

**Update
May 26, 2011**

A Newsletter For the Friends of WSSA

ShoreScore



Shoreline Residents,

You are all awesome! Thanks for the tremendous turnout at the Public Hearing and the thoughtful and impassioned speeches that you delivered. Your presence and efforts made a huge difference.

We're not done, but we're on our way. Please stay involved – we need your commitment to achieve what we know is right for people, our neighborhoods, and the lakes!

Here's a recap -

More than 140 residents attended last night's Shoreline Public Hearing at City Hall. Those in attendance heard over 30 speakers, only two of whom didn't render support to WSSA's Sensible Plan!

WSSA Board member Marty Nizlek assured the next steps in the process will have benefit of the group's input, turning in a CD containing 70 presentations made over 2 years by WSSA. Marty pointed out that WSSA has taken the high ground in representing shoreline property owners - patiently presenting alternatives to and critiques of restrictive regulations promoted by an "agenda" driven indiscriminately by Dept. of Ecology.

As Marty Noted, WSSA has not simply stopped at preparing an alternative, the Sensible Shorelines Plan, but WSSA's also funded a detailed, independent legal review of the 350 pages of draft SMP code. Our attorney, Charlie Klinge, then spoke and provided his code review; essentially a road map with which the Commission can guide staff going forward.

Then speakers covered many important areas of concern -

Horror stories of inane and costly studies were related by those who've recently attempted to make shoreline property improvements.

Mothers spoke of concerns for their children's safety with jungles being created for wildlife and trees planted only to block views of parents watching out for their children's safety.

More than one speaker pointed to the failure of local and state government to consider the rights of residents, even referencing our founding father's constitutional efforts.

Impassioned residents described ridiculous designs of docks and boat launches that would result from illogical code provisions. David Douglas, shoreline permit specialist and owner of [Integrity Shoreline Permitting](#), who's advised WSSA on dock regulations, noted the City should leave regulation of docks to state and federal agencies and not duplicate their efforts.

Elderly residents from Phantom Lake and Sammamish reflected on the changes along the shorelines caused by faulty government actions as well as their inactions. Homes originally distant from lake shores on Phantom now have waters within 5 feet because of this.

Lake resident and physician, Dr. Sandra Rice, cited recent scientific reports acknowledging 2 million of 2.3 million young salmon from the Issaquah Hatchery make it through the locks each year - achieving the hatchery goal. She questioned what we're attempting to protect. Dr. Gil Pauley, retired fisheries professor, reiterated his critique of Bellevue staffs' scientific information, originally delivered more than a year ago at WSSA's Shorelines Forum. He noted several of many misquotes, misinterpretations, and alterations made to report findings, citing the need for independent review of the information.

Lake Sammamish engineer John Strong and Phantom Lake engineer Mike Mariano delivered a letter from 8 engineers living on the two lakes, citing the failure of the SMP to define a course allowing anyone to measure its effectiveness, and that it overlooks the monumental impacts from non-shoreline properties and city drainage.

WSSA Board member Dallas Evans provided a graphic report of his in-depth evaluation of shoreline armoring which revealed values dramatically different than those reported by City staff and consultants.

As the meeting drew to a close, non-Bellevue residents representing FutureWise (a non-government organization committed to guiding government) and the Dept of Ecology forewarned the draft SMP is too weak, emphasizing that even stricter regulations than those proposed are needed to protect endangered fish and wildlife.

The meeting concluded nearly 4 hours after beginning. Chairman Ferris acknowledged the services of departing members William Lai and Doug Matthews who will be replaced

by incoming members Diane Tebelius and John Carlson; both of whom were in the audience, as were Council members Jennifer Robertson and Kevin Wallace.

What's Next?

The next meeting of the Commission will be June 8th when there will be a hearing on regulation changes required by FEMA along floodplain areas. Look for more information on this topic as we receive it.

On June 22nd the Commission will "consider" the input from last night's hearing. Deliberation of the plan, however, is expected to take several months with the resulting product going to the City Council in the fall.

Most important - WSSA's Board thanks those who attended and those who spoke at the meeting! YOU WERE SPECTACULAR!

Your Continued Support...

We're hopeful you saw your investment in our efforts pay off last night. Conversations with Commission members affirmed that last night, but emphasized our need to continue. **Your financial support provided the foundation for our achievements last night. Help us continue down this path.** If you haven't contributed this year, please do so. We opened the door last night. Help us push on.

Send a check payable to WSSA to P.O. Box 6778, Bellevue, 98008.