



Alki News Beacon

A publication of the Alki Community Council

www.alkinews.com

Birthplace of Seattle

News for the Alki Beach Community

Oct/Nov/Dec 2011

ALKI COMMUNITY COUNCIL TAKES LEAD ON LANDSLIDE MITIGATION

Recent efforts taken by the Alki Council to create a committee to address landslide concerns and establishing a working relationship with the City has generated a response and a



commitment by the city to offer assistance through their offices.

Turn to page 5 to review correspondence between the ACC and the City of Seattle.

METRO SEEKS FEEDBACK ON SERVICE CHANGES IN WEST SEATTLE

When Metro launches the new RapidRide C and D lines in September 2012, they will be changing existing bus service to improve the transit system and provide more connections to jobs, schools, and other destinations in Seattle, Shoreline, Burien, Tukwila, SeaTac, and Des Moines. Specific suggested changes to West Seattle can be viewed online at: <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/have-a-say/get-in-the-know/projects/route-information.html>



information tables, and presentations to neighborhood groups. The Alki Community Council hosted a conversation about the changes at its

meeting on Nov. 17. Thanks to all who participated in these outreach efforts—more than 4,000 people took the time to share their feedback.

In December and the early part of January, Metro is reviewing the public feedback collected during this first phase and refining the suggested concepts into a proposal. The second phase of public outreach, to gather input on that proposal,

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Metro kicked off its public outreach for these changes in November with a series of community open houses,

HAPPENINGS

The West Seattle Blog now offers an online restaurant guide for Alki and West Seattle residents. The site lists over 50 restaurants with a quicklink to that section of the in-alphabetical-order list of restaurants (and other establishments that serve substantial

food such as sandwiches). On each restaurant's page, you'll find its location, online and in-person contact information, menu links where applicable, and hours.

<http://westseattleblog.com/west-seattle-restaurants>

Monthly Meeting

UCC Church
6115 Hinds Street
7 p.m.

Jan. 19 **General Meeting**
Feb. 16 **General Meeting**
Mar. 15 **General Meeting**

METRO continued

will begin in late January.

In the meantime, please feel free to continue sending Metro your questions and ideas. Your input plays an important role in shaping our proposal and final recommendation. You can learn more, stay informed of upcoming opportunities to provide feedback, and participate by:

- **Visiting** www.kingcounty.gov/metro/haveasay
- **Calling** 206-263-9768
- **Emailing:** haveasay@kingcounty.gov
- **Joining** Metro on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/haveasayatkcmetro>

BEACON PHILOSOPHY

The Alki News Beacon is a publication of the Alki Community Council. It is published in January, April, September, and November.

Editorials reflect the majority concerns and research of the volunteer staff and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Alki Community Council. Signed columns and letters reflect the opinions of the authors. We welcome and encourage guest columns and letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit all materials submitted for print.

The deadline for submission is the 20th of the month PRIOR to publication. You may send articles to alkicouncil@gmail.com

Beacon newsletter graphic design by Eli Brownell

Membership Renewal Reminder

Don't forget to renew your membership. Dues can be renewed anytime or paid at the next meeting.

For more info e-mail Larry Carpenter at starring@comcast.net or call 938-0887.

JOIN THE ALKI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

or renew your membership:



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Seattle, WA 98116 Attn: Membership

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SEAL SITTERS 2011 WRAPUP

2011 has been a record-breaking seal pup season for Seal Sitters Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Since August 9, volunteers have protected 47 individual pups resting on West Seattle's shoreline - well beyond last year's seasonal pup count of 33. Many of these pups "hauled out" a number of days in a row and often there were several pups on shore at once in different locations. This posed challenges for volunteers and stretched our resources thin. Seal pups Peaches (photo) and Sly became media celebrities as both the Associated Press and Seattle Times featured articles about our landmark season. Seal Sitters' most prolific pup of the year, Spanky, has used the west-side rocks almost daily since a volunteer spotted him on October 5th. Volunteers continually get asked, "Isn't it late for pups to be here?" In fact, pups will continue to remain in the area as long as there is a food source to support them. They feed on small bait fish, such as shiner perch, gunnel, shrimp and squid. Since harbor seals do not migrate, seals of all ages make our area their home year-round, seeking safe refuge on shore throughout adulthood.

Seal Sitters' hotline has handled over 550 calls thus far this pup season, fielding reports and questions from concerned folks all over the region. People often comment that they are impressed at how quickly we arrive on scene. We have worked hard over the past 4 years to streamline our process. When the



hotline (206-905-7325) receives a call, the dispatcher immediately phones our first responder who goes to the scene. If a pup or other marine mammal is on the beach, he/she does an assessment of both the situation and animal. Does the animal need to be taped off? Do volunteers need to be scheduled? If so, the responder calls the volunteer coordinator who checks our on-line calendar, beginning the process of lining up volunteers in two-hour timeslots.

Each year, our volunteers donate thousands of hours - not only protecting pups and other marine mammals on shore, but also educating the public about marine wildlife and how to conserve their Puget Sound habitat. Volunteers speak to school children and civic

groups. Through our website and blog, our conservation message reaches people all over the world. Seal Sitters receives no funding from NOAA or the city of Seattle to perform this valuable work and we have many monthly expenses - a dedicated phone hotline, webhosting, educational outreach and training materials, and supplies to create safe perimeters around pups. This holiday season, as you make your year-end charitable donations, please consider making a contribution to Seal Sitters.



ALKI COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT:

October 7, 2011

Dear Mayor McGinn and Council President Conlin,

The Alki Community Council (ACC) held a meeting on September 15 to address landslide mitigation. Participants included representatives of many different condo buildings, individual homeowners, and representatives from Seattle Public Utilities and Council member Michael O'Brien's Office. The Council voted to establish a committee to work with the City on this issue.

Based on the committee's findings and recommendations, the ACC respectfully requests the following from the City:

1. Establish a task force comprised of those agencies with responsibilities for surface water and hillside parkland (Seattle Public Utilities, Department of Transportation, Parks and Recreation, and Department of Planning and Development).
2. Charge the Task Force with developing a plan to mitigate the risk of slides on Alki and Harbor Avenues.

The plan to be developed would have three objectives: constructing an effective drainage system that allows surface and subsurface water flows to reach Puget Sound, protecting city property including streets and utilities, and protecting local residents from potential property damage and personal injury. The Task Force would have at its disposal a number of engineering studies contracted by public agencies and private individuals to use as a basis for developing

a plan. It is anticipated that it would be necessary for an arborist to survey the affected hillsides looking for diseased or undermined trees and inadequate or contributing vegetation. Our community feels a sense of urgency. Heavy spring rains resulted in a number of slides that could be precursors to future problems in the upcoming rainy season. For this reason, we would like to be able to report that the City has appointed such a task force at our upcoming Alki Community Council meeting on October 20.

The ACC will cooperate fully with the Task Force, and has designated Jerry Smith (206-933-8539) as our liaison to work with it.

Tony Fragada
President

From press release issued by City of Seattle on October, 19, 2011 details the following about Seattle Landslides:

The landslide record that was documented in the Seattle Landslide Study indicates that 86 percent of landslides that have occurred in the city have some human influence such as excavating and filling on steep slopes, broken pipes and uncontrolled storm water.

Since the devastating landslide season of 1996/1997, which involved over 300 reported landslides, the city has taken steps to prepare and respond to slides by constructing mitigation projects to reduce the potential for future slides. It has also been presenting these public landslide awareness meetings for owners of landslide-prone property.

If a landslide damages your property and you have an immediate concern for your

ALKI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNOUNCEMENT: continued

safety, leave the premises and call 9-1-1. Seattle property owners with structures that may be affected by or endangered by a landslide should contact a geotechnical professional for structural evaluation.

To view the current conditions of the USGS rainfall threshold for landslides, please visit:

<http://landslides.usgs.gov/monitoring/seattle/rtd/plot.php>.

For more information about Seattle landslides and the City of Seattle free landslide awareness meetings, please visit: www.seattle.gov/dpd/emergency/landslides.

Take Winter By Storm is a regional campaign aimed at helping citizens and businesses get prepared before bad weather strikes. Learn more at: www.takewinterbystorm.org.

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