



Friends Focus

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*General
membership
meeting*

January 24th

6:30 p.m.

*Main branch
Tacoma Library*

Guest speaker, Dr. Julie Ann Gustanski with Resource Dimensions will talk about creating sustainable communities

See her talk description in the article to the right of this box.

Creating Sustainable Communities: an ecological economics approach to planning for today and tomorrow

In 1997, an international report noted that the planet's productivity continues to be eroded while government failures to act on this economic and social health threat. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCED) and the World Bank are not typically viewed as radical, yet the language was strong. As the report put it, "...**government policies dealing with the economy, the environment and equity are badly disconnected and often in direct conflict**". Is this relevant to our situation in Pierce County and the State? The message is clear- in virtually every community across the state, nation, and world. The issues facing the world today are serious and we are not exempt.

Development practices of the past and present are making matters worse. The key problem both here in Pierce County, the State of Washington, nationally and worldwide is that we have been long remiss in not adequately linking economic performance, the capacity of natural resources, and the well-being of communities. The failure to act on these linkages will almost certainly result in a continuing worsening of the environment, and a general overall decrease in social well-being. In addition to a deep concern about social and environmental damage, there is a strong message that ultimately this will increase health care costs, depreciate real estate values business risk, which in turn affects economic local, regional and ultimately statewide stability.

What does this mean in terms of our communities and lives here

in Pierce County Washington State? And what "qualifies as a "sustainable community? More over, what does an ecological economics approach bring to the table in helping, guiding, prodding and poking us to "do the right thing"?

Ecological economics is a multidimensional and multidisciplinary discipline. Its leads us to new ways of thinking and developing more creative approaches to applying functional criteria to resource policy and management issues; to help us arrive at a better future. An ecological economics approach to planning for sustainable communities uses a variety of tools developed within the fields of economics, ecology, sociology, and other social and resource sciences to try to put a price on nature's hidden values; what nature contributes to our well being and considers the development impacts across alternative development scenarios.

Definitions of sustainable development worldwide tend to focus on three concepts:

- 1) Future generations,
- 2) Harmonizing goals, (social, economic and environmental), and
- 3) The carrying capacity of the earth.

Experience shows that many people share the same concerns and goals but approach the goals in a range of different ways. Sustainable development might best be described as a process: "**sustainable development is like justice: you know when**

you're moving towards it, but it's difficult to define". Sustainability, generally is about living and developing in ways which: promote economic vitality and employment meet social needs (*current & future generations*), provide a high quality local environment, use natural resources prudently, and protect the environment. Within an ecological economics approach, sustainability of both the community and environment are key objectives. By letting the economic, social or natural capital of a community deteriorate, current members of a community deplete the resources available to future members, not allowing them to improve or even maintain their quality of life.

Social equity and justice in the distribution of costs and benefits are imperative. Too often, decisions have been made without consideration of the environmental costs that may be imposed on different groups within a community. Neighborhoods with higher concentrations of low income and minority people have commonly been used as the dumping ground for activities that harm the environment; leaving the people living there to bear a disproportionate share of the costs, while they receive little or none of the benefits. Successful sustainable community processes incorporate features to achieve the maximum social, economic and environmental benefit.

On Jan. 24th we will explore the framework through case studies and discuss the 12 major features of sustainable communities.

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Vision

Communities will strive to utilize all planning strategies that balance the elements of environment, equity, and economics.

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Position 5:	Susan Lanser
Position 6:	Angela Silva
Position 7:	Matt Halvorsen
To be confirmed on Jan. 24th	

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Membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

Comprehensive Plan amendments coming

The 2005 Pierce County Comprehensive Plan amendments are in the process of being initiated by committee. There are 23 Urban Growth Area expansion amendments listed by the County. The list here is subject to change, so far they are as follows:

Buckley proposes an amendment to expand its UGA by 158 parcels at approximately 1,460 acres.

Orting proposes to expand its UGA by 626 parcels at approximately 2,360 acres.

Puyallup proposes to expand the UGA by 745 parcels at approximately 414 acres.

Roy proposes to expand its UGA by 2 parcels at approximately 15 acres.

Wilkeson proposes to expand its UGA by 5 parcels at approximately 26 acres.

In **Gig Harbor**, there are three proposed amendments that would change 14 parcels in the Crescent Valley area of approximately 51 acres from Reserve 5 and Reserve 10 to MSF; expand the UGA near SR 16 by 3 parcels at 9 acres from Reserve 5 to EC or CC; expand the city's UGA near the Tacoma Narrows airport to R10 with airport overlay to NC (one parcel of approximately 13 acres).

In the Graham area, there are 3

proposed amendments that would increase the UGA near 224th street by 2 parcels at 3 acres from R-10 to MUD or RAC; CUGA expansion of 1,222 parcels at 1,130 acres from Rsv5 RNC and A to MSF; near 212 St E an CUGA expansion of 7 parcels at 20 acres from Rsv5 to MSF.

In **Buckley**, there is a proposed amendment to expand the UGA by 1 parcel or 9.75 acres from R-10 to MUD.

Along the **410 corridor**, two proposed amendments could change 1 parcel of 10 acres from R-10 to MUD and 2 parcels of approx. 61 acres from R10 to MUD.

In **Sumner/Bonney Lake**, there are two proposed amendments to expand the UGA 4 parcels of 11 acres from R-10 to MSF; and 1 parcel of 2.5 acres from Rsv5 to MSF.

In the Mid County area, there two proposed amendments south of 72nd St to expand Tacoma's UGA of 2 parcels at 3.2 acres from Rural Separator to MSF; and a UGA expansion south of 112th at 17th Ave E of 2 parcels of 5 acres from Rural Separator to MSF.

Pierce County, 1000 Friends of WA and Friends of Pierce County will hold a meeting to discuss the amendments on **April 27, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the downtown Tacoma library.**

Welcome to new board members

We welcome Susan, Matt, and Angela to the board. Susan has interest in trails and open space and experience in real estate. Matt is the past Peninsula Neighborhood Association president and has a degree in Environmental Studies (Planning) and Angela has worked with the Sierra Club, Audubon Society on fundraising and lobbying.



Susan Lanser, Matt Halvorsen, Angela Silva.

First auction fun for all - Thank you!

Our first auction was a fun event that raised over \$3,000 for Friends of Pierce County. We had so much fun, we plan to do it again. If you would like to help us for our 2005 auction, by heading up the auction committee, please let me know.

Our thanks to all of those that attended to support us and our sincere thanks to Just J's Café for hosting the event. Our auction committee chair, Laurel Shultz and committee member Carmelia Micheli get a very special thank you for working tirelessly contacting businesses and collecting items. Thanks also to our contributors: Museum of Glass, Tacoma Rainers, Broadway Center for

Performing Arts, Trader Joe's, Beach House, Brix, Terraciano's, Stanley and Seaforts, and Spiros restaurants, Wild Birds, Krispy Kreme, Starbucks, Fred Meyer, Petco, Hollywood Video, Gateway Fitness, Urban Escape, Pilates Body Studio, Graham Fitness, Mother Earth Farm, Bird's Nest, Keeping Room, Sounds Great, No Cabbages B&B, Tides Tavern, Art and Soul, Rosedale Gardens, Good News and Mostly Books, Ruby Collection, From Our Kitchen to Yours, Water to Wine, Tahoma Audubon Society, Old Town Bicycle, GH Karate Academy, Target, Scrubbles, Safeway, Judson St Café, GH Kayak Ctr., Tacoma Little Theater,

Broadway Center, Children's Museum, Tacoma Arts Museum, Miniature Makeovers Salon, The Porter Trio, GH Acupuncture, Barrett Cummins, Hedi Henson, Nell Barker, Racheal Villa, Victoria Olson, Greg Rabourn, Claudia Finseth, Evonne Wise, Wayne Cooke, Rosemary Micheli, Mary Lou Percival, Terry Riggs, Matt Halvorsen, Denny Cline, Liz Lathrop, Dr. Kadzik, Margot LeRoy, John Jones, and Tammie Zilkey.

Thanks also to Marian Betzer for taking the nice photos seen below!

Hope to see you there next time.



Marian, Carmela, owners of Just J's and Laurel accept thanks.



Friends enjoy the generous dinner at Just J's. Café.

2005 responsible developer award

Jon Rose with the Olympic Property Group is given Friend's of Pierce County Responsible developer award for 2005. Mr. Rose has worked well with all interested groups on large development

projects in Gig Harbor North. He has supported school impact fees and responds promptly and candidly to requests and questions. He has also expressed interest in using Low Impact Development.

We are working with Mr. Rose at his request to conduct a native plant salvage program on his property for next year. It has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Rose and we honor his positive work.



Join FPC today!

As a member, you will receive newsletters and weekly email updates informing you of county-wide planning, development and environmental issues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

___ Enclosed is \$35 for my annual membership dues.

___ Enclosed is a donation for \$ ____.

I am interested in helping with the following committees:

___ Environmental

___ Education and Outreach

___ Fundraising

___ Membership

___ Communications

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