

January 29, 2010

## “What’s Happening on Shaw?!”

Greetings to the Shaw Islanders Inc. Membership!

The Shaw Islanders Inc. Board held a special “retreat” meeting on January 18 to discuss our vision for the year. We generated several ideas for projects and articulated several areas in which we would like to be of service to the membership and the greater island community. Here is a summary of our discussions:

1) We will try to find new and more frequent ways of communicating with the membership. In particular, a “letter” such as this one will be posted every couple of months: at the Kiosk, at the Community Building, and on the Shaw Islanders Inc. Website (<http://www.shawislanders.org/>). Also, please check out **our newly established Shaw Islanders Community Forum**, which can be accessed via a link on the front page of our Website. The online Forum will provide an opportunity for people to ask questions, offer their opinions, and make suggestions on the range of issues concerning Shaw Islanders. For those who don’t access the Internet, we encourage you to respond via post (P.O. Box 443) or phone (Brian Lynch: 317-5691).

2) Another major decision was to develop and carry out more activities for two particular groups of Shaw Islanders: seniors and children. We also will be planning activities with our part-time residents in mind. Several of the “specific project ideas” listed below represent our first efforts in that direction.

3) We are also interested in coordinating consistently and effectively with other Shaw Island (and San Juan County) groups and organizations, such as Shaw Respect, The Shaw School, The Library and Historical Society, EMS and Fire Dept., 4H Club, Shaw Island Fellowship, Shaw Landing, SJC Parks, UW Friday Harbor Lab, and WS Ferries, to further support our common efforts (and create new ones) within the community.

4) Our specific project ideas include:

- A possible redesign and rebuilding of the Free Bench and Storage Shed area adjacent to the Community Building
- The possible purchase and installation of a digital projector (for showing DVD movies and computer-based slide shows) at the Community Building
- The possibility of a high-speed wireless internet connection at the Community Building (for general use, and for special “classes”)
- The promotion of new “educational” classes, offered by Shaw Islanders and others, at the Community Building

- Exploration of the possibility of a ballgame/playing field somewhere on Shaw
- The conduct of an Energy Use Audit and development of the Community Building as an energy conservation “showcase” (in cooperation with OPALCO)

These are all project ideas for discussion at this point—we welcome your reactions and suggestions.

4) Upcoming events (planned and proposed):

- **Valentine’s Day Community Pot Luck and Dance (February 13, 5.30-9.00)** at the Community Building; Live Big Band Music by (Shaw School Superintendent) Rob Patterman’s group!
- Quarterly (every two-to-three months) “What’s Happening on Shaw?” gatherings at the Community Building
- Mother’s Day Tea, possibly coordinated by Seniors Group
- Valerie Easton horticulture lecture (sometime in February or March)
- Farewell Event to honor the Hoffman family, possibly coordinated with Shaw Fellowship
- Musical presentation by John Schmid/ Orion Choral group (possibly late April/May)
- Fourth of July Parade and Events (including Auction)
- Shakespeare performance by Stage Left (second weekend in July)
- Other performance and presentations we’re hoping to line up: Orcas A Capella, Boyd Pratt on historic barns, Enrique Henao classical guitar, Lopez Sound, Island Sinfonia... (send us more ideas!).

So, stay tuned, and give us feedback in whatever format suits you—including the old fashioned, face-to-face communication!

Brian Lynch, President  
 (On behalf of the Shaw Islanders Inc. Board)