

**FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**Highlights of the December 2017 Meeting**

**CSA Grant 2017** Thank you King County for the Display Materials Grant which provided for an 8 foot wide display wall as well as banners and a tent. These are important items for a variety of presentations about Fall City. And thanks to King County and Sue Holbink (Ed's Bits) for the new (and still evolving) Fall City Website!

The **2018 CSA Grant request** will be submitted for a "Fall City Live" Web Cam that will likely be placed at the "Totem Garden" at 334<sup>th</sup> Place SE & Highway 202. Community Service Areas (CSA) Project Manager Alan Painter accepted thanks from the Association for supporting the 2017 grant request and shared the important role Councilmember Kathy Lambert has in the grant funding. 70 grant applications, the largest number to date, have been received for 2018. Awards will be announced in February.

**Other County News** Alan Painter reported that the Landholder Acquisition team plans to share their preliminary recommendations with the community in early 2018. Also, the Community Plans/Sub Area Review process is being changed, The King County Executive will provide an updated review process to the Council in March. Anyone interested in receiving the Unincorporated Area News email report from King County can go to the King County website or to fallcity.org Home page - "What's New" to sign up.

**2018 River Planning and Discussion**

A review of recent summer river usage harkened back to summer 2015 when 26,355 persons were counted on the river during a 91 day period. The only organized effort at managing the impact of this high usage at that time was a team of three volunteers focused on trash management. The following year Simon Briant, owner and developer of Fall City Floating, contracted with King County Parks to operate his private float business out of Fall City Park. His business plan included renting tubes, providing shuttle rides and safety education, and handling trash control from the put-in sites down to the exit site at Fall City Park.

During summer 2017, Fall City Floating (FCF) rented out 9,273 tubes and 11,098 non-renters used their shuttle service. FCF spent \$48,000 on trash management equipment and non-labor expenses plus 660 hours of trash management labor. In addition, FCF's 2017 summer initiatives included more safety signage along the river; the acquisition of sturdier tubes; and increased communications with the fire department, KC Sheriff and Fish and Wildlife. The 2018 plans include real-time trash capture (including a river patrol), increased floater education, more portable toilets and dumpsters, more shuttles, working with KC Parks/Sheriff to add more anti-drinking/drugs signs and ideas for reducing parking, speeding and congestion on Fish Hatchery Road.

Many expressed their thanks to Fall City Floating for their efforts, and noted that problems remain including concern for the river's ecosystem; especially the steelhead and salmon during times of low water when floaters are exiting their floats in the water disturbing the salmon and the spawning beds. Possible solutions suggested included: Special "discover passes" for river users to fund Fish and Wildlife, signs indicating sensitive spawning areas and closing the river during low water to protect spawning sites. Attendees agreed that it had been an excellent dialogue and that many of the answers were right in the room. A follow-up meeting was recommended.

***FCCA Membership:*** *The Fall City Community Association promotes building of community, proactively communicates on local issues, and takes action on selected issues that affect the Fall City Community. You can become even more involved in your community as a member of the FCCA. Regular membership (\$30/person/calendar year). Supporting membership (\$20/person/year). Find out more at [fallcity.org/about-fcca.html](http://fallcity.org/about-fcca.html).*

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday January 9, 2018, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Fire Station.