



## Safety Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

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

---

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgement and Anti-racism statements were read.
3. Attendance: Tom Henning, Vice-Chair, Rick Asai, Chair, Ed Wang, Daniel Harris, Kolleen Mitchell, Debbie Davolio (Quorum achieved: 4 members, one of whom is a chair.)
4. Adoption of the agenda was proposed and seconded.

Suggestion was offered in response to the Anti-racism Statement. TW proposed this addition to be presented to the SVCA Board for approval:  
The SVCA stands against racism *and discrimination* of any kind.
5. Announcements:
  - May 12 Wildfire Workshop 6:30 pm in the Dance Barn
  - Fire Wise Clean Up starts April 21 by SV regions, weekly through May 23.
  - A suggestion was offered regarding the Clean Up Program. Picking up yard debris beyond that which may have resulted from a storm better upholds the goals of the Fire Wise Program.
6. Program Updates (continuing business)
  - 6a. Fire Wise: Wildfire Workshop: Kyle will coordinate the technology needed for the event: projector, 2 handheld microphones, 3rd mic mounted at podium;  
Funds have been approved for renting AV equipment and refreshments. (\$500.)  
DD suggested printing and laminating the color WDC flyer for posting at mailbox clusters throughout the community. BOD Asai agreed to remind Judy W. of the need for Committee Members' assignments and to share that requested funding has been approved.
  - 6b. Water Safety Life Preserver Rack: Ted Wang reported that he has been communicating with Jack, the Eagle Scout candidate, Jack and the Scout Leader regarding constructing the rack as his badge Project. TW shared a picture of the rack, construction renderings, and a detailed material list and estimated costs, \$750.

The question remains whether the Scout is planning to raise funds or whether funds will be needed from SVCA. If funds are required, an email vote of the committee endorsing the budget request may be required to expedite Board approval of the funds.

Ted W. will arrange to meet the Maintenance Manager, Mike Brock, at the marina to consider the two locations he recommends. It was acknowledged that the rack will require substantial footings, and that a utility locator request will likely be required.

It was later learned that Michael Brock would not be available until after 4/21/25; further, General Manager, Michael Bennett has recommended that a location close to the SVCA building be prioritized for security reasons.

DD suggested that there be signage on the rack indicating the rack as SVCA property, constructed in partnership with the Boy Scouts and DNR.

6c. School Bus Safety: BOD Asai brought up an unofficial traffic study taken in Gate 1 by a resident and shared with General Manager Michael Bennett in a letter expressing concern about the prevalence of speeding on Windward Drive in Gate 1. The discussion and level of concern was similar to the data previously compiled by Kolleen M for the Safety Committee's discussion of traffic safety in other Gates and specifically, around speeding in the vicinity of bus stops.

The committee's discussion of how to best change driving behavior continued onto the type of signs that would have the greatest impact. KM had previously provided the committee with a detailed list of Implementation steps and costs associated with each sign option. KM shared that she learned through conversations with a local contractor and County personnel that more reasonably priced signs may be available WA DOT or even Hardware Sales Rental dept, a sentiment also shared by other committee members). In example, KM shared that lights and a timer could be mounted on a used sandwich board sign; trenching the light to an existing power source would cost about \$2000.

The consensus opinion of safety as the over-arching goal of the committee was reaffirmed as we move forward in addressing traffic and bus-stop safety.

6d. Other Safety Events: Neighborhoods Emergency Mapping will be the June safety event sponsored by the committee. The first preferred date to be relayed to Judy White is June 10- a Tuesday evening chosen to align with confirmed speakers' availability and prior to the end of the school year, June 11. (Tuesday, June 17, 2nd preference). The event will also be in the Dance Barn, 6:30 – 8:00.

In response to the questions that Judy posed to the committee, Debbie suggested that the Emergency Mapping Event be an at-large presentation promoted as the first of two meetings. A second meeting (TBD) could be a shorter recap leading into breakout sessions for neighborhood groups to work together on the mapping process. This approach would offer continuity across the events and foster the community-building/cohesiveness inherent to program success.

Volunteers in each neighborhood would need to be recruited to approach their neighbors and to encourage wider participation. Vice-Chair Tom Henning suggested this follow-up event might be combined with the planned Go Bag event, one that typically nets a larger turn-out.

6e. Placeholder: Declared Emergency- Towing Policy: BOD Asai shared that a committee may be formed with volunteers from the Safety Committee, ACC, and STR (short-term rental)

committees to work with the Compliance Coordinator to review the draft Policy and to identify parking available during inclement weather. Kolleen volunteered to participate on the committee should it be formed.

7. New Business:

7a. Kolleen M. brought up the need for improved cleaning of SVCA's recreation facilities to the committee's attention. Cleanliness of the facilities falls within the realm of safety, a matter that can rise to a public health risk, particularly during pool season when the facilities are used more. A daily and weekly schedule for sanitizing the locker rooms and sauna is recommended. Note: BOD Asai later shared that GM Michael Bennett is in the process of arranging for additional janitorial service.

7b. Alternative Evacuation Routes.

Debbie D. (DD) started the discussion by linking Fire Wise, Emergency Mapping, and Evacuation Route planning as integrally linked. Approaching and promoting these topics as interrelated rather than as isolated events may help cultivate greater resident buy-in and fuller participation.

The committee looked over an enlarged map of the Sudden Valley Community and discussed the importance of having at least two designated exits in each Gate area for emergency use.

Daniel Harris (DH) shared having spoken with Matt Klein of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department who expressed a willingness to work with the Safety Committee to help SVCA set up evacuation routes and address emergency management planning matters such as updating of prior plans, signage, and communication.

Daniel shared that Matt is eager to help, though he felt it important for SVCA to be aware that an effective plan may entail cutting some tree removal.

Daniel will contact Matt Klein to invite him to a dedicated committee meeting to begin working together on Evacuation Route Planning. The group agreed that the initial meeting will be a 2nd meeting in either May or June on a Tuesday morning (8:00 to 10:00) to best accommodate members' work schedules and sufficient time for a fuller discussion of the topic. Guests will include Matt Klein, Michael Bennett, and Michael Davolio (tentatively).

8. Adjournment: 4:04 pm.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025; 2:00 to 4:00 in Library Conference Room.