



King County

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MEETING NOTES

CEDAR RIVER COUNCIL July 24, 2018 – 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Renton History Museum 235 Mill Ave. S., Renton, WA 98057

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Public Comment Period

Renton citizen Corinne Young asked to serve on the CRC. Nathan Brown advised that vacancies and memberships will be addressed at the November meeting, with selections to occur at the January 2019 meeting.

Updates and Announcements

- Charles Ruthford is recovering from a bicycle accident, and gauging if he can continue serving on the CRC.
- Tom Allyn ran into KCC member Reagan Dunn, who said he still has an interest in the CRC.
- Max Prinsen and Frank Urabeck met with the head of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and other stakeholders to address co-managing a hatchery to recover Cedar River sockeye runs. Mr. Prinsen said it was positive, and hopes SPU will present to the CRC. Mr. Urabeck is spearheading this. Mr. Urabeck said they tried to convey that Seattle has a key role in saving the sockeye run. He noted this year's sockeye spawning rates may be the worst on record.
- Mr. Prinsen spoke of a recent WRIA 8 meeting, where the Ballard Locks were discussed. Mr. Allyn asked if there was any talk of tweaking the hatchery issue. Mr. Urabeck said almost nothing has been done from a feasibility standpoint. He believes Seattle is willing to support on the issue. He conceded the sockeye may be beyond saving, but one more thorough assessment needs to be made. Mr. Allyn replied at WDFW's presentation to the CRC in April, he got the impression that the key to salmon survival is increasing fry-to-smolt survival rates. Mr. Prinsen said the goal of the meeting was to determine how to facilitate meaningful dialogue on the issue.
- A Cedar River trash pickup event will be held August 18, led by area citizen Bruce Tyson and sponsored by Orvis.
- Kim Owens of the Renton History Museum spoke of its mission and history, and that they recognize they are located on the historical land of the Duwamish people.

Film Viewing and Discussion: "Princess Angeline"

The CRC viewed the film "Princess Angeline," about the forced relocation of the Duwamish tribe from the Seattle area, including the Cedar River basin. Princess Angeline was a daughter of the Duwamish chief Seattle. Part of the film addressed loss of key tribal salmon runs due to alterations in the region's geography: construction of the Ballard Locks, causing the drying-up of the Black River and a lowering of Lake Washington; and "straightening" the Duwamish River to facilitate the region's use as a seaport.

After the film, Nathan Brown asked what viewers learned and how it can apply to the mission of the CRC. Tom Allyn said the Duwamish was almost lost, the Cedar has already lost one species (steelhead) and may lose another (sockeye), and it needs to be determined what is and is not being done about it. Other comments said the film filled in gaps in knowledge of the Duwamish in this region. Mr. Brown observed much of the salmon recovery work by King County and its partners is in a basin that has already been highly altered; he asked how understanding of historical geography of this region should factor into recovery efforts. He suggested out of respect to the Duwamish, as they were on this land first, that they ought to be invited take part in the CRC.

Other Updates and Announcements

- There is no August CRC meeting, and for September Nathan Brown hopes to include fish presentations from WDFW, SPU, and the Muckleshoots.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Meeting

September 2018, TBD.