



GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Larry Halgren
introduced Jack Cox
with the Retec Group

Bob Trunek
brought Tyler Ryan
with Multop Financial

Dick Johnson
introduced Steve Moore

VISITING ROTARIANS

Frank Chmelik
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club

Dick Donahue
Whatcom North Rotary Club

Randy Bode
Mt. Baker Rotary Club

OPENING REMARKS

Following warm greetings from Fahri Ugurlu, President Tim opened the meeting with a hearty "welcome back" for Sandee. Del Vandekerck filled the room with the rich sounds of his trumpet playing "The Star Spangled Banner". Rod Elin's invocation encouraged a combination of thankfulness and responsibility. Mike Plenkovich announced visiting Rotarians.

BUSINESS NOTES

A special Board meeting was held following the regular meeting.

Whatcom North Rotary member Dick Donahue announced his club's commitment of a minimum of \$225,000 to the Ferndale Boys and Girls Club new Teen Center. Whatcom North will be holding an auction and rummage sale to raise funds. Dick mentioned that the Bainbridge Island Rotary Club has been holding rummage sales for 46 years and raised over \$400,000 from their last event! Donations are encouraged.

As promised, the tables sported prospective member lists. President Tim encouraged members to add names.

The Lummi Island ferry safely delivered the coveted football pool "board" to the mainland. Chuck Beard noted that there were 15 squares available as of the start of the meeting. Next week's meeting will reveal the news - sold-out "board" or orphaned squares.

President Tim shared a thank you note from District Governor Rod Thomson and asked Past Presidents who might be interested in serving as Assistant District Governor in the coming year(s) to make this interest known.

The Public Relations Committee seeks members' cooperation to tell the community what our club is doing. Please let any PR member know (on a timely basis while it's news and not history) if you have Rotary related news. The media are reluctant to provide space or air time for old news. When in doubt call any of the committee members. Their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are in the Rotary Roster. Thanks. (J.C. Hickman, Rod Elin, Mark Lambert and Susie Thomson-Sines)

CLUB HISTORY SPECIAL - BOULEVARD PARK

Brian Griffin got off to a provocative start by nearly writing off our own vibrant Bob Morse as deceased. Once Bob cleared up that matter, Brian focused on the facts. Beloved Rotarian Bob Moles who passed away earlier this year was the inspiration for Brian's latest project - a history of Boulevard Park. Bob asked Brian to write it and the Robinsons of Village Books encouraged the final product be published and sold.



Brian Griffin

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- August 21st**
Karen Ssebanakitta -
Whatcom End of Life Council -
5 Wishes Waiting to Hear Back
- August 28th**
Table Talks
- September 4th**
No Meeting - Labor Day
- September 11th**
Peter Gray & Tim Shepherd -
Teen Cultural Exchange with Russia
through Biographies
- September 18th**
Club Anniversary -
History Committee and
Seattle Gilbert and Sullivan Society
September 25 -
Dennis Madsen, former CEO of REI,
Coop principles in a capitalistic society
- October 2 -**
Matt Rose - Inside Travels in Beijing

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

- Al Pemberton, August 15th
- Tom Grinstead, August 16th
- Fred Sexton, August 16th
- David Sholin, August 20th

PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

- Kay Moquin, August 16th
- Virginia Fisher, August 17th
- Matt Treat, August 19th

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

- Vic Tate, August 15th
1 Year
- Matt Hammatt, August 19th
4 Years
- Wayne Langei, August 19th
10 Years

THIS ISSUE:

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HAPPY BUCKS RECOGNITION FINES

Brad Burdick was \$50 happy celebrating 22 years of wedded bliss AND the successful completion of the Seattle to Portland (STP) bike race. Brad spent two days "in the saddle." Brad acknowledged Doug Cole's one-day completion and was confident it was just as difficult for him to make it in two as it was for Doug to make it in one. President Tim was so impressed with Brad's accomplishment that he offered a \$10 discount after next year's STP (when President Tim will no longer be president) if Brad puts together a team of five Rotarians.

Cathy Buckley's daughter is engaged. Her fear of lost future cash availability spurred her \$20 contribution - give it while you can.

Kay Sardo was appreciative of Brian's Boulevard Park presentation and \$5 happy for her opportunity to enjoy the area due to its proximity to her home.

In June of 1963, artist David Thomas recommended that three view points along what is today Boulevard Park be purchased and public overlooks constructed. Rogan Jones, the father-in-law and grandfather of club members Ann Jones-Richardson and Rogan Jones, bought land north of Spinnaker Reach. He proposed a nine-story, nine-unit condominium project. The project was not permitted.

In 1968, former mayor Ken Hertz was the county parks director. Local salmon fishermen were pressuring him to find a spot for a boat launch in the area. Hertz acquired the old E.K. Woods site for that purpose, but its angle of exposure meant it wasn't well suited to getting boats out of the water. Instead, it became an opportunity site for community waterfront access.

The Milwaukee/St. Paul right-of-way which ran through the current Boulevard Park site became available in 1969 and was donated to the county (no small feat). Pattle Point was deeded from the Port to the county and is still owned by the county today. Developers successfully leased land from Burlington Northern with the intention of building apartments. None too keen on this idea, the YWCA's eco-action group got involved and contacted the club for help in 1973, one year after Rogan Jones' passing.

Bob Moles was the club's director for the Avenue of Community Service at the time. He proposed the club support securing the Burlington Northern property for the purpose of creating a park. The club's fireside chats were in full swing. Brian hosted one of those chats. Like other groups that met that evening, Brian's guests supported the idea of optioning the property. The idea was expanded to include the waterfront and the overlooks proposed years earlier by Thomas. In 1978, the city issued bonds which included \$350,000 for the park. Construction began in 1980. Eight years later, Brian, the lively Bob Morse, and Steve Brinn agreed the Taylor Street waterfront would make an excellent community access point. The club contributed \$9,000 to hire the designer who did a great deal of work in the False Creek area of Vancouver, B.C. The Taylor Street site was optioned from the Hagen brothers, ultimately purchased by the city and is a new jewel on the waterfront. Boulevard Park remains a work in progress and an outstanding reminder of the value of Rotary leadership and capacity.

PROGRAM

John Cooper introduced the team of presenters from the Port of Bellingham: Port Director Jim Darling, Environmental Director Mike Stoner, and Port Commissioner Jim Jorgensen. Jim Darling has been with the Port since 1994 and serves on several statewide committees as well as the advisory board of Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment. Mike Stoner also joined the Port in 1994, following experience with the state Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Commissioner Jim Jorgensen is a retired Blaine School District science teacher, a small business owner in Blaine and has served as a commissioner for the last two and a-half years.

Jim Darling began the presentation with a reminder that the waterfront project began in 2004 with the Port's legal action against Georgia-Pacific West, Inc. to acquire the aeration stabilization basin (ASB) for a marina. This once in a century opportunity involves environmental cleanup, economic development and community enhancement. Project partners include: private investors (although no action has yet been taken on this front), City of Bellingham, state and federal agencies (ecology), Nooksack and Lummi tribal nations, U.S. Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Western Washington University and the Bellingham Housing Authority.

When considering whether to take on the project, commissioners considered two fundamental issues: the need for partners and their evaluation of the community's outlook for the future. They recognized the importance of partnerships and were optimistic about the community's potential.

The project involves three sites and three corresponding types of cleanup: the ASB (or treatment lagoon), the Whatcom Waterway and the mill or uplands. Each site, as well as sub-sites of the



Speakers Jim Darling, Mike Stoner, and Jim Jorgensen

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HAPPY BUCKS RECOGNITION FINES

uplands, will be evaluated separately and appropriate solutions cleanup identified. The 35-acre ASB contains organic and industrial sediment or sludge. Mercury levels average 10-20 parts per million (ppm) in the ASB versus 1-2 ppm in the adjoining marine area. The ASB contains approximately 350,000 cubic yards of material that will require excavation in preparation for a marina. The result will be a clean ocean marina with park and habitat features, including salmon passage ways. Up to 450 slips will be created along with an estimated 50 new jobs. Plans include 1 mile of new trails and a park resulting from a widened breakwater. Portions of the existing breakwater will be carved down and the sands used for habitat restoration projects.

Portions of the waterway fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. They are part of the system of federally navigable waters and require dredging to ensure deep draft clearance. The five-acre log pond was capped in 2000 and is reportedly working well.

The uplands are planned for mixed use. Cleanup of contaminated areas will be determined based on planned land use. For example, the "chem-fix" site contains high concentrations of contamination (greater than 1,000 ppm), but it is localized and, barring a seismic event, not going anywhere. Excavation would cost \$1,000 per cubic yard. The alternative is to cap that portion of the site and build on adjacent areas.

Estimated cleanup costs:	Waterway	\$22.0 million
	Uplands	28.0
	ASB	34.5
	Total	\$84.5 million

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) provides grant funding for projects like New Whatcom. Funds are generated from taxes on crude oil coming into the state through a hazardous materials tax. Higher gas prices are resulting in higher tax revenues. The Port has received \$42 million from the Department of Ecology through a MTCA grant.

In addition to the partners already mentioned, the Port is anticipating relationships with the Terraquarium (a long-standing aquarium and interpretive center), a new marina and a marine-trades center. Eight to nine hundred people are employed in Whatcom County's marine industry. It is one of the community's largest employment sectors.

Development of the site will be divided between the Port and the City of Bellingham. The Port is responsible for the cleanup of the site, marine infrastructure, site preparation and marketing. The Port's revenue will be derived from the sale or lease of land and/or buildings, MTCA grants and other grants. The City is responsible for parks and trails (which are typically provided by developers), land infrastructure and utilities. City revenues will come from the recently enacted LIFT legislation (a form of tax increment financing allowing municipalities to tie the economic benefit of improvements to repaying the cost of those improvements), additional tax revenues, state and federal grants, payments in lieu of tax payments (i.e. from not-for-profit organizations) and project partners.

The Port has held over 30 public meetings since January of 2005. The Port and the City each appointed five members to the Waterfront Advisory Group which has been on hiatus for the last few months as economic modeling is being conducted. Modeling data is expected to be released around September 20th. Environmental impact information is also being compiled. The Port and City hope to agree on a development plan and have a master development agreement in place by the second quarter of 2007.

Jim Jorgensen expressed his admiration for the dedication of the Port staff. He's been impressed with the group since he began serving as a commissioner. Jim left the club with a reminder that this project will require decades of commitment, perseverance and political courage.

Rob Westford took President Tim's raffle challenge from the previous week to heart and sold \$144 worth of tickets - a bit surprising, given the fact that Rob doesn't generally have to worry about repeat customers. Well done, Rob! Matt Hammatt and Aaron Booker have big shoes to fill in the coming weeks, best of luck.

Jim Visbeek's daughter is engaged. Jim decided to get into the spirit with a \$10 contribution.

Joe Morse was pleased to announce the marriage of his daughter, and still had enough in his wallet to throw a few dollars in the pot.

Daver Morse, announcing he is not engaged, was \$20 happy for some welcome earth-moving help from a neighbor. Regular reports regarding Daver's marital status where requested by several members of the audience.

This Tattler brought to you by:

Mark Lambert



TATTLER

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2006-2007

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