

## **League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County Observer Corps**

### **Pierce County Council**

Joanne Mansfield-Gales

Meeting location: District #3 - Elk Plain Grange, Spanaway, WA

Members Present: Jim McCune (Chair), Douglas G Richardson, Dan Roach, Connie Ladenburg, Derek Young, Pam Roach (left at approx. 8:30pm)

Members Absent: Rick Talbert (excused)

Others present: Executive Bruce Dammeier, County directors and staff, four different organization presenters (their names mentioned below) and many members of the public.

**September 25, 2018**

Began: 6:33pm Ended: 8:57pm

### **Content:**

No final action was taken on any pending Ordinance at this Council meeting. Presentations by PCC Executive Bruce Dammeier and four other organization presenters are summarized as follows:

**Bruce Dammier**, PCC Executive – Opened the session by outlining various successes the PCC had accomplished.

**Shelly Bennett**, Representative of the Washington State Fair – Shelly gave a recap of the 2018 State Fair activities, noting that attendance, revenue and expense associated with entrance, parking, and vendor fees exceeded the 2017 Fair statistics. More than 600 residents brought in exhibits. Ms. Bennett also spoke on the significant influence the event has on our 4-H Youth.

**Chip Jenkins**, Superintendent of Mt. Rainier National Park System – informed the audience of many National Park System successes and challenges going forward. Across our nation our National Park System includes 417 units; Yellowstone being the first, and Mt. Rainier was the fifth national park created. Currently, 1700 volunteers dutifully care for the park. So far, in 2018 1.4 million people have visited Mt. Rainier National Park, an eight percent increase over the prior year visitations. Superintendent Jenkins noted that at peak times it took up to 1.5 hours for a vehicle to pass through Gate processing and possibly another hour to find parking as one of the mounting challenges the park is experiencing. Other responsibilities and challenges include law enforcement within the park, in addition to employment and suitable housing for 100 Park Rangers working in a variety of jobs. Councilwoman Ladenburg inquired how the Council might help. Jenkins indicated the Park budgeting was funded through Federal Appropriation and Park entrance fees. He stated a variety of public forums could be helpful to address the scope of challenges facing Mt. Rainier National Park management.

**Jeff Rowe**, representative for Pierce County Planning & Public Works Dept, – Spoke on Code Enforcement, New Portal for Active Violators, Chronic Nuisances and Successes.

**Ted Jackson**, a citizen spokesperson for expanding recreational opportunities in Pierce County through the Planning & Public Works Dept. Mr. Jackson outlined past successes and noted ma-

major points of an intended Bill concerned with the expansion of Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles (WATV) in Pierce County including an environment component and stimulation of economic activity.

**Citizens' Forum:**

In all, 15 citizens spoke. Of those 15, twelve citizens spoke passionately concerning examples of a seeming lack of pre-planned county expansions of new neighborhoods and businesses within District #3. Each citizen shared personal experiences of how they believe such lack of planning has caused a multitude of problems. Problems of inadequate infrastructure to support the increasing need for better roadways; lack of anticipation for the influx of student's need for adequate schools; a dangerous RR crossing, and annual flooding in some areas.

One citizen spoke on a desire for improvement to Frontier Park, specifically the need for a covering over the Horse Arena structure. Several benefits of doing so were noted, such as thereby being usable year-round, safer for riding, neighbor friendly, and enhanced economic advantage through expanded rental opportunities.

Another citizen spoke on the possible negative ramifications of the potential sale of the Brookdale Golf Course to an entity for residential development.