

DAWN



ROTARY CLUB
of
MERCER ISLAND

Serving our community since 1963



September 18 , 2007

President Bo Darling opened the meeting
Jim Buckley gave the invocation
President Bo led the Pledge of Allegiance
Jim Marich led us all in "With Someone Like You"

Birthdays

Fred May----- 9/15

Rotary Anniversaries

Bob Christenson ---- 23 years

Jim Marich----- 27 years

Curt Nakayama ---- 14 years

Upcoming Programs

September 25, 2007

Life within the Armed Forces

Kyle Naye

October 2, 2007

Roary Shares

Don Gregory, District Governor

October 9, 2007

Heart Matters

Dr. Page, Director of Cariology U of

W

Visiting Rotarians

There were none

Guests

Pete Mayer introduced the Deputy City Manager **Lindi Lindell**

Peter introduced **Mike Cero** who is running for City Council

John Matthews honored **Tom and Peggy Watkins** and **John Naye** for their leadership and vision for creating peace in the world by becoming benefactors to the permanent fund of Rotary International.

Spotlight on Committees

Public Relations Committee – Nancy Hilliard gave a good description of what the PR committee has been doing and will be doing this year. **Bob Darling** is co chair. Members include **Terry Lee** photographer, **Craig Clampitt**, **Greg Asimakoupoulis**, **Elizabeth Baska**, **Ray Brook** and **Dean Matthews**.

"Get our light out from under the bushel!" Rotary International encourages us to let more people know about Rotary so Nancy outlined how the PR committee plans for our club to become more visible. Actions include information in the Reporter, updating our brochures and the website, and making public statements and providing speakers.

The Business of Rotary

Bo reviewed the facts about our club's support of the Boys and Girls Club PEAK project. Our club has a long history of supporting youth and schools, including financial support to the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club requested we support PEAK and our board agreed with their request and recommended a donation of \$100,000 to be given in increments of \$10,000 per year for 10 years. The entire club voted and approved the recommendation of the board. PEAK is not yet approved so we have not funded any part of the project yet.

Question:

What was the club's vote?

Of the approximately 130 members, about 90-100 responded and two thirds voted to support the project. Of those who dissented, many supported the project, but not for multiple years.

Announcements

Bo announced that the Strivers meeting will be from 1:30 to 2:30 today. The speaker is Dr. David Musnik – who will talk about improving memory with age.

Dave Lindstrom noted that the World Community Service Committee meets the last Tuesday of the month whenever there are requests. There are no requests this month, so they will not be meeting. Please turn in your requests for international projects to Dave.

Melinda Booth was pleased to say there was an "awesome" red badge Fireside on the 12th with about twenty participants. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thanks to **Gaye Brook** for all she did to make this a lovely evening. The club will have 5 more Firesides this year, so plan to come and enjoy the camaraderie.

Elizabeth Baska presented **Tom Bierlein** his "Paul Harris, plus 5" pin. She also announced that there will be a District Foundation meeting on Sept 29th in Kirkland at Lake Washington

Technical College. Red badge folks, this will fulfill a requirement for your blue badge.

Pete Mayer declared that next Tuesday at 7:00 pm there will be a Renton aircraft noise meeting, so plan to attend if you have concerns about this issue. If you cannot attend and are interested, channel 21 will broadcast the meeting at a later date.

Today's Program

Don Walker introduced the speaker, King County Council **Reagan Dunn**.

King County Councilman Dunn represents the 9th District of King County, Washington, which is the 12th largest county in the United States. Currently, he serves as Chairman of the Transportation Committee and also Chairman of the Regional Transit Committee, which oversees Metro Transit. He is also on the Executive Board of the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID). Prior to serving in elective office, Reagan was appointed by President George W. Bush to the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Reagan graduated with a J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law and a B.A. from Arizona State University

Council Dunn stated that 56% of people polled reported that transportation is the number one problem in the region, and independent studies show that our region has among the worst traffic in the United States. As most of us have experienced, Bellevue's rush hour is worse than Seattle and it is getting worse faster than in any other region in the state.

It is projected that the region will have 1 million more people living here in the next 20 years, which will result in even more traffic. The 520 bridge is in need of replacement; it is leaking now and is vulnerable. What if it sank? If that occurred, I-90 would be the only route across the lake, and the traffic results would be catastrophic.

Councilman Dunn believes that we need to make investments now in our roads and transit system. The Roads and Transit tax package will target the worst areas in the region and will dramatically improve freight corridors as well.

There will be significant help for the Eastside, which will see the largest investment in transportation since I-405 was constructed in 1960. Four new general purpose lanes will be added to I-405 from I-90 to Renton. Two lanes will be added to I-405 through Bellevue, with new interchanges at I-90 and SR 520. The package replaces the Evergreen Bridge with 6 lanes and includes the capacity of adding 2 more lanes later. It will fix the "Montlake Mess" from I-405 to I-5 and will bring light rail across the lake from Seattle to Bellevue. I-405 freeway speeds will increase dramatically. There will also be improvements to the south to help with growth in that area. SR 167 will be improved, reducing backups on the most congested interchange in Washington. Mercer Island gets the light rail, which, when it is completed, will mean a 6 minute trip to Seattle and a 10 minute trip Bellevue, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,

The Roads and Transit Package will cost 18 billion dollars, to be funded by sales tax and car tabs. The sales tax would add about \$150 a year per household on average. The car tabs would add about \$80 per \$10,000 year of vehicle value. Both taxes would be paid by most households in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

Think about the cost if we do not fund this project. Currently congestion costs the average person \$866 per year and results in 45 hours per year stuck in traffic. Population growth will cause those costs to rise significantly. Councilman Dunn recommends a vote "yes" on the November 6th ballot.

Questions and Answers

What fraction of the cost is being paid for by gas taxes and what is paid for by sales tax?
The majority will be paid by sales tax.

Will this eliminate the express lanes completely?
No, the carpool lanes will not be eliminated. The two HOV lanes will move to the outside and the light rail will be in the middle. HOV will only go one way, however.

Will there be any consideration to the need for more east/west roads?
There is no discussion about an additional bridge across the lake at this time.

520 is a mess. What are you going to do about it?

The plan is to expand the bridge by building new bridge.

How is the Montlake Mess going to be resolved?

Montlake area is a problem, but it is only a 2 mile problem. There are many special interest groups such as Broadmoor and the University of Washington, but we are working with them to get consensus.

Can you have only 1 bus system rather than 2 (Metro and Sound Transit)?

I agree with having only one agency – Sound Transit may be able to cede routes back to Metro, but it will take some time and a lot of negotiations. FYI: 40% of the trips in Seattle are on transit now. 18% are on transit in Bellevue.

What is your opinion about what should happen with the Alaskan Way Viaduct?

The Spokane Street viaduct is funded. The Alaska viaduct is NOT part of this. There is not leadership on that issue now. Seattle is going to have to come up with a solution for that.

What about tolls?

Toll roads are part of the plan. The tolls will be \$3 each way.

What is the per capita cost in this area?

1 car family, \$220 per year; 2 cars, \$280 to \$300.

What is your future in elected office?

I do not have aspirations now. I am very happy as a council member.

Crash spoke for the club when he honored Councilman Dunn's mother, Jennifer Dunn.

Scribe: Pat Turner