

FINAL VERSION

Decision

A group of Seabeck residents proposes converting the Elementary School Gym into a Community Center. The Gym and land site would be maintained, including utilities, by CKSD/CKF&R. The Center's programs would be operated by a non-profit foundation under a partnership agreement with the county. Our group is in the process of identifying board of director members, developing bylaws, applying to the IRS and opening a bank account. We are requesting a positive endorsement decision from the county. Endorsement by the county would help stoke the passion of our group and build confidence in the use of our resources. Group members are identified on the last page.

Vision

Develop a public place in Seabeck that provides: Educational and recreational opportunities, a place to connect people and that preserves the natural beauty of our community. Seabeck residents will treasure and care for this legacy, building on the history of the elementary school site to provide for future generations.

Mission

The Seabeck Community Center contributes to the community's vitality by:

- Establishing and safeguarding community owned assets and natural resources, ensuring availability to all.
- Developing and maintaining excellent facilities for education, recreation, relaxation, gathering and solitude.
- Providing and coordinating community services and programs that contribute to the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.

Origin and History

Seabeck Elementary School “was a community”. A place that united the community as a gathering place back to pioneer days. The school has always been the “community” where children, parents, grandparents and neighbors were educated and came together for generations. People told stories about events held at the site with a sense of nostalgia. The closed and removed elementary school is a tremendous loss to our community.

Mr. D.L. Pierpont began teaching in Seabeck in 1858. The *first* school was likely held in the Washington Mill Company Cookhouse. The *first* “Little Red Schoolhouse” was built on the site of the present day fire station in 1860. The Mill presented the community with a library of over 500 books. The library was in the school and opened evenings for community use. The *second* school had 2 rooms and was completed in 1878. The building cost was \$1267 paid for by the Mill. Seabeck received \$371 from the county in 1879 for operation of the school. In 1884 Seabeck was the largest school in the District of Kitsap with an enrollment of 96 students. There were no funds for Seabeck’s *third* school so, bonds were passed in 1916 and a nice 2 room building was completed. The *fourth* school was opened in 1956 with 3 rooms, offices, gym, kitchen and bathrooms. This school burned 5 months after opening – no Seabeck Fire Station existed. The *fifth* school was opened in 1958 with 113 students and improved fire resistant materials. The campus expanded over the years and a new gym was constructed in 1990. The gym remains on the site and is proposed to be converted to “Seabeck Community Center”.

Seabeck Community Center Foundation

The nonprofit foundation will provide volunteers for leadership, oversight and daily operations by:

- Being a trustee of the Center
- Raising funds for operations and improvements
- Coordinating and scheduling events
- Acquiring and maintaining recreation equipment
- Publishing a news letter
- Maintaining a web site
- Hiring paid staff as needed

Center Positions and Community Involvement

- Leadership

The Foundation will have 4 officers: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, all volunteers. The officers are members of the board of directors. They will be elected for 1 to 3 year terms (to avoid complete leadership turnover) by the board of directors. The officers will be responsible for day to day operations. They will develop and execute a commitment report. The commitment report will provide: actions, identify responsible people, dates, funds and expected outcomes. The commitment report will be updated and reviewed at monthly board meetings. The Leadership team will publish a monthly newsletter to members.

- Oversight

The board of directors will provide oversight of the foundation leadership team. Our goal is to have diversity in our board. The board will be diverse by age, social-economic, ethnicity and education. The board will include CKSD/CKF&R representatives. The board will make major decisions on the use of funds, center improvements, hiring of personnel and activities. Bylaws will define relationships of board members, patrons, center members and organizations using the center. Board members will volunteer to serve 3 years. To enhance corporate memory and bring in new ideas, some board members will be changed each year.

- Staff

The Leadership will identify the need for paid staff. The Board will approve staffing. The Leadership will supervise staff.

- Members

Center Members are people who have a passion for the center. They: advocate and promote the center; pay annual dues and make financial contributions as they are able; volunteer if possible; make suggestions and recommendations and receive a monthly newsletter.

- Patrons

Patrons are center supporters who champion the center by providing grants to the foundation. Grants support day to day operations and may be designated for specific improvements. Patrons can be individuals and organizations. Patrons can be identified or kept confidential as they prefer.

Activities - Programs and Services

The Center will provide programs and services based on the needs and priorities of the community. There will be an Introductory Phase. The goal of this phase will be to open the Center as soon as possible balancing the initial activities with available assets. The next phase will be Growth, characterized by steadily increasing demand for new activities. A Maturity Phase reveals steady demand that meets the needs and priorities of the community which is the long term goal of the center. The foundation will interact with the community and county to determine the initial activities. Once the center opens, customers will be surveyed for input into the Growth Phase.

The Introductory Phase may include the following activities:

- A gathering place for seniors and community
- After School drop in homework
- Board Games
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Saturday Farmers Market
- Meeting place for churches
- Meeting place for non-profits
- Rental for community events

The *Growth Phase* may include the following activities:

- Day Care
- Hobbies and Crafts
- Arts – fine and performing
- Community Socializing – dinners, dance
- Family fun nights
- Lifelong Learning
- Healthy/Outdoor Lifestyle
- Team Sports
- Seasonal Seabeck event days – major community gatherings
- Rummage sale fund raiser

Service Area and Customer Activity Survey

The service area should be defined for the purpose of customer surveys. The suggested area is the Hood Canal watershed from Lone Rock to Crosby. This area should be surveyed to provide input on Programs and Services before the Center opens. After opening, customers of all ages should be surveyed once a year.

Marketing and Outreach

The center will post flyers, bulletin board announcements and solicit media outlets. Publish a monthly newsletter. Maintain a mail list and a web site.

Performance

The staff will track “drop in” attendance at activities and visits associated with registrations. The staff will survey customers, set goals and make periodic reports and recommendations to the board of directors. This will enable adjustment to programming to improve service delivery.

Partnership Agreement

KCSD/KCF&R and the Foundation will form a partnership that maintains site improvements and land. The county will provide utilities, building/land maintenance and security. The foundation will be a caretaker during hours of operation.

Life Cycle

Center activities are expected to increase, mature and eventually change due to slowing demand or other offerings. If the Center closes, the county will likely want to use this asset in another way. The Board of Directors will ensure annually, that the site is being preserved for future use.

Tentative List of Committed Board Members

Frank Heidt	executive
Don Chalupka	retired, engineer, program manager
Tara Guenterberg	pediatric RN
Logan Hollemen	recent college graduate
David Sione	retired, church president
Dorene Fretwell	retired, master gardener
TBN	military
TBN	high school student
Kirt Sehnuit	medical imaging
Suzanne Arkless	business owner
Joseph L. Emel	arborist
Barry D. Houde	life-long community member
Bill Six	engineer, management

