



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2011  
Cruiser Café, Eatonville**

**CAC Members Present:** *Debbie Anderson, Deborah Crosetto, Paul Crosetto, Mary Foster, Fred Michelson, Drake Ellison, Robert Smith, Marjorie Smith, Steve Pruitt, Kayla Saville, Jean Shafer, Sunny Thompson*

**Staff Present:** *Ashley Von Essen, Justin Hall*

**Presentation**

*Kayla Saville*

*Ecovillage Living in Scotland*

Kayla recently had the opportunity to travel abroad in order to visit and experience the Findhorn Foundation, Ecovillage, Spiritual and educational center, in the northern part of Scotland.

In 1962, 3 people moved to a small parcel of land and began gardening to sustain themselves. Working with nature, this small group became famous for the great size of their vegetables would grow, though the land wasn't quite suitable for gardening. In time, the village began to grow and eventually became the foundation it is today. They hold a number of workshop on a variety of topics throughout the year, which attract people from throughout the world. The foundation prides themselves on their communal way of life: eating together, working together, and living sustainably. Kayla has had the pleasure to work in the kitchen and in the garden. The foundation setting promotes mindfulness in all activities pursued, being aware of not only yourself, but others as well.

The Findhorn Foundation integrates permaculture in their projects, training people who attend the workshops on year-round agriculture without depleting the soil's nutrients, while working with the elements. Attendees are also trained on permaculture ethics, which include: earth care, fair share, and people care, which combined allows one to realize that we are all connected. Students are also taught the 5 permaculture attitudes, the problem is the solution, work with nature, not against, everything garden, unlimited yield, and minimum effort for maximum effect

The Findhorn Foundation has built a number of ecological buildings using recycled materials. They also use on-site power generation, a biomass boiler that heats 12 separate buildings, and wind turbines as forms of sustainable energy.

The Nisqually connection: Kayla would like to initiate a similar, sustainable community here in the Nisqually watershed. She and Steve Pruitt, also a member of the Citizens Advisory Council, have been working together to establish the Elthea Spiritual Living Community. You can visit them online at:

[www.thomas-elthea.org](http://www.thomas-elthea.org)

For more information on Findhorn or any of the topic from Kayla's presentation, you can refer to the following websites:

The Findhorn Foundation: <http://www.findhorn.org/>

The Global Ecovillage Network: <http://gen.ecovillage.org>

CIFAL Findhorn: [www.cifalfindhorn.org](http://www.cifalfindhorn.org)

Permaculture Magazine: [www.permaculture.co.uk](http://www.permaculture.co.uk)

### **Welcome, Introductions, Minutes, & Agenda Approval**

Deborah Crosetto called the meeting to order at 1:04.

There was a motion to approve August's meeting minutes as presented. Meeting minutes were approved.

### **CAC Proposals**

#### **Meeting locations**

- Ideas for the next location:
  - Everyone seems to prefer meeting directly following the NRC meetings on Friday afternoons. It is more convenient for people to make the meetings because of the close proximity of time and location, then the meetings in the evening time.
  - Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center Auditorium for February's meeting, 12:30pm. Ashley will put in a application for the meeting space.
  - The back-up location will be Jean Shaffer's home in Olympia. If the meeting is held at her house, Jean will be our presenter for February and give the group a tour of her sustainable forest.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- NRC Forestry Committee Meeting Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at NIT DNR.
- Roy Salmon Homecoming, January 14<sup>th</sup> in Roy
- Eatonville Self-Reliant Group, Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, Eatonville Library. More info: <http://selfrelianteatonville.wordpress.com/>
- Graham Self-Reliant Community, Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday. More info: <http://selfreliantcommunity.wordpress.com/>

#### **Good of the Order**

Nothing at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:16pm.

**NEXT MEETING: February 17, 2012, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, 12:30-3:00pm**