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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Public Works and Safety Committee

April 14, 2009

Committee Member Laurie Caskey-Schreiber called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

L. Ward Nelson
Barbara Brenner

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Sam Crawford
Carl Weimer
Bob Kelly

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. ORDINANCE AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.78, SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AB2008-343)

Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.

Nelson moved to recommend adoption to the full Council.

Discussion included the difference between public interest groups and citizen representatives and the current membership.

Crawford stated keep the same membership if they change two citizen representatives to three representatives, and have one public interest group representative. He is concerned that there would be two representatives from the same public interest group.

Brenner stated they can run that concern through the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). Don't hold up this ordinance.

Motion carried 3-0.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF SPEED LIMITS ON BIRCH BAY AND HARBORVIEW DRIVES (AB2009-201)

The following people spoke:

- Deputy Cliff Langley, Sheriff's Office, submitted information (*on file*) and stated he is the neighborhood deputy for the Birch Bay area. He gave a staff report and discussed the traffic pattern.
- Joe Rutan, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.

- 1 • Mike Donahue, Public Works Department, explained the winter speed
2 percentile.
3

4 Discussion included the amount of foot traffic on the drive during the off season;
5 appropriate locations for certain speed limits; the role of the Public Works Department in
6 providing the technical information needed to make decisions on speed limits, and; the
7 results and recommendations from the traffic study for the Birch Bay area.
8

9 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*

10 The following people continued to speak:

- 11
- 12 • Ted Morrison, Washington State Parks Department Ranger, stated a speed
13 limit of 25 miles per hour throughout the year is a good speed through the
14 State Park to Selder Road at Birch Bay Village.
 - 15 • Linda Clark, Birch Bay Village, stated she is not in favor of reducing the speed
16 limit during the winter from Birch Bay Village to Harborview. There are no
17 tourists, and they have to commute to Interstate 5.
 - 18 • Doralee Booth, 8180 Birch Bay Drive, Birch Bay, read a letter from Cathy
19 Berg. She discussed the history of the speed limit; signed petitions
20 supporting a reduced speed limit, and; submitted and read from a handout
21 *(on file)*.
 - 22 • Edie Barry, 8250 Birch Bay Drive, stated it's not safe to travel at higher than
23 25 miles per hour any time of the year. Birch Bay no longer has an off-
24 season.
 - 25 • Patrick Alesse, 4875 Alderson Road, stated he surveyed visitors to his store
26 about their preferred speed limit on Birch Bay Drive. From Harborview Road
27 to Alderson Road, the speed limit should be 20 miles per hour all year. From
28 Alderson Road to the State park, the speed limit should be 25 miles per hour
29 all year. North of Harborview Road, the speed limit could be 25 or 30 miles
30 per hour.
 - 31 • Cathy Berg, 7585 Sterling Avenue, Birch Bay, stated the technical statistics
32 measure what vehicles do, not pedestrians and bicyclists. Do a study on the
33 use of the Drive by pedestrians and bicycles. Now, 144 new condos are
34 proposed for Birch Bay Drive, and will be located right in the middle of the
35 drive. That will bring in more people who will want to drive and recreate on
36 Birch Bay Drive.
37

38 Caskey-Schreiber stated continue working on this. Hold this item in committee for
39 two weeks.
40

41 Nelson stated that for the next meeting, he would like an update on construction
42 plans and ideas for how to get the connection done and how to make the northern route
43 safer to travel.
44

45 Brenner stated they would like more information on the big picture.
46
47

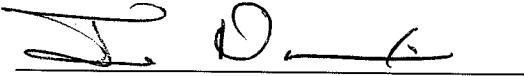
48
49
50 **OTHER BUSINESS**

51 There was no other business.
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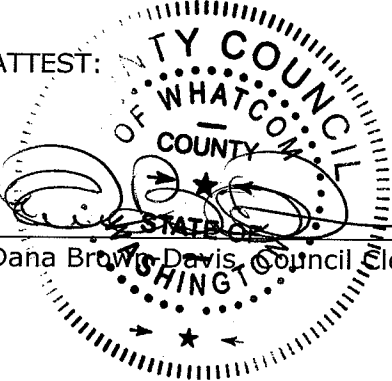
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ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

ATTEST: 
Dana Brown Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Barbara Brenner, Committee Chair

