



## **Safety Committee Regular Meeting Minutes**

July 17, 2025, 2:00 PM, LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

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2:00 I . Call to order

2:01 II. Land acknowledgment statement:

### **Land Acknowledgment**

I would like to begin by acknowledging that we gather today on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish Peoples

### **Anri-racism Statement**

The Sudden Valley Community Association (SVCA) stands against racism of all colors.

2:03 III. Attendance: Members: Rick Asai, Chair; Tom Henning, Vice-chair; Debbie Davolio(excused); Daniel Harris(remote attendance); Kolleen Mitchell; Ted Wang; Judy White (committee is full). A quorum is present.

2:05 IV. Adopted the agenda.

2:07 V. Approve minutes from June 19, 2025 as circulated and printed.

VI. Program updates(continuing business)

2:09 VIa. Judy White-Go-bag and emergency preparedness review of presentation. Tom did a great job leading the meeting. Greg Hope (city of Bellingham office of emergency management) and Amy Cloud, (Whatcom Sheriff's Division of Emergency Management). The attendance exceeded our expectations and the audience was very appreciative of the presentation. Greg did a nice job of introducing the concept of Mapping Your Neighborhood and creating some demand for it. The tickets for the drawing should have been ready before registration opened. We made do, but that was one area for improvement. Another area was for working microphones-Spencer informed us that new microphones and podium have been ordered. And another issue was not enough pamphlets in English. Pamphlets will be picked up by Judy tomorrow and taken to the Welcome Center. The sheriff's office also sent links to resources that can be posted on the Safety committee resource page. These include: Prepare in a year guide; ready, set, go; AlertSense; natural hazards explorer. The sign-in sheet will be put into Excel format for later use contacting these attendees about future presentations. The Excel will include name, gate number if noted, and email address. A post will go out in tomorrows e-blast announcing the arrival of the pamphlets next week.

2:19 VIb.. Ted Wang- Water safety-life preserver update. July 10, 2025 dedication and recognition. The dedication ceremony was well attended and photos were taken. The display rack looks very good and several Committee members have received very positive feedback on the availability of life jackets. It was suggested that a sign be added that life jackets are

required for all designated watercraft in Washington state. Notice will be made to request donation of life jackets from community members who no longer use them, and Ted Wang has offered to evaluate them for adequacy to meet current standards. Suggestion to have drop off box at Marina on weekends and at Welcome center weekdays. One follow up of these positive remarks was that a member noted a lack of ring preservers on the dock. Ted looked into this and found that this safety device is actually a requirement of docks with certain prescriptive requirements by the state and Coast Guard. Ted will get details of what is needed and write this up for a proposal. It seems that we would need 2-4 ring preservers for the main docks and one additional for the small dock, each costing around \$100 or more. An announcement article written by Ted about the loaner rack has been submitted to the View Editor and photos will be sent by Taimi Van de Polder. Too late this week to get an e-blast about the loaner rack, but will get it in next week.

2:30 VIc. Road safety. School is out for the summer. Tom has been in contact with the Sheriff's office and has another contact to followup with regarding speed signs. Rick has requested the budget include funds for Speed/radar signs. Our County Council representative has offered to work with us to see about getting the Sheriff's office more involved in policing dangerous driving in Sudden Valley, but is still in the exploratory phases. Tom will report back next meeting on what he finds out.

2:45 VIId. Alternate evacuation routes. Matt Klein to reschedule. Rick was gifted the previous records from prior Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committees. He did a quick review of its contents and has found among other things, evacuation routes from 2008!! The point being that we are having to reinvent the wheel because of the lack of continuity from Year to Year and Committee to Committee due to turnover. Better records are needed going forward. The cancelling of the committee around 2019 stopped most planning in these areas, and prior Committee members are pleased to see some recent revitalization of these topics. It was agreed upon and decided that a work session is needed to review these materials and decide what we can use and what can't be used. Then set up a meeting with Matt Klein to move ahead based on what we discover in these past folders. Rick will bring the box of folders to the next Safety Committee meeting and distribute portions to each of us for review before we meet to share what we find. Then we will come together for our work session. We decided on a half day to go over these materials and develop a plan.

3:00 VIe. Future meeting topics discussion. We agreed that our next presentation would be a Map Your Neighborhood session led by Greg Hope. We feel that late September or early October would be the best time for this presentation. Judy will check with Greg for his availability on a week night in this time period.

3:30 VIIf. Recommendation to BOD: Rick has submitted a resolution to the BOD to add a Safety Committee as a standing committee. This could be submitted to the BOD as a bylaws amendment at AGM, but having the BOD create this standing committee is more expedient though also more easily reversed by a later Board. A suggestion was made to add a sunset provision of 5 years to the resolution when it is considered by the BOD.

3:35 Vlg. There was a request at the emergency preparedness workshop for more Firewise limb pickup to cleanup downed limbs. The BOD is looking at increasing the hazardous tree line item in the budget due to increasing expenses related to hazardous trees exemplified by the bomb cyclone last November. Theoretically unused hazardous tree funds could be reallocated the next year for additional Firewise limb pickup, but would likely need to be outsourced as our staff was overburdened this year but did a great job.

VII. New Business: future workshops could include:

3:45 In the Wild/Urban Interface (WUI) we need regular (annual) Firewise presentations. Emergency preparedness to include alternative communication channels like AM radio 1610. Map your neighborhood, which is being planned. Evacuation planning.

Other thoughts, some outside of our charter.

Could also consider posting availability of CPR classes at the Fire Station.

In regards to having county representative advocate for our needs, consider asking League of Women Voters to host a candidate's forum for the county representative that includes Sudden Valley prior to the Fall election in the Dance Barn.

Consider pedestrian protection at site of proposed crosswalk-need to assess effectiveness of crosswalk and signage there.

ACC allowing bark mulch next to house when Firewise discourages this usage.

Can timing of hazardous tree fall be done to take advantage of slower times and perhaps get a better deal?

Should we have an arborist determine what needs to be done on SVCA property and green spaces for fire safety?(it was thought this was done in the past).

Are three bids taken for tree work?

Renters are not registered with front office; security is being misled by renters claiming to be owners when they are not.(committee member experience)

Rick thanked all committee members for their participation and help in accomplishing work completed. He commended the committee for a good working relationship and positive thinking.

4:00 VIII. Adjourn 3:45pm

Next meeting: 2:00PM Wednesday Aug 21, 2025. In person at the Library Conference Room. This meeting will continue planning the Map Your Neighborhood presentation details. It will also be the time that prior Committee materials will be distributed for Committee members to review prior to our half-day work session on discovering what material and resources are contained within. We will also set a time for a half-day work session.