

**Marysville City Council Special Meeting  
Marina Village Inn – Everett**

**May 16, 1998**

**Present:** Mayor Dave Weiser  
**Councilmembers:** Donna Wright, Mayor Pro Tem  
Shirley Bartholomew  
NormaJean Dierck  
Otto Herman  
Mike Leighan  
John Myers  
Donna Pedersen

CORRECTED: SEE 6/8/98  
MINUTES

**Others:** Dave Zabell, City Administrator  
Gloria Hirashima, City Planner  
Phil Kushlan, Consultant  
Lillie Lein, Recording Secretary

CORRECTED: SEE 6/8/98  
MINUTES

Mayor Weiser called the May 16, 1998 special City Council meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. He noted that Council had scheduled this meeting at their March retreat to follow-up on items then discussed.

Mayor Weiser referred to the proposed resolution distributed to Council regarding Mother Nature's Window. Following discussion, consensus was to change the last sentence in the first "Whereas", to read, "...and its magnificent old forest which sustains wildlife; and". Councilmember Pedersen then moved and Councilmember Myers seconded the motion to approve the resolution with the change discussed. Motion carried unanimously. Following further discussion, it was decided that a cover letter for all Councilmembers to sign Monday night be prepared, and that the resolution and cover letter be mailed to the County Tuesday, May 19.

**Museum/Cultural Center**

Mayor Weiser and Councilmember Herman gave an update of the Museum/Cultural Center. They reported that they had met with the committee and informed them that a Jennings Park site was not an option. This news was met with some objections from members of the committee.

A discussion of a museum/cultural center in relationship to downtown revitalization followed with consensus agreeing that an agenda bill would be presented at the May 26 Council meeting.

The following issues were listed as items to be considered in studying a site:

- Constructability.
- An analysis of the level of public support that exists for different types of proposals.

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- Capital and Operational Funding.
- Gauge Public Support.
- Programming Demand.
- What sites are available to accommodate those facilities?
- Relation to other Council priorities.

Mayor Weiser noted that he sensed the committee felt the waterfront area would be a good site as a tourist attraction but that other sites may be better for the purposes of a community museum.

Councilmember Pedersen noted that while the community supports a museum, the same may not be true of a downtown revitalization project unless well defined and demonstrative of equitable benefit. This led to a discussion of properties in the downtown area and needed improvements.

Mr. Kushlan asked the Council to consider whether they wanted to paint a broad picture and then envelope other more focused issues into that picture?

Councilmember Leighan suggested that an attractive waterfront with family activities to draw people and conference facilities could reap economic benefits for the city. He also noted that it was his understanding that the museum group (Historical Society/Rotary) was looking to the city to authorize a bond issue to build a facility and this group's money would be used to defray the cost of operation.

Councilmember Herman stated that he would be interested in getting information from Lynnwood who currently has a bond issue before voters for cultural funding. Besides hearing how many are in favor and how many are not, he would like to know what drives those opinions.

Councilmember Herman expressed the opinion that any committee studying the museum/cultural center issue should be comprised of different groups, i.e., the Historical Society, Rotary, Tribes, Marysville School District, Downtown Merchants, Chamber of Commerce, and Councilmembers, etc. The committee could determine what steps were needed to move toward a specific proposal and assist in gauging the level of public support for such a project.

Mayor Weiser noted that he discussed the timing of process with the Museum Committee, and this seemed to fit into their time constraints. A timeframe of 12-24 months was discussed. Councilmember Herman agreed that they seemed willing to wait if the outcome led to a specific result.

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City Planner Hirashima noted that the new owners of the Odd Fellows building have spent about \$200,000 to renovate the building. She said this beautiful building is the only historic building in the City but noted that parking is an issue. Councilmember Dierck stated that she met with a couple of members of the museum committee and brought up the Odd Fellows Hall, but they soundly rejected the idea.

Councilmember Wright asked if the area of study should be specified? Councilmember Leighan felt that with a conference center/tourist draw, economic development would drive the site.

Several Councilmembers expressed the desire to tour the Odd Fellows Hall. Ms. Hirashima said she would arrange it.

It was discussed that if a committee was formed, their mission and authority needed to be clearly defined. City Administrator Zabell added that the outcome of the study would be based on a collaborative effort, yet the use of public dollars to fund the study required City oversight. Councilmember Leighan felt it was important that the committee and the public understood that they were just studying to see what is viable. Councilmember Herman felt that a business plan was needed. Councilmember Pedersen volunteered to serve on the committee.

Councilmember Herman said he would also like information on the Granite Falls library.

Council took a short recess at 9:50 a.m. and reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

### **Home Occupied Businesses**

Mayor Weiser reported that he had invited 80 owners of new Home Occupied Businesses to a meeting, and six people attended. He noted that all were living in their homes before they started their businesses except one adult home living business. This group was extremely interested in starting their own group. They did not feel they were well represented by the Chamber because they are too small and did not fit in with the Downtown Merchants because their businesses are in their homes. They expressed the need for an information packet for new businesses with information on who in the city and what phone number to contact as well as demographic information. They were impressed with the library, Internet access, and the business section. They also liked State Avenue businesses being close together. They expressed a wish for communal office space areas with staff, faxes, copiers, etc.

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Because the number that responded was small, Mayor Weiser said he may do it again. He added that those who did participate liked the evening meeting. Councilmember Wright suggested sending out a questionnaire to new home occupation businesses, and Mr. Kushlan suggested sending the 80 who were invited a report of the meeting.

Mayor Weiser stated that the group did feel a need for zoning of home occupations, but Mayor Weiser thought this was because they did not understand the zoning code. City Administrator Zabell suggested that their concerns might stem from transitioning from a small home occupation business to a larger business.

Mayor Weiser did discuss the \$20 business license fee with the group, and was informed that no one in the group came to Marysville because the fee was only \$20. One person did express appreciation for the reduction of the Home Occupation Start-Up Fee from \$100 to \$25.

**“Main Street”**

Councilmember Leighan reported on this subject. He said the Downtown Merchants have been a do-it-yourself group, and has not come to the City for money. He said they are interested in doing some fund raising, and a few are interested in upgrading functionally and aesthetically the central business district.

Councilmember Leighan noted that a few years ago, the City did a survey to pick a theme for the City and a historical theme was chosen. However, this was not defined as to whether it should be Victorian, Tudor, or whatever.

Councilmember Leighan felt the State Street project could have a unifying affect with a common streetscape.

Mayor Weiser reported that the Snohomish County Tourism Bureau has applied for a grant to purchase and move the Visitor's Information Center building. They are looking at several possible sites in and around Marysville. Councilmember Leighan referred to Hotel/Motel Tax funding to support this effort. There was a discussion of project possibilities including a barn raising type effort to build a permanent structure to bring different groups together to create something "good for the community".



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City Planner Hirashima reported on the Economic Development Committee noting that the committee wished to expand and numerous names and groups were suggested.

It has been expressed that the City should have a bigger presence at events such as Home Grown and Strawberry Festival, etc. Ms. Hirashima noted that the committee had several other ideas, and that she would get a list to Council.

Discussion of the City's role versus other outside groups followed with it being noted that other cities have an official "Main Street" program that is independently staffed. It was suggested that the City could provide funding to kick-start the program.

Administrator Zabell noted the positive impact State Avenue improvements would have for pedestrians and in terms of aesthetics. He added that Home Grown could be a good time to get information on the project out to citizens.

Councilmember Leighan discussed artwork and kiosks for information/community postings.

Mayor Weiser asked if Community Transit would establish a bus route that was basically State Avenue, and Councilmember Herman replied that Community Transit was still developing routes to meet community needs. He said Marysville has been identified as a place that needs a transit center.

Councilmember Herman suggested the City decide what they want in the City and then work to make it happen.

**Jail Siting**

Ms. Hirashima began a discussion of the jail in Kent. She said the City of Kent worked with King County for design and that 1% of the funding went to art. They built the criminal justice center in the downtown area without a cafeteria so employees would go out into the community for lunch. The city provides transit and the jail is located next to a school and a park. Kent has seen this as a real positive for the city. Attorneys are moving their offices in closer to the criminal justice center.

Councilmember Leighan spoke about their use of functional art, i.e., rain downspouts and manhole covers.

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A discussion of jail sites followed with Councilmember Herman suggesting a list of possible mitigations be written; group them into like issues; and develop the justifications for requiring these specific mitigations.

Ms. Hirashima noted that one of the big benefits in Kent was that they built a jail and criminal justice center.

Mr. Kushlan quickly reviewed the mitigation items developed at the Silverdale retreat. He also suggested a non-elected official act as a liaison to keep the lines of communication open. Consensus was that Dave Zabell should be that person.

**Four Year College**

Mayor Weiser and Councilmembers Bartholomew, Wright, and Herman reported that they met with Senator Jeannette Wood, Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee. They toured several sites in Marysville. Information on the needs for the institution is still sketchy. Mayor Ed Hanson thought that this would move along quite quickly. Everett is working to have the college sited in Everett, and it was noted that they have some money to invest to see that this happens.

Councilmember Bartholomew felt Marysville needed a good "sell" brochure.

Councilmember Herman noted that Marysville might want to dedicate money for a lobbyist on this issue; Everett will be he noted.

**General Discussion**

Mayor Weiser gave an overview of BRB actions the previous Tuesday evening regarding the Smokey Point Annexation. He stated that this issue was continued to Wednesday, May 27, at 6 p.m.

Councilmember Dierck inquired about the citizen advisory meetings and noted that she wanted to be involved.

During a general discussion of televising council meetings, it was noted that Tacoma has done this for years, and Yakima, Spokane, and Everett are now televising their meetings. A poll of the Council revealed that, while there were strong opinions on both sides of the issue, there was a general consensus that

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more information was needed on costs, and priorities before a final decision could be made.

Councilmember Myers felt the City should consider advertising their Council meetings in the Herald. He thought the cost was about \$200.

Councilmember Dierck felt there should be a couple of lines under each agenda item explaining what the item is.

There being no more discussion, Mayor Weiser adjourned the May 16, 1998 Special City Council Meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Accepted the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1998.

*David Weiser*

MAYOR

*Mary Swenson*

CITY CLERK

*Lillie Lein*

RECORDING SECRETARY