

1 know, there were many experts dealing with ecology, but I
2 was looking at the school side. And on page 348 in the
3 Section 3.11.23, it talks about school capacity,
4 specifically elementary school. And it has a description of
5 the facilities for elementary schools that would be used by
6 the residents of Fairhaven Highlands, and it lists Happy
7 Valley School and Wade King Elementary School as the two
8 target schools for the residents of this particular
9 property.

10 However, when I looked at the counts, I see that Happy
11 Valley Elementary is currently over capacity by 134
12 students. And if you put those 134 students to Wade King,
13 there's only 21 students available -- 21 student seats left
14 available at Wade King. So it looks like the elementary
15 school capacity is basically saturated on the south side of
16 town already, and I note that the school impact fee is \$721
17 for a condo, \$1211 for a house. Essentially, all the people
18 that live there, if they put all those fees together, they
19 could buy a house, but not a school for an elementary
20 school.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Peter.

23 MS. OLIVER: Jim Kent.

24 MR. KENT: Good evening. My name is Jim Kent. I've
25 resided in Bellingham for some 30 years. I live in

1 Chuckanut Village, which is downslope from the proposed
2 development. Well, it's at sea level, so it's downslope
3 from everything for that matter.

4 I've been most appreciative of the comments made this
5 evening, particularly the scientific expertise that's been
6 made available. I would like to offer a decidedly
7 nonscientific -- I'm no scientist, a nonscientific, simple,
8 brief, but fervently-felt statement supportive of the
9 no-action option regarding this project. So I'd like to
10 read this into the record, if I may.

11 Our national parks immediately come to mind whenever we
12 think of valuable wildlands preservation. As a former
13 National Park Service employee, I proudly applaud our
14 nation's collective wisdom in protecting these areas.
15 Nonetheless, our most valuable wildlands are those closest
16 to home. Visiting Olympic National Park requires several
17 hours driving. The Sehome Arboretum, however, is next to
18 the Western Washington University campus in the population
19 center of Whatcom County and no car required. For a couple
20 dollars, a person can ride the WTA to the arboretum from
21 most anywhere in the county.

22 We now have another -- obviously, another opportunity to
23 protect our valuable local wildlands. Greenbriar and
24 Horizon Bank offer a modest proposal. Their Fairhaven
25 Highlands plan would convert nearly 100 acres of forested

1 wetlands off Chuckanut Drive into housing for thousands of
2 people. Greenbriar's secret code word is infill. This
3 Freudian concept has been thrown nearly open enough to
4 justify condos in the Grand Canyon. Bankers and developers
5 are experiencing hard times now, just --

6 MS. WEIL: 30 seconds.

7 MR. KENT: -- like everyone else. Hard times, however,
8 don't justify atrocities. Destroying the Notre-Dame
9 Cathedral or the Fairhaven Highlands forest and wetlands
10 should be unthinkable unless people are dying for want of
11 building materials to build shelter. For the Fairhaven
12 Highlands, the line of chainsaws and the roar of bulldozers
13 don't signify the highest and best use. Our exquisite local
14 wildlands heritage deserves much better and so do we all.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Jim.

17 MS. OLIVER: We have no more people signed up.

18 MR. STEWART: Is there anyone else in the audience who
19 would like to come forward and offer testimony this evening?

20 MAN: Sure.

21 MR. STEWART: Could I get an idea of how many other
22 people would like to testify?

23 (Hands raised.)

24 MR. STEWART: One, two, three. Three. Four. Yes, hands
25 again, please.

1 (Hands raised.)

2 MR. STEWART: One, two, three, four. Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. BEATTIE: Hue Beattie, 2104 McKenzie. I moved here
4 in '73 and used to go to council meetings all the time, and
5 around '80 they developed a Comprehensive Plan for the City
6 and they did zoning and such, and the area was zoned I
7 thought at two homes per acre. And if you look at the
8 topography and the plants and wetlands and stuff, you'll see
9 over on 30th Street, it's two homes per acre. And then as
10 you come down towards Chuckanut Drive, all of a sudden
11 there's this little spot zone where it's upzoned, and we
12 didn't even know about it. It happened at the last night of
13 the hearing on the Comprehensive Plan, and one of the
14 councilors snuck it into the plan as far as I'm concerned.
15 And, at the same time, they did a little deal to allow
16 another friend to acquire some upzoning on Fairhaven
17 Parkway, too.

18 Anyway, you got the zoning wrong almost 30 years ago and
19 it's never been downzoned. It should be two per acre, two
20 units per acre, not nine per acre. And it would be nice if
21 the Planning Department would actually tell the City Council
22 downzone it.

23 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Hue.

24 MS. BRACHY: Thank you for letting me speak. My name's
25 Laura Leigh Brachy (phonetic). I live down --

1 MR. STEWART: Laurie?

2 MS. BRACHY: Laura Leigh Brachy.

3 MR. STEWART: Laura Leigh, thank you.

4 MS. BRACHY: I live down Chuckanut Drive, so my comments
5 pertain to the traffic and safety. Generally speaking,
6 public policy is to protect existing populations' safety,
7 human health and safety in the case of a -- a catastrophe or
8 emergency. And people have talked about the numerous slides
9 on Chuckanut Drive. There is only one way in and out.
10 There's no alternative traffic corridor for people that live
11 down Chuckanut, unless, of course, at the Samish Way, you
12 can go up and over 30th Street, which has no sidewalks, no
13 lighting, is not safe and it's up and down. People have
14 died on that road using it as an alternate to get into town.

15 The bridge is essential to address. And Dr. Gibb was
16 right on. You need to plan for the unplannable. When
17 somebody needs to get an ambulance and get to a hospital,
18 we're already 20 minutes to a hospital down Chuckanut. You
19 get traffic on there, no one's getting through. That's not
20 protecting the existing residents' human health and safety.
21 This is private profit. We can't put the safety of the
22 people that are already here. You absolutely need some real
23 alternatives in this environmental impact statement, which
24 means decreasing the density of their proposal, not just
25 whether or not they'll put a connector here or there.

1 Those are my comments now, so thank you very much.

2 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Laura Leigh.

3 Who's next? And so, maybe it would move the line if you
4 could sort of come on down and get -- get beyond that
5 circle, that would help.

6 MR. D'ANGELO: Hello, it's late. I wanted to make
7 sure --

8 MS. OLIVER: Your name.

9 MR. D'ANGELO: Keith D'Angelo, 2014 Julia Avenue, about
10 three blocks from the proposed project. My comment is about
11 the process. I address this comment to Tim Stewart, and how
12 do you feel now about having selected this consultant that
13 was half the price of the nearest competitor? Do you feel
14 that you're getting your money's worth? 'Cause I don't
15 think any of the people here feel that they are. We don't
16 feel this is an unbiased environmental impact statement. We
17 don't understand why the City would choose a consultant that
18 was half the price of everybody else. I would like to see
19 that addressed.

20 I'd also like to say to Horizon Bank and the developers
21 that we don't appreciate what you've brought to our
22 community. We'd all like to be home with our families right
23 now instead of addressing a ridiculous proposal for
24 development that is not wanted or needed in our community.
25 And I think that you all know that.

1 And, finally, I'd like you -- to invite you all to the
2 November 4th meeting at Fairhaven Middle School. I want to
3 especially invite all of you to attend 'cause I know you're
4 going to find out more about this project than you are from
5 reading this document. And we encourage that, because
6 that's the only way we can address this as a community. I
7 extend that invitation to you, sir, as the developer and
8 co-developer. And then, Mr. Tull, I'd appreciate it if you
9 would attend as well.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Keith.

12 MR. MULVANY: My name is Burke Mulvany. I reside at the
13 corner of Fairhaven --

14 MR. STEWART: I'm sorry, could I --

15 MR. MULVANY: Burke, B-U-R-K-E, --

16 MR. STEWART: Burke.

17 MR. MULVANY: -- Mulvany and I reside at 24th and
18 Fairhaven Parkway. I just wanted to take a moment to
19 include the folks that couldn't make it tonight. There were
20 dozens of people that weren't able to come and be here, but
21 their comments will be coming to you and I wanted to make
22 sure that was spoken to.

23 MR. STEWART: Yes, thank you. We -- I just want to let
24 you know, we have received a number of comments already and
25 we look forward to receiving more.

1 MR. MULVANY: And, unofficially, I'd like to speak
2 quickly on behalf of the animal critters. I had the good
3 fortune of sitting on my porch tonight and watching animals
4 come down 24th Street and cross Fairhaven Parkway and go up
5 into the property that we're talking about. I have seen
6 many coyotes and also a bobcat recently. I've seen raccoons
7 and many other animals, deer, of course, coming through
8 there. Their voice really isn't here tonight. I just
9 wanted to say that unofficially. And I walk in that space
10 just every about day and it absolutely -- it absolutely,
11 absolutely would break my heart to see anything happen. So
12 zero growth is what I'd say in that space. And thank you
13 for the opportunity.

14 The one last question I have is, what happens, with the
15 state of the economy in flux the way it is, if Horizon Bank
16 is spearheading the financial flow to make this project
17 happen, if for whatever reason you decide to give the
18 permits to make this happen, and they start funneling money
19 to clear-cut that space and make these changes and putting
20 in systems, what happens after, say, a year or so and the
21 money's not there anymore? If something happens and these
22 decisions have been made and these permits have been given
23 and clear-cutting done, how do we change that? What -- what
24 kind of -- I just want to know what the process is in the
25 environmental impact statement if -- what happens if the

1 money runs out? That's just a really important question
2 that I'd like to see addressed.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Burke.

5 MS. STAHL: My name is Dee Stahl, I live at 1717
6 Fairhaven Avenue and Chuckanut Drive, and I have not yet
7 read the draft environmental impact statement. But I
8 haven't heard anyone speak to whether or not Chuckanut
9 Village and the impact on that small area is -- is discussed
10 at all. And I would like to say that, right now, the
11 traffic of non-villagers that goes up and down the road, up
12 and down Fairhaven Avenue on a weekend, sometimes it's
13 almost bumper to bumper to get down to the beach where they
14 turn around and go back. And that concerns me a lot is how
15 much more traffic is going to be down at the beach, how much
16 more activity there will be down on the beach.

17 And, also, just the impact on the wildlife and also the
18 -- the pollution of Chucka -- of Chuckanut Bay right there
19 at the head of the bay. No one's even spoken to that, and I
20 hope that if one of the proposals does go through that
21 somehow the -- the pollution of that enormous jewel or small
22 jewel that we have right now, the wetlands down there, can
23 be prevented.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. STEWART: All right. Thank you, Dee.

