

Snowden Community Council 09.06.2023 Annual Meeting

Council Members present: Robert Conner, Roger Gadway, Chuck Kliesh, Tom Montag, Lloyd Olson, Jenne Patterson, Jenn Sharp, and Chris Stein Absent: None. There were at least 22 additional Snowden Community members present.

With thanks to Jenn and Eric for inviting the Snowden community to their outdoor kitchen by the pond, SCC Chair Roger called the Annual Meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Meeting Minutes for July were approved without exception. Chuck gave the **Treasurer's Report** : The balance is \$1,471.28, which includes table donations. The only anticipated expense is the Annual web fee, which will be about \$100.00. The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

Correspondence: None.

Additions to the Agenda: We all introduced ourselves.

Old Business:

Broadband Committee: Committee Chair Jenne outlined the efforts of the Committee to get rural Klickitat County recognized as unserved and/or underserved for internet access, and seen as a deserving candidate for Federal broadband funding. The Committee alerted the Klickitat County BoCC to their opportunity to have an Internet Availability Feasibility Study done for the County, and the study is now $\frac{3}{4}$ completed. Jenne and former Co-chair Dan Spatz directly influenced the creation of the Klickitat County Broadband Action Team (KCBAT), whose purpose is to focus and coordinate KC rural communities and other stakeholders in efforts to bring adequate broadband service to all KC households. The Committee is in conversation with the KCPUD, the BoCC, and the KC Community Councils regarding the PUD's choice to ignore their responsibility to actively support vital internet access to rural Klickitat County (as 34 of 37 Washington State PUD's are already doing). Discussion followed the Broadband Committee report.

Website Committee: Jenne summarized Committee's goals of reviving the original Snowden website created by Scott See, as well as meeting current community needs. The current website is at SnowdenCommunity.org, and is also linked to a Facebook feed. The website currently includes Fire District #3 information, Snowden Community Council business and Committee activities, community resources, and we are in the process of adding archived SCC documents, and material from the original website. Committee members are getting ongoing training to take responsibility for individual web pages. Anyone in the community is invited join the committee and help out. Jenne thanked our technical consultant and website host Aaron Kemp, who generously provides the Council with excellent technical services at a very reasonable rate. Tom moved and Chuck seconded the motion to authorize the Treasurer to pay Aaron the annual fee for hosting the website when it comes due in October. The motion carried.

Tank Restoration Committee: Roger said the painting of the tank is nearly done, has been receiving thumbs up from community feedback, and that he and the Tank Committee cannot say enough about the enthusiastic artistic and technical support provided by White Salmon mural artist Janet Essly, who has made this success possible. Roger thanked the Montags, Chuck Kleish, and others for doing a great job in preparing the tank, and especially Chris Stein for procuring the cherry picker, and otherwise ensuring the safety and success of the prep and painting high on the tank. After completion of the painting, the concrete base will be prepped, painted, and a "plaque" will be painted and calligraphed on the base, describing a brief history of the tank, and credit past and present participants. Roger said the Committee hopes to have work completed and an

informal ceremony or party onsite to celebrate, before this winter. The group met Roger's report, and work on the tank so far, with applause!

Fire Commissioner Bob Conner gave the **Fire District #3 Report**: Nearly all the bond improvements to the Fire Stations have been completed, with the stove and maintenance free landscaping still to be installed at Cherry Lane. The Burn Ban is still on. Fire Commissioner Tom Montag reported that the vote on whether to create a Regional Fire Authority that will combine and expand the functionality of the White Salmon Fire Department and KC Fire District #3, will be coming up this November. While under Washington State RCW's, no officials of the Fire District are allowed to try to persuade voters, in discussion it became clear that it is essential for on-going fire protection in our region and the safety of fire-fighting staff and volunteers that the RFA be approved. Reasons for this conclusion include, that if approved, the RFA would: 1) improve response time and personnel to fire incidents. 2) Provide improved training for volunteers; 3) Add a Training Officer and a Fire Prevention Officer to staff. These additional personnel will also participate in and augment fire response. There will be three public meetings in October to better inform voters. See SnowdenCommunity.org for times and locations of these meetings.

New Business: None.

Good of Order : No comments.

Upcoming Meetings/Events: None reported.

Roger **Adjourned** the meeting at 7:16PM, and everyone stayed to share conversation and a wonderful potluck dinner.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Bea Lackaff, Secretary (pro-tem)