

Carrie's notes from KAPO Meeting /discussion January 28, 2016

Guest speaker (retired) Judge Robin Hunt - Three topics covered: Justice, Media perception/effect, & voting for judges

1. Justice: the rule of law doesn't always produce justice. Example: "mere presence" doesn't constitute a crime. That can be a good thing, or not, depending upon specific circumstances of the crime. She gave 2 examples.

Administrative Law: can be a disparity in justice; rule of law is in place in theory; public testimony required, but nothing in law says they must listen or take it into consideration. Best defense is to (1) attend hearings and make sure comments are placed in the record because administrative judges cannot go outside of the administrative records when they review the case. (2) Complain if the public is cut out of the process.

2. Media: many decisions are not covered. Most judges are quietly applying the law fairly and are never covered by the press. The press mainly covers high visibility and controversial cases. Decisions covered may be written in a biased or sensational way. Example: "police brutality". She noted that Kitsap County has very good training and responds fairly and sensitively to all citizens, including mentally ill.
3. Voting for Judges: (1)recommended votingforjudges.org website and researching candidates' education, experience, who endorses them, who their donors are, media articles, etc. (2)Read the voters' pamphlets, but be advised candidates write their own statements and no one fact checks them. (3) Don't rely on statistics on overturned rulings. Sometimes a ruling is overturned, but upheld at a higher court. Example: she ruled the WEA unlawfully used forced union dues for politics, but was overturned by State Supreme Court, who later was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously. That was a particularly political hot-potato; she really stuck her neck out. After thoroughly researching the issue she ruled against the very powerful WEA. (4) don't withhold your vote or base it on surname or some other silly reason. Withholding your vote allows others to make a choice for you.

Other business:

REVISIONS TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: final due to the State by June ___ 2016. Three public hearings are planned: Feb 1 – Poulsbo City Council Chambers 4:30-8:30; Feb 2 Silverdale Fire Dept Admin/Water Dist. Hdqtrs bldg on Newberry Rd. 4:30-8:30; Feb 8th SK – County Admin Bldg 4:30-5:30 with comments taken @ commissioner's meeting. Attendees had the opportunity to see large maps of DCD staff proposed changes so they can be prepared for the public hearings. As stated by the guest speaker, it's IMPORTANT to ATTEND the public hearings that effect your property and TESTIFY for the record.

The CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE is also due for update by June and so far NO hearings, meetings, best available science, or **anything** has been mentioned by the county. In 2005 when the CAO was adopted, the county committed to monitoring measures taken and results. So far, that has not been done, or isn't available to the public if it has.