

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Friday, October 25, 2024.

The Port Townsend *Leader* reports that the Quilcene School Board's October 16 meeting opened the floor to discuss an LGBTQ Library Books Proposed Resolution/Donation, but the Zoom feed of the meeting was derailed by a hack that broadcast pornography during the public comment section. Quilcene School Superintendent Ron Moag sent out a letter the following day explaining that one of the meeting's attendees got control of the screen, and because of the large number of people attending they were unable to isolate the offender and had to shut down the Zoom session. Moag assured the public that precautionary measures are being taken to prevent such attempts from happening in the future.

The *Leader* also reports that the Port Townsend City Council has voted to authorize the YMCA to operate its Child Advocacy Center (CAC) out of the Mountain View campus portable formally used by KPTZ. The YMCA will be utilizing KPTZ's soundproof rooms for confidential forensic interviews.

CACs provide support to victims of child abuse, streamlining the reporting process, and increasing the success rate of investigations by forming a multidisciplinary team of law enforcement, healthcare professionals, prosecutors, and child advocacy professionals. The Jefferson County Team – made up of Jefferson Healthcare, the Port Townsend Police, Discovery Behavioral Healthcare, and nine other community partners – currently oversees 42 active abuse cases, providing care in separate facilities.

The lack of a local CAC location has been problematic, as victims and their families must currently drive to Sequim for forensic interviews. The new location will offer a protective environment, where children can feel safe to tell their stories to expert professionals who can help stop the abuse so that children can begin a process of healing.

According to the *Peninsula Daily News*, attendees at the city's virtual workshop on the Comprehensive Plan this past Wednesday were invited to consider three scenarios for housing in the city. Each of the scenarios assumed development would center on several major cross streets, with nodes at Jackman (where the fairgrounds are), at Howard Street and Hastings, at F and San Juan, at Kearney Street and Sims, and at Discovery and Rainier.

Of the three scenarios being considered, Alternative A, the lowest-impact option, would have new construction occur within current codes, updating only to comply with state housing zoning regulations. This option was held likely to fail in providing enough housing – especially affordable housing, it would make transit hard to justify due to low density, and would make for low tax revenue.

Alternative B would focus development intensity on nodes, zoning for higher density in those areas and encouraging the development of compact build forms, townhomes, and two- and three-story apartment buildings. This higher-density option likely would draw infrastructure investment in amenities for pedestrians and bikers, as well as small open spaces, but might require building skills that are not widely possessed by the local construction workforce.

Alternative C, which aims for the highest density focused on the city's nodes, would encourage three- and four-story buildings at the node centers, which could lead to better amenities, mixed-use builds, improved transit services, and probably higher tax revenue per acre.

About an hour into the workshop, attendees were given an opportunity to consider the three alternatives in breakout sessions. Attendees were asked to fill out feedback forms and discuss which of the alternatives they favored in light of values established at earlier outreach events. Values listed were: housing affordability, ecosystem compatibility, arts and culture, diverse social identities, and fiscal balance. Groups were also encouraged to consider values they would add.

It was felt that Alternative B might solve current issues sooner, but Alternative C could continue as a long-term plan. Additional values emerging from the discussion groups, included welcoming and encouraging a diverse population, acknowledging indigenous people, valuing young families, valuing the Salish Sea, valuing marine trades, historic preservation, and ease of commuting.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.