



**Before the business meeting began, President Rachel Shepard** welcomed attendees and shared general information about Fall City Community Association (FCCA), a non-profit organization. Members receive an email with a zoom link for meetings, or they can attend in person at the Fire Station; the general community is invited to watch via Facebook. To be on the agenda, reach out to [fcca@fallcity.org](mailto:fcca@fallcity.org). An abbreviated version of our meeting notes is included in the Neighbor's Newsletter. Learn more about the FCCA, membership, or donating or to view a past meeting, go to [www.fallcity.org](http://www.fallcity.org).

**President Shepard** introduced the FCCA Officers, shared the 38 associated committees and reviewed the agenda:

- FCCA Housekeeping
- FCCA Committee Updates
- Partner Updates
  - King County Department of Local Services, John Taylor, director
  - Fall City Water District, Lyn Watts, commissioner
  - Fall City Floating, Simon Briant, owner
  - Fall City Sustainable Growth, Mike Suelzle

### **REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT/FCCA OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

President Shepard called the meeting to order at 7:10; Fire Chief Culp led the Pledge of Allegiance. A new member was welcomed. Rachel thanked John Reeves for repairing the flagpole after it was hit by a vehicle and shared that Treasurer Laurie Hauglie and Corresponding Secretary Sarah Kieffer will present the 2023 Budget Update and the FCCA Bylaws Update, respectively, at the September meeting.

*Motion* to approve the June Minutes: after a date correction the motion was seconded and approved.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

President Shepard noted that National Night Out (from 5:00 – 7:00pm the night of the meeting) was a big success!

#### ***Fall City Day, Anji Donaldson***

The Fall City Day Festival was a great event! It was the first year the committee focused on recruiting sponsorships. Although the fundraising goal was not met, it appears that the event did not lose money! The committee will start planning this November to maximize sponsorships, especially connecting with the community.

#### ***Fall City Library, Mary Comstock & Michelle Drov Dahl***

Mary announced that a geocache program was offered tonight; 30 people searched for the geocache that is in the library along with temporary geocaches on the library grounds.

Upcoming programs include:

- August 4 (with Fall City Arts): “What’s your Color?” (ages 5-10)
- August 15: Story telling through Hula
- August 22: Taiko Drummers (outside event)

In July 5,776 books, etc. were checked-out or renewed (an increase from July 2022 numbers). Come to the Library to check out books, movies, CD’s and the Friends of the Library group!

***Fall City Arts, Krimsey & Scott***

In addition to the August 4<sup>th</sup>, “What’s your Color” event above, Fall City Arts will hold a Tie Dye workshop at Aroma Coffee Co. on August 12<sup>th</sup>. In October, they will offer a Beginners Improv Workshop and another Ukulele Class. Follow them at [fallcityarts.org](http://fallcityarts.org).

President Shepard thanked Krimsey & Scott for being liaisons to the creative work chartered by our King County Council representative, Sarah Perry.

***Historical Society, Rick Divers, President***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cemetery Wine Walk is this Thursday from 6:00-8:00pm with wine donated by Bill Grassie Wine Estates, Donna Driver will lead a tour of pioneer headstones and Richard Heisler will offer a Civil War lecture. Last year, Historical Society members cleaned the 17 Civil War Headstones and are now working on World War I headstones!

The Historical Society was asked to work on the Landmark Application for the Kiln Building at the new Preston Sawmill Park. After a year and a half of work, King County Preservation unanimously approved the application on June 22.

***Neighbors Newsletter, Jim Hutchinson, Editor***

The Newsletter has developed a digital presence to broaden readership and attract younger readers. Watch for the Newsletter on NextDoor, Instagram and Facebook where they can update information during the month. There will be a regular youth column later this year. Send a note to [editor@fallcity.org](mailto:editor@fallcity.org) with your ideas or willingness to help with writing or photography.

**PARTNER UPDATES**

***King County Local Services, John Taylor, Director***

King County Local Services provides local government services for unincorporated areas in King County; the Department has responsibility for the Roads and Permitting Departments and works with other County departments to fulfill community needs. John is at the library every Tuesday to meet with residents!

King County Local Services is asking those who live in unincorporated areas what would make their communities better places to live. They will comprise a list of desired services, programs, facilities and capital improvements for each area and use those lists to help make budget decisions next year. Please participate in the survey at [www.publicinput.com/communityneeds](http://www.publicinput.com/communityneeds) or by phone at 206-477-3800 by August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Comments regarding the Snoqualmie Valley Subarea Plan were closed on July 15<sup>th</sup>. An executive version of the Subarea Plan will be delivered to the council by the end of the year and the Council will adopt a final version at the end of 2024.

The project for the large on-site septic system serving businesses in the commercial district is progressing well; they are awaiting two more permits and are working closely with the Snoqualmie Tribe on their concerns. The project team plans to have bid documents ready to send this fall.

The County in collaboration with the Fall City Transportation Committee (Carrie Lee) will place speed trailers to gather traffic data on Preston-Fall City Road and Lake Alice Road.

John shared that there have been two fatalities on the Snoqualmie River recently. Earlier this week he met with property owners near the snags/log jams that resulted in the fatalities and stated that the impact on the property owners, especially those who witnessed the deaths, is “profound”. King County will again be looking at ways to keep the public safe, including public education, signage, potential closure of sections of the river, etc. and John will attend next month’s meeting to share progress (and perhaps earlier via a news conference).

Some of those living on the river attended this portion of the meeting and offered their perspectives and asked questions. Their key questions/statements are below with responses offered during the meeting:

*Who can close the river or call for a moratorium? Recreation should not be allowed on the river from Tokul Creek to Fall City.*

- Historically Fall City area residents, recognizing the dangers of the Snoqualmie, have recreated in/on the Raging River.
- The Snoqualmie River was deemed a “navigable” river when Washington became a State and, as a result, was also deemed recreational. The State Attorney General and the Prosecuting Attorney of King County have said we cannot close the river; closing the river, or changing its status, will take an act of Congress.
- We do have a River Safety Committee who could write a letter of advocacy and support to our County, State and National representatives.
- If the Sheriff deems a portion of the river is unsafe, floaters can be required to get out of the water, walk on a path around the hazard and then get back in the water. Questions remain about enforcement.

*The snag/log jam has been there for years – in 2011 there was a sign saying, “Stay to the Right”. Fall City Floating currently has someone on site communicating to stay away from the snag/log jam. Who can remove the snag/log jam?*

- The Marine Unit of the Sheriff’s Department has done work on the log jam since the fatalities and more work is needed. No government agency is responsible to remove the snag/log jam; removing any woody debris is opposed by salmon recovery efforts, tribes, water resource inventory areas and others.

*Communicate the danger, including the fact that 2 people died in the river in July.*

- The County’s messaging is “participate at your own risk”.
- See report from Fall City Floating below.

*Other comments from those living along the river include:*

- The river is not safe for children or those who are drinking
- The river is the last stop for salmon
- King County Parks, Department of Natural Resource, Fish & Wildlife are not present on the river and residents feel as though they are the “first responders”. After the fatalities, two children were caught in the snag/log jam and rescued by one of the neighbors
- Language barriers are an issue: signage and other communication should be provided in a variety of languages

### ***Fall City Floating, Simon Briant***

Simon expressed condolences to those who responded to the accidents as well as family and friends of the victims. He thanked Chief Culp for everything the Fire Department is doing this year, and also thanked Firefighter Fleming and crew, the Marine Dive Unit and Sheriff's Department and all who responded to the calls. Fall City Floating provides funding for the Fire Department to be on the river from 11am to 7pm on Saturdays and Sundays. They also provide safety information when customers book and during the Shuttle ride:

- Wear your life jacket; do not tie yourself to a paddle board or other equipment
- Don't jump into the river from the jumping log; don't use the rope swing
- Where there are rapids, disconnect from other floaters
- Stay right of the orange buoys in the river; walk around that section

Announcements, including that there have been two people who drowned on the river this year, are made on the shuttle ride. Simon looks forward to recommendations from the Department of Local Services and appreciates people's comments during the meeting. It was noted that there have been visible improvements since Fall City Floating started in business.

### ***Fall City Water District, Lyn Watts, Commissioner***

There have been questions in the community regarding who can vote for Water Commissioner. In 1980 the Fall City Water District (FCWD) was created by voters (taking over from a private water district). As regulations became more numerous, small communities with their own water systems, including Plum Creek, Rutherford's Estates, Spring Hill, Upland and Heather Crest reached out to Fall City Water District for maintenance and other assistance. The neighborhoods were accepted by FCWD if they agreed not to fight annexation; however, residents of those neighborhoods cannot vote unless the neighborhood has been annexed. The easiest and fastest way to become annexed is through a neighborhood petition; attend the next FCWD meeting to learn more! They meet at 7:00pm the third Wednesday of every month at their office.

### ***Fall City Sustainable Growth, Mike Suelzle***

On Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30, the King County Council will hear the four appeals, filed by Fall City Sustainable Growth (FCSG) to the four plats previously approved by the Hearing Examiner. The community won't have an opportunity to provide comment during the meeting; the King County attorney will make a recommendation to the Council and attorneys for both sides will have an opportunity to make statements (documents have previously been submitted). Please attend; a zoom link will be available closer to the meeting date.

Mike offered the following: *Motion* that the FCCA grant Fall City Sustainable Growth \$10,000.

Mike explained that the request matches well with the FCCA's mission to build community, proactively communicate local issues and take action on selected issues that affect Fall City. In addition, Mike reminded attendees that if/when Fall City Sustainable Growth is dissolved, any remaining assets will go to the FCCA.

To date they have raised \$58,000 from individual community members and have paid \$54,607 in legal fees; they have logged over 4000 volunteer hours, produced over 500 documents, attended hearings and meetings and met with local and state officials. The group's 12 volunteers have completed most of the research work and data gathering for the attorneys, keeping costs as low as possible. The work must continue: two remaining plats have not gone to the hearing examiner.

The chair of the Subarea Steward group, Anji Donaldson, whose committee met weekly for three years, spoke to the community's strong desire to protect our rural character. Fall City Sustainable Growth offers a new "tool" to accomplish maintaining our rural character. The FCCA's history of fighting development also supports this: in approximately 1990, the FCCA worked to limit development of what is now Soaring Eagle Park as well as two other proposed developments and in 1999 the FCCA worked to reduce the rural town boundary by 340 acres and zoning was reduced from R12 to R4.

The original *Motion* was seconded. A new *motion* was made to hold the vote over until the September meeting so members would have budget and current financial information. The *motions* were combined, seconded and passed. President Shepard stated that next month members will review the budget and then vote.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

One person shared their disappointment with King County's outreach for the subarea plan. Another person shared the importance of ensuring policy and code are written to back-up the subarea plan.

President Shepard adjourned the meeting at 8:45.