

*"Influencing the community and the city"*

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*Highlands Community Association*

Oct 17, 2006

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

With so much development and so many annexations, we think this is an important time to be a member of the Highlands Community Association. The Board of Directors is working hard to represent you and to ensure that you are informed regarding issues that affect your quality of life. As this letter indicates, we are striving to influence the community and the city in a variety of positive ways.

Here is a recap of accomplishments:

- One of the first achievements was the erection of brick and wood neighborhood signs. Doug Keyes and Tom Tasa helped design and create the signs, one of which contains a time capsule.
- The HCA conducted an “embargo” of the local porn store, forcing it to move down toward the lower business district under I405.
- The HCA was instrumental in getting gates installed at the little Sunset Court Park on Harrington to help reduce vandalism and drugs.
- The HCA Board of Directors attracts dynamic citizens with much to offer the community and the city.
- With member input, the HCA developed a list of "important issues and concerns." Many of these issues are universal and of concern to citizens regardless of neighborhood. This list is the guiding document for all our efforts.
- The HCA Board conducted two very successful candidate forums on Puget Sound Public Access TV Channel 77. This was the HCA’s first endeavor at producing a TV show, and Puget Sound Access gave the HCA high marks. While the HCA avoided endorsing candidates, it used the media to enable voters to make informed choices, helping to

combat the impression that news is ‘managed’ in local newspapers.

- Board members serve as dedicated "watch dogs" at city council meetings, committee of the whole meetings, planning commission meetings, and meetings of other city council committees. This is a time consuming activity, but a necessary one if HCA members are going to stay abreast of developments at City Hall.
- HCA involvement resulted in proper roadway markings and signage by the Highlands Elementary School, requirements from citizens which were "overlooked" in the school district and city planning processes.
- The HCA involvement resulted in the addition of a Code Enforcement Officer (Paul Baker).
- The HCA is working closely with the Community and the City regarding a plan for Highlands Redevelopment. It was the HCA influence which resulted in a Citizen Task Force to involve the “grass roots” people in the city’s planning.
- Members of the HCA Board met with Gregg Zimmerman, Planning/Building and Public Works Department manager, regarding concerns over the traffic which will be generated by the huge shopping planned on the Boeing property, The Landing. HCA concerns were documented in a five-page letter which the City never acknowledged receiving.
- The summer of '06 yielded one of the “funnest” activities for the Community with a neighborhood picnic of games, great barbeque from Bill’s Bodacious and live music. On the morning of the picnic, there were 300 adults registered and about 100 children, by the time the picnic started, there was 100 more adults and 50 more children. Board members had to scurry to Albertson’s to add chicken, salads, and more desserts to the menu. No one went hungry, that was for sure. And the HCA extended a hearty thank you to Randy Corman, Don Persson, Denis Law, and Marcie Palmer for their help that day.
- The HCA filmed and produced a video of the salmon life cycle and egg harvesting activities at the Issaquah Fish Hatchery for the Highlands Elementary school children. It was narrated by a retired Issaquah teacher. This is a prelude to a field trip to the fish hatchery at a time when the egg harvest would be over.
- The HCA has the distinction of having the highest attended public hearings in the history of the City of Renton. First, 50, then 100, then 300, and at the last public hearing on Highlands Redevelopment on May 8, 2006, there were approx 400 citizens in attendance.
- As a public service for the Citizens of Renton and for its own members, HCA Board members often video tape public meetings which are not recorded by the City. The HCA website has an index of available videos.

