Economic Development and Tourism Committee
March 13, 2013

The Committee met on February 13, 2013, 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. Committee Members present: Chair Jerry Childs and Councilmembers Jim Colebank, Cindy Lucarelli, Mayor Matthes and staff City Office Assistant II Jenine Floyd.

Guests present: Kathy Michael, Cedar Cove Inn; Terry Bontrager and Ron Weekes, Saints Car Club; Coreen Haydock and Steve Sego, Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce.

Upcoming Port Orchard Events:

Chair Childs briefly mentioned the ‘At a Glance’ insert from the Kitsap Sun which lists things to do in Port Orchard. He pointed out that all but one of the events was someplace other than Port Orchard or South Kitsap. It was noted that the ads were from business other than Port Orchard.

Ms. Coreen Haydock, Executive Director of the Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce, gave an update on events that will be taking place during Kitsap Harbor Festival annually held Memorial Day weekend. The Murder Mystery weekend portion of the event will be held on Saturday/Sunday, May 25 and 26, and will feature a beer garden, live band, the Seagull Calling Festival, and the “Seagull” Wings Cook-off with both Commercial/Professional and Amateur categories. Haydock indicated they are always looking for more competitors and they will be waiving the fees in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Seagull Calling Contest. Ms. Haydock also shared that Kitsap Harbor Festival will now be coordinated by the Kitsap Entrepreneur Center, and will continue to be held Memorial Day weekend.

Chair Childs reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Port of Bremerton Park Extension and the City’s Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway Segment 2 will be held during the Harbor festival with the day to be determined by the City and Port at an upcoming meeting.

Community Planning:

Chair Childs noted the Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway Segment 2 and the DeKalb Pier projects are progressing quite well with completion for the path projected for May with a June date for the pier. He also noted that a Port Orchard business is considering the possibility of partnering with the City to build an observation deck along the Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway.

Chair Childs again related that the Bay Street Market is almost ready to begin construction with permits ready to be picked up. No new completion date has been set.

Mayor Matthes mentioned the Blackjack Creek Trail has several issues and he would like someone from the State to come and give a presentation at a Council Work Study Session to address those issues. He further explained, in order to start this project, permits and an easement still need to be completed. Mr. Steve Sego with the Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce


Commerce suggested forming an outside citizens’ group, which could help the project by providing valuable information and input. Mayor Matthes stated this will be discussed further at the March 19, 2013, Council Work Study Session.

Chair Childs reported the Joint Port/City Waterfront Planning Committee will meet on Monday, March 25, 2013, 7:30 a.m. at Shari’s. Discussions are preliminary but the intent is to develop a Joint Waterfront Master Plan. The citizens will soon be asked for their input at Town Hall meetings, however no date has yet been set.

Tourism & Promotion:

Chair Childs mentioned the City and POBSA are still looking into the feasibility of extending foot ferry services during the after-hours for weekends. He suggested that due to considerable citizen input at the February 28th Council Meeting, that this topic should be added to the March 19th Council Work Study Session for further discussion.

Steve Sego, Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce, stated the business community needs to be more involved in this process.

Kathy Michael, Cedar Cove Inn, suggested the Port Orchard Bay Street Association be more proactive in having businesses stay open later into the evening; and Bremerton and Port Orchard need to come together to market their businesses.

City staff Office Assistant II Jenine Floyd stated that the City of Bremerton reported that they are not yet ready to commit to this additional expense. Mayor Matthes reported that the Port had approved money for 2013, but only for the holiday/festival weekends. Floyd further reported that the City of Bremerton is preparing for their budget amendment and still waiting for word on year end fund balances. She said they should have some numbers by late March or the first week of April, relating that the City of Bremerton is also concerned about the effects of the sequestration. As for Kitsap Harbor Tours, Floyd noted they have had a price increase, raising the rate from the 2012 amount of $146.25 per hour to $151.00 per hour for 2013.

Councilmember Lucarelli suggested we look into the feasibility of bus service between Port Orchard to Bremerton, which would not only bring more visitors to town but provide options when the foot ferry is not available. Chair Childs expressed an interest in seeing how much such service might cost.

Miscellaneous:

Chair Childs stated that the minutes from the February 13, 2013, Economic Development and Tourism Committee meeting are available and will now also be disseminated to the press besides the usual interested groups.

Chair Childs gave a brief update on the triangle landscaping. The dead plants are being taken out, and the landscaper will be assessing what else is needed in that area.
City staff Office Assistant II Jenine Floyd shared that she has contacted a couple businesses regarding pricing for placing a banner across Bay Street during the Festival of Chimes and Lights. Floyd also mentioned that DVD’s are now available from the November 26, 2012, and February 21, 2013, Roger Brooks presentations at City Hall.

There being no further business, Chair Childs adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** April 10, 2013, at 3:30 p.m.

Copies to: Council/Mayor/Department Directors/City Attorney
Members Economic Development and Tourism Committee
Kitsap Peninsula Visitors and Convention Bureau
POBSA
Fathoms O’ Fun
Cedar Cove Association
Jingle Bell Run Committee
Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce
Port Orchard Library
Port of Bremerton
Kitsap Sun
Port Orchard Independent