



To the Sudden Valley Community,

At last year's AGM, a proposed dues increase failed and the budget wasn't fully funded. The subsequent Spending Plan didn't include all of the maintenance that is being requested by our members and which is mandated in the bylaws. Some of the shortfall was made up by a small increase at a Special General Meeting (SGM) in March and some as a result of an increase in dues collection, up from 85% to 92%. But there was a great deal of regular maintenance that was deferred. The 2017 budget includes a line item for maintenance of our parks and common areas. This will ensure that sufficient staff is on board for this work. Other additions to the budget include funding for the Adult Pool, for hazardous tree removal, for the Clean Green program which was started this year, funds to keep AM/PM and Marina bathrooms open year round, for special events for members, and for regulatory plant mitigation from road work.

The members are not being asked to approve a dues increase at the AGM this year. Instead, six percent (6%) of our dues will be reallocated to Operations to cover the challenges we experienced in maintenance and mandated spending in 2016.

This year, as part of a Community Outreach effort, the Board asked a representative to keep up to date on actions being planned by Whatcom County and other government bodies that have an effect on Sudden Valley. We were able to influence changes to the County Comp Plan that are favorable to Sudden Valley. Most importantly, this resulted in our forming a better relationship with county council persons and staff. We were also able to get the County Council to approve an exception to the Stormwater Management plan that will enable vacant lot owners in Sudden Valley to start building again without paying for an expensive engineered plan to deal with runoff.

In December while planning for capital spending in 2016, the Board recognized that our facilities had not been adequately maintained and many were nearing end of life. We started a conversation with the members to decide which facilities had value for our community, which ones were worth investing in. Starting with SST (Strategic Short Term Task Force), moving on to SST2, to the Board sitting as the Committee of the Whole (COW) to discuss this topic, several Town Halls, and input from LRPC, each step brought in comments from more community members with their ideas. Ultimately, it became apparent that in order to make an informed decision, we need a clearer plan and a more accurate cost estimate for each segment of the proposed revitalization. Measure 2 on the ballot is an advisory vote asking the members to support the expenditure of \$140,000 from our capital account to get a professional plan for several segments of the revitalization project. The only firm decision that was made so far was to demolish Barn 7, which is a safety issue caused by the infestation of powder post beetles, and to demolish the Rotunda, which has contamination from asbestos and mold and would cost far more to revitalize and upgrade to current code than could reasonably be expected to produce an acceptable return on investment.

Without having had a line item for community events in the 2016 budget, I'd like to commend all of the community volunteers who stepped up and gave so generously with donations of cash, time and in kind. The children of Sudden Valley were gifted by these volunteers for Breakfast with Santa and the Fishing Derby. We also recognized our First Responders who are there for us when any member of the community is in need. I'd also like to recognize all of the staff members who have provided support through the year.

On this year's ballot, in addition to the budget and advisory vote, there are four votes to make minor changes to the bylaws. Please review the explanations in your AGM booklet and return your ballot to Admin by 4:30PM November 4, 2016. If you plan to register and vote the day of the AGM, please check in by noon time to pick up a special ballot.

Thank you,

Leslie McRoberts
2016 SVCA Board President