more than many other states received.

The State's plan for applying this money to expanding broadband in underserved rural areas includes creating discrete districts of 1,000 households each, that include both easy and difficult to serve households, so that serving these areas will be fairly profitable to ISPs that serve them. Roger saw maps that divided up Snowden (a difficult service area) to have part with Husum, part with White Salmon etc. The State prefers to support fiber infrastructure, but recognizes that some difficult terrain and geology will require alternative methods. The State Broadband policy requires that internet service will be provided affordably and expects customers to pay no more than \$45-\$50 a month. Roger also reported that Cherry Lane Fire Station is designated as a Broadband Community Anchor Institution to receive gigabyte service. (Yes, you could park in the Cherry Lane parking lot, and have robust internet connectivity. And - we will be able to have live/zoom SCC meetings there!)

New Business: The SEPA Appeal was filed February 01 with the KC Planning Department in Goldendale by Jenn Sharp and Becky Miles. They paid the \$1,106 appeal fee, the funds donated by supportive Snowden residents.

Fire Commissioner's Report: There were no Fire Commissioners present. Discussion included a FD#3 Public Fire Safety Meeting to be held in Husum at FD Station #31 on February 21 at 6:30PM. All are encouraged to attend.

Bridge Commission Report: Eric reported good news: the Hood River – White Salmon Bridge Commission (HR-WSBC) received a \$200 Million federal grant. This puts their budget at \$319 million, over half of their goal of \$520 million. This puts more pressure on the states: Washington State has contributed \$75 million of a pledged \$125 million; Oregon has only delivered \$20 million of their equal pledge. The \$75 million remaining balance will be a federal loan, secured by bridge tolls. Three design-build teams have proposed on the project; their interviews will be complete by the end of February. The Bridge Aesthetics Committee will begin holding public meetings and workshops sometime this Spring. Go to <https://hoodriverbridge.org/> for more information. The new bridge is scheduled to open in October of 2029; that is about 24 million more anticipated trips over the existing bridge - so please be gentle!

For the Good of The Order: Jenn announced that she believes it is time for the Snowden Community Council to have its own Facebook page, to work in tandem with the SCC website. A FB page would provide greater and quicker access to the community, many of whom do not visit websites. Without hearing any complaint, the Website Committee will assume responsibility for the SCC Facebook page and get to work.

Jenn and Becky Miles announced they are going to pursue reducing the speed limit on Snowden Rd., which now ridiculously jumps from 35mph to 50 mph in the steep Locke Hille curves. Enforcement is also needed on Snowden Rd. because of common dangerous tailgating and passing violations. They invited the Council to participate as they see fit. There was discussion of common goals for improving traffic safety on Snowden Rd. Becky suggested inviting the County traffic engineer to an SCC meeting.

With no additional topics to consider, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Beatrice Lackaff

(Secretary Pro-tem)