

ShoreScore Update

May 2014

Washington
Sensible
Shorelines
Association



Public Hearing -

On May 5th, nearly 100 residents attended the first of two public hearings on the proposed SMP now being considered by the City Council. Almost 3 dozen property owners spoke to the Council in support of the draft SMP, citing personal concerns and issues with current restrictions.

Also in attendance were representatives of Save Lake Sammamish who admonished the elected officials urging them to strengthen the SMP because of threatened salmon and water pollution caused by lakeside properties. They failed to acknowledge that salmon only pass along Bellevue's shorelines in route to and from their spawning grounds AND did not mention regional data shows our lakes are in excellent condition. WSSA members attempted to respond, but were limited by the hearing format.

Subsequent Meeting -

The Council considered the SMP again on May 12th. The meeting covered lake water levels, public access, parks, and non-conforming structures. We were pleased with some actions by the Council, but surprised by others. For example, they concurred that Lake Sammamish should have an "administrative" OHWM (high water level), since lack of maintenance has caused higher lake levels. We were disappointed Phantom Lake was not addressed and were perplexed by their requests to staff for new language to be brought back to them on several topics, including non-conforming structures.

Next Meeting - We Need You Again!

On Tuesday evening next week (5/27, 6PM City Hall), the Council will consider setbacks and vegetation requirements as well as how the current regulations - the overly strict Critical Areas code - will be integrated with the SMP going forward. Your attendance is urged, as always. No need to speak. We need numbers! WSSA will make presentations using the 3 speaker slots we'll be constrained to. (Once they've held a public hearing, the Council typically limits further input in this manner).

Read WSSA's communication to Council on setbacks and vegetation - [Click Here](#)

Neighborhood Meetings & Finances

We urgently need your financial support. We were hopeful that we would receive it with your attendance at our community meetings in April. Only a handful of people contributed out of more than 80 in attendance. We thank those who did contribute and ask that those who did not to help. Please send a check to WSSA P.O. Box 6773, Bellevue 98008. Without your support, we will not be able to continue to represent you.

Thank you and enjoy the holiday!