



FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION February 2021 Meeting Minutes

President Angela Donaldson opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Minutes The minutes of the January 2021 meeting were approved as written. (MSP)

Bernard Memorial Park – Fall City Homeless Camp The camp cannot be removed at this time because of COVID restrictions. Major McClain will meet with us in the future. The gentleman who lives there has been aggressive this year toward kids. Do call 911 to provide more pressure with the sheriff's regarding this situation.

Fall City Subarea Plan Needs List Next year we once again go through the Snoqualmie Valley/NE King County Subarea planning process. The King County Council is seeking a "community needs list" from Fall City residents. If we don't specify what our needs are, how we want our town to look, and what King county should provide, *it won't be in the plan*. Take the time to give your input at www.publicinput.com/SnoValleyNEKC before the end of March 2021 deadline. On that site you can make your needs known, review what others have listed and/or agree with items on the list should you choose to do so.

Olive Taylor Quigley Park Valley Heritage Sign The original sign done by Byron Moore in 1978, then rebuilt by Cody VanWinkle in 2004, both Eagle Scout approved projects, began with the first white man to see Snoqualmie Falls. Noting that the sign addresses the Valley and Heritage, community member John Radovich believes the sign should better represent the entire Valley, go back further in time and include the Snoqualmie Tribe. His preference is for the sign to be removed now rather than wait for the replacement to be ready before removing it.

Sean Christianson, assistant Scout Master, noted that Troup 425 has been active in Fall City for 90 years. He indicated that the sign project was a labor of love and that it had been approved at the time. Then referencing a quote from Maya Angelo, "When you know better, you do better," he continued, "We are happy to be a part of the conversation and assist however we can."

Scott Thomas, King County Parks, said, "We can work together." He went on to say that the Community Partnership Grant Program could provide the funds needed to remove the sign the appropriate way and provide funds for a new sign. One option is to remove the sign face prior to removing the base in the appropriate way. Scott said he usually works with someone who is the one point of contact to represent the community and noted that the grant requires that we work with a 501(c) 3 that could either be the FCCA or the Scouts.

Fall City Totem Pole Project –The mission of the Fall City Historical Society (FCHS) is to preserve the history and historical structures in Fall City. We have signage all over town including in the Totem Garden. We noticed that the totem pole is showing signs of some deterioration. Originally Installed in 1934, it blew down in 1964. Jim Refro, Wood Care



Systems, did restoration work in 2001 adding epoxy and rebar. It has been 20 years and the current deterioration needs to be addressed in the next 3-5 years. Possible Options – Restore it again; use guy wires or a steel spine to hold it erect; repair it in place; place it horizontal with a cover over it, move it to a new location, carve a new one, etc. Estimated costs: a temporary fix \$5 – 7K, spine replacement could be \$10 - 15 K. It is time to consider options. If you would like to serve on the FCCA/FCHS Totem Pole committee contact Anji at Ilovefallcity@gmail.com.

Fall City Fire District 27 At the first of the year the commissioners hired 2 people – one is currently at the Fire training academy and the other is our new fire chief from New Mexico – Brian Culp. Chief Culp says he is excited to be the new chief of FD27. He has been part of a fire department since a kid as a junior fire cadet up to his retirement in New Mexico heading up 8 stations in 4 Districts with 100 personnel - career and volunteer. Chief Culp said Chief Connor has been great at showing him what is going on here in Fall City. One of the biggest things we will look at with community involvement is an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of Fire District 27 in order to develop a strategic plan to make the department even better.

Climate Change Committee. Committee chair Susan Miller shared a few of the factors contributing to climate change and actions people can take to reduce its impact that she learned from the virtual Climate Change workshop based on the Drawdown Project she recently completed. For example, the adoption of a vegan diet could reduce methane gas emissions by 70% and save millions of dollars in medical costs, and tilling the soil creates several problems avoided by non-tilling methods. For more information on Climate Change and the Climate Change Committee visit Drawdown.org and see pages 5 and 11 of the March 2021 Neighbors Newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Climate Change Committee send an email to Ilovefallcity@gmail.com.

Business District Septic System Update - Pete Nelson – has agreed to chair the septic system committee. Pete owns the building El Caporal is in and says he has no plans to change at this time, but he notes that all along this corridor we can't do anything other than what is already here. What has been proposed before has been too expensive (\$15-22 million). Pete has contacted a few of the business owners who raise questions about cost and competition. Pete plans to go door to door to see what it takes to run a business downtown, what it costs to pump downtown, and who is interested in an improved septic situation. An RFP will go out to qualified designers to help design an onsite septic system, not a full sewage plant. Dept of Local Services Director John Taylor says an RFP will go out in a couple of weeks. DLS will stay in touch with Pete Nelson. Pete went on to say that we are not looking to allow “big business” in town, rather looking at two story – businesses on ground level and apartments on second level. It looks like there is an opportunity to send black water to the Barnard Park where there is good drainage soil. It may not be enough for the entire town, but there maybe something open at the other end. We need to do this for our River, our salmon and all of us. President Donaldson is looking for a working group of about 12 people to be the core group to work on this and two to help Pete. Two options: a committee of the FCCA or the property owners form an HOA type group to work with the County. The committee can explore these ideas. When construction is complete, the



Fall City Water District has agreed to take over the management of the system. If you are interested in serving on this committee email Ilovefallcity@gmail.com.

FCCA COVID GRANT A portion of the grant is dedicated to an assessment of local businesses. Fall City is down to 193 businesses, mostly cottage. A Survey Monkey questionnaire which combines FCCA questions with those of the Fall City Historical Society will go out to as many businesses as we have emails for on February 23 and will be open for two weeks (until March 9).

SnoValley Senior Center Director Lisa Yeager reported that the Snoqualmie Valley Hospital came to the Center with 24 vaccines. She hopes they will come back again. If you are 65 or over the Center can get you on the vaccine list. During the pandemic home-made meals are being delivered to Fall City. The Center also has volunteers who can help seniors with some chores and their social worker is running three different support groups and can also work one on one. For more information call 425 333-4152.

Fall City Metro Park District – grants, trails, off-leash park and holiday lights.

Unfortunately FCMPD was not selected for the WSDOT construction grant for the trail connection from the Totem Pole to Chief Kanim Middle School and beyond. The top 18 of over 50 got funded. FCMPD puts trail information on FALLCITYPARKS.ORG. The current goal is to keep up the trails that we already have. Fall City does not have an off-leash dog park. The 3 Forks dog park is in Snoqualmie. Fall City has public properties, but they are not official off-leash areas: The Driscoll property on 202 across from the river; beyond the Zurfleuh boat launch in what was the RV Park; the Piano Ranch off of 324th; Barnard Park in town; and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail – great places to walk, but dogs must be on leash. The Christmas lights are scheduled to come down on February 15.

Councilmember Kathy Lambert commented on a few county-wide issues. There are power source and nitrogen load issues at the **County waste-water plant(s)**. The nitrogen overload is coming from human urine which won't go away, yet a way to change the nitrogen load has to be figured out. Personnel from Seattle Power have now been up to the dam above Carnation and appreciate the problem(s) created if the alarm siren goes off in error or fails to go off in a dam failure. A separate issue with the dam is that non-residents would have no idea what the siren was signaling and what to do if they hear it and noon or any other time. The solution: erect signs advising what to do.

Councilmember Lambert is a member of the **affordable housing task force**. The County needs an additional 244 thousand houses by 2040. She is concerned that the committee is not talking with builders and while providing rights for tenants, is not doing enough to preserve landlords.

Washington State Legislature is in Session. Councilmember Lambert encourages us to stay involved. **Go to leg.wa.gov** to contact your legislators, read, track and comment on bills, and learn about the workings of the State legislature.



Department of Local Services Director John Taylor The DLS has distributed 60,000 masks, several hundred cases of hand sanitizer, and small business grants. District 3 accounted for almost \$1million of the \$3 million available. FCCA President Angela Donaldson distributed the Fall City allotment of masks and sanitizer to businesses in Fall City.

NEXT MEETING: March 2, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. online – Facebook and Zoom