

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, with Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Wesen led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Presentation by Skagit Gleaners Executive Director, Morgan Curry

Chair Wesen introduced Skagit Gleaners Executive Director, Morgan Curry. Ms. Curry provided a PowerPoint presentation and information about Skagit Gleaners, a local non-profit organization. Their mission is to rescue and redistribute food and merchandise to waste conscious working families, fostering a community of sustainability and stewardship.

Ms. Curry noted that the organization is run through a membership program, which allows members to shop up to three times per week. They currently serve approximately 350 families per year, roughly 12,000 individuals a month. In 2019, Skagit Gleaners was able to save 975,000 pounds of food waste from overflowing landfills.

Ms. Curry encouraged the public to come and tour the facility. Moving forward Skagit Gleaners is looking to expand their existing programs, and network to better connect with resources.

Discussion was held regarding ways the community can help the organization which included; volunteering, serving on the Board of Directors, donations of household items, clothing and monetary donations. More information can be found on their website at [www.skagitgleaners.org](http://www.skagitgleaners.org).

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Curry for her efforts and outreach to help the community.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:20 a.m.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/03092020/>

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Board of Health:

1. Novel Coronavirus (COVID)-19 Update

Chair Wesen convened the Board of Health to order at 9:30 a.m.

Chair Wesen introduced Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson to provide an update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and recommendations moving forward. Ms. Johnson informed the public that the goal of the Public Health department is to control the spread of COVID-19, protect people at highest risk, support partners, assure up to date public information, and to use science based decision making.

Public Health will only be reporting laboratory confirmed cases, and notification from Public Health will be provided by press release and posted on the Public Health website. When a case is confirmed, actions such as contact tracing becomes a priority. It is important to not panic, stay informed and to be prepared.

Ms. Johnson introduced Skagit County Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand to issue recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19. These recommendations were made in consultation with the State Department of Health.

Dr. Leibrand's recommendations include:

People at higher risk of severe illness to stay home and away from large groups. People at higher risk include people over 60 years of age; people with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease or diabetes; people with weakened immune systems; and pregnant women.

Employers should maximize telecommuting options and urge employees to stay home when they are sick; maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits; consider staggering start and end times to reduce the amount of people congregating at the same time.

The community should also post-pone non-essential events and gatherings of ten or more people.

Ms. Johnson reminds you to be aware that this is a rapidly evolving situation. Skagit County will continue to be available for organizational consultation on these important and difficult decisions. Stay informed about changing conditions online at:

Department of Health (DOH): 1-800-525-0127 press #

Skagit County website: [www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus](http://www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus)

Skagit County Public Health: 1-360-416-1500

Chair Wesen adjourned the Board of Health at 10:30 a.m. and announced that they would reconvene the Board of County Commissioners to discuss a Resolution to declare a Public Health Emergency in Skagit County to Waive Formal Purchasing and Bidding Requirements for Services or Expenditures Related to COVID-19 Response.

Public Health – Jennifer Johnson, Director:

2. Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution To Declare a Public Health Emergency in Skagit County to Waive Formal Purchasing and Bidding Requirements for Services or Expenditures Related to the COVID-19 Response (Resolution No. R20200039)

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution To Declare a Public Health Emergency in Skagit County to Waive Formal Purchasing and Bidding Requirements for Services or Expenditures Related to the COVID-19 Response. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Wesen introduced Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson who stated the importance of declaring a Public Health Emergency at this time to allow Skagit County to take the steps necessary to prepare and respond appropriately to the state outbreak. Declaring an emergency will streamline the processes for requesting resources and coordinating with state and local partners. This will allow Public Health to manage the health needs surrounding COVID-19 to help keep the community safe.

Discussion was held regarding importance of responding quickly to reduce risk to the community.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:32 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Parks, Recreation and Fair – Brian Adams, Director:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:37 a.m.

1. Partnership Award, Recognition of Mural Committee

Parks, Fair and Recreation Director Brian Adams discussed his deep appreciation of a group of individuals who invested much time and effort to restore a mural that had been missing from Skagit County for 75 years. In 2014, Mr. Adams was made aware of the missing mural and made connections with interested parties who formed the Mural Committee.

Mr. Adams provided details of the history behind the piece of artwork and announced that the piece is currently displayed at the Museum of Northwest Art (MoNA ) located in La Conner.

Mr. Adams introduced Phil Circa, a member of the board who thanked the Commissioners for their support of the murals restoration. He also recognized the efforts of the Breckenridge family to make this possible.

The Commissioners thanked the Committee for their efforts coming together to make a difference in our community. The mural is a wonderful representation of Skagit County past and present.

Community Partner Awards were presented to Mural Committee members.

To view the artwork please visit:

MoNA, Museum of Northwest Art  
121 First Street  
La Conner, WA 98257

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:02 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

d) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

There was no one present to provide success stories.

2. Public Comment Period

Hal Verrrell, Mount Vernon Library Foundation President was present to request support of the proposed library project in the city of Mount Vernon.

Marion Flaig of Beaver Lake Road in Mount Vernon was present to address concerns of the Clear Lake and Beaver Lake area flooding issues.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Miscellaneous announcements included that it was the Presidential Primary, and to please remember to sign ballots before dropping them off.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:41 a.m.

\*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Ron Wesen, Chair

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board