

ShoreScore Update

Jan. 20, 2012



Next Planning Commission Meeting Wed. Jan. 25th. Topic – Non-Residential Shoreline Regulations

New Planning Commissioner –

Aaron Laing, pictured at right, has been appointed to fill the Commission position held by Daniel Heimbaugh, who no longer lives in Bellevue. Laing opposed John Stokes in last fall's [City Council election](#). A land use attorney with the law firm of Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, WSSA believes Aaron's experience representing shoreline clients will assure a balanced consideration of issues as the Shoreline Management Program (SMP) update process continues. ([Read shorelines article by Laing](#))



Commission Returns to SMP –



The City Planning Commission digressed from SMP matters last fall to handle development issues other than the SMP. These "other" topics have included several of concern to lakeside dwellers. The Commissioners have been briefed on planning efforts in the Eastgate area (at left) as well as potential zone changes for Sambica (the Bible camp on Lake Sammamish). Changes at Sambica might allow it to become a larger conference center.

WSSA was pleased last fall when the majority of the Commission took a position that [a 25 ft. setback, with reduced vegetation requirements, should prevail](#). Shoreline setbacks were increased to 50 ft. under the 2006 Critical Areas Ordinance. WSSA and our attorney brought to the PC's attention the latitude afforded by the State to remain at **existing** setback levels.

With the seating to the Commission of Aaron Laing, providing a full contingent of members, the **Commission will take up deliberation of the draft SMP again on Jan. 25th**. We're told they'll focus on non-residential aspects of the draft plan.

Eastgate Plan's Potential Impacts –

As mentioned above, planning for redevelopment of the Eastgate area has been moving forward. City staff and a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) have been spent about a year working on concepts to redevelop the area. On Tuesday night of this week staff and the Eastgate CAC presented a preliminary

preferred alternative that would allow up to 2 million additional square feet of development in the area. To read more, [link to City's Eastgate webpage](#).

WSSA board member Marty Nizlek addressed the Council regarding Eastgate expansion concerns. Nizlek pointed out that current development in Eastgate sends much of its stormwater runoff to Phantom Lake. WSSA supports Phantom Lake residents concerns that Eastgate runoff is being inappropriately directed to their lake, raising water levels and creating pollution. Marty pointed out that Phantom then drains polluted water to Lake Sammamish impacting endangered salmon and raising lake water levels. He emphasized that the proposed SMP would increase regulations on shoreline properties BUT that much of the damage (and higher water levels) come from upland areas such as Eastgate. The Council was urged to include full consideration of drainage issues (and their correction), if the Eastgate plan is to have our support.



What is Best Available Science? –

If you've followed the Shoreline process, which WSSA has now been involved with for nearly 3 years, the term "Best Available Science" (BAS) may be familiar to you. The State's mandate on how to prepare shoreline plans call for use of BAS. However, WSSA and other shoreline resident groups in the state have pointed to the fact the State's definition allowed a very casual approach to science. As WSSA has pointed out, in Bellevue BAS reports used to justify decisions did not utilize independent peer review by qualified professionals.



A bill has been introduced in the legislature that would tighten the definition of BAS to insure a more rigorous approach. You can review the bill at the [legislature's website](#). The Bainbridge Island shoreline homeowners' website, which also supplies a copy of the bill, provides an [email list of legislators](#) who we encourage you to contact in support of the bill.

Current Lake Conditions –

Both Phantom Lake and Sammamish have been blessed, thus far this winter, with moderate water levels. Lower than average rainfall is the primary cause. However, clearing of the outflow channels on both lakes has helped.

As reported previously, King County, for the first time in more than 10 years, cleared both river outlet channels in the Marymoor Park weir area, as well as thinning the willow bushes that were planted in the center channel in



the late 1990's. This effort has allowed more rapid out flow, but, unfortunately, did not remove the accumulated wall of debris that has developed since the late '90's reduction in maintenance. Missed October's report? [Link to October weir report.](#)

And, those of you on Lake WA may want to follow the status of I-405 runoff into Newcastle Beach Park at [this link](#).

Your Support –

As we have in the past, we continue to need your support to stay engaged in the City SMP process. We have achieved many changes, as reported above, but only with your financial assistance. We thank those who have given. You have made the difference. It's difficult to have to ask again but we must. Please continue to help. And, those who haven't we urge you to do so, too. Again, thanks! Here's how you can contribute.

By check payable to **WSSA, P.O. Box 6773, Bellevue WA 98008**

or use PayPal at our home page - <http://sensibleshorelines.org/>