

Peshastin Community Council
Special Meeting
Peshastin Library
January 10, 2024

Council members present: Lauri Malmquist, chair; Doug Clarke, Steve Keene, Patricia Ortiz, Cheryl Parsley, Melissa Reuter, Mark Smith

Guests: Mike Kaputa, Director, Chelan County Natural Resources Department
Brandon Mauseth and Caitlin Mehall, SJC Alliance, consultants
Shon Smith, Chelan County Commissioner

Special Meeting for the sole purpose of discussion regarding feasibility study to take place about potential recreational uses of the Peshastin Mill property

Chair Lauri Malmquist called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Tricia commented that the Council has not yet had the opportunity to have any discussion or take any vote regarding this issue. Doug reports he is hearing questions from property owners about potential infringement on private property, and that farmers have distrust for the County.

Brandon states the goal of the meeting and the study is to have open discussion of the needs and desires of the Peshastin community for a potential park space on the old mill property.

There is a community meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 30, 2024 at the Memorial Hall to gain wider input about potential uses, then those results will be synthesized by SJC and brought back to the regular Council meeting February 21, 2024.

Mike Kaputa states the county would provide the service of assisting with planning, but needs direction from the community and the council on what we want to see developed or not on that property.

Discussion ensued, with issues raised including : traffic, access, pinch points in the roadway; how to obtain public input about wishes for a park or other use; the issue of a bike path connection to Leavenworth; current overuse as an off-leash dog park; maintenance of any development.

Brandon Mauseth notes that SJC worked with property owner Bill Goebel to develop preliminary ideas for land use there in 2019-2020. There followed questions and discussion about making plans for public use of private land.

Brandon Mauseth and Caitlin Mehall presented early working documents with four alternatives for potential uses, and Doug points out a fifth alternative is to do nothing. They request that the Council meet to discuss these alternatives and offer any revisions so SJC can incorporate those into new drawings for the January 30 meeting.

Mike Kaputa requests to formalize the working relationship with the Council in a Memorandum of Understanding, or similar document. The Council will need to meet in the near future to accomplish that.

SJC emphasizes that current drawings are to be used as a starting point for discussion, and they expect to continue revisions as discussions continue.

Lauri recommends avoiding the use of “park” in these discussions , preferring “recreational opportunity” or similar wording to allow for wider scope of thinking and discussion.

The council had the opportunity to briefly review the current documents of alternative plans, and will schedule a meeting in the near future to review and revise further, then submit those revisions to SJC prior to the January 30 community meeting.

No vote was taken during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ortiz, Secretary