



CHARISSE DESCHENES, MBA

EDUCATION

Benedictine College - Atchison, KS
Executive Management of Business
Administration, 2012, GPA: 3.76

Eastern Washington University - Cheney,
WA, Studied in the Masters of Urban &
Regional Planning program 2002-2004 GPA:
3.736, 86 Completed Hours

Kansas State University - Manhattan, KS,
Bachelors of Science, Park & Resource
Management, 1999

AFFILIATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Leadership International City County
Management Association (ICMA),
December 2018 to October 2020

Senior Executive Institute, Weldon Cooper
School of Public Management, June 2019

Northwest Women's Leadership Academy,
2019

Alliance for Innovation nextERA Advisory
Group, Member since 2018

International City County Management
Association Member since 2018

European Management Residency in
Entrepreneurship & Management -
Maastricht University, Netherlands, 2012

American Institute of Certified Planners
(AICP), Certified in 2009 - 2020

American Planning Association
Member since 2002

RELEVANT GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Financial Management
Managerial Economics
Marketing Strategy
New Ventures Management
Business Practices and Corporate Social
Responsibility
Strategic Management
Global Strategy
Human Resource Management
Leadership

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Role: Interim City Manager

Employer: City of Sequim, February 2021 - Present

Responsibilities: Reports to the City Council and serves as Chief Executive Officer managing the operations of the City with nearly 8,000 with a surrounding population of approximately 35,000, 86 employees and a budget of \$33 million. Leading Sequim through change including the pandemic while evaluating resource needs for the City and within the community. Continuing and establishing partnerships locally and regionally to best serve Sequim through the COVID recovery and beyond. Reestablishing the culture of the organization post COVID. Developing customer service and communication within the organization. Implementing current Council Goals and preparing for the update of Council Goals. Updating the City's Municipal Code through a code scrub. Implementing new asset management software and budgeting software to better track efficiency of services and key performance indicators to create a more transparent organization. Updating the Parks Master Plan and Impact Fees and the Water Master Plan. Preparing for a community-wide survey that will help develop the City's Strategic Master Plan. Working on the legislative agenda and staying connected with legislators concerning items important to Sequim.

Role: Assistant City Manager

Employer: City of Sequim, September 2018 – February 2021

Responsibilities: Assisted the City Manager with the leadership and management of the organization; implemented Council Goals and Policies; worked on leadership and management matters with direct reports; led performance management and process improvement; assisted with establishment of partnerships and funneling resources to childcare providers, businesses and human services agencies during the pandemic through partnerships and use of the City's Rainy Day Fund; managed Parks and Arts Manager / Continuous Improvement Analyst, Arts Coordinator, City Clerk and interns; lead performance management work; served as staff liaison for the Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board; served on senior leadership and management teams; staff representative for the North Olympic Development Council (NODC); member of the GREASE Facilitation Team; served on the City's Emergency Management Team; co-creator of the Sequim Sunshine Festival; covered as the Acting City Manager when needed; developed contracts; served on the Health and Human Services subcommittee; served on the Codes Enforcement committee; created Request for Proposals; led legislative agenda work for the City; and other duties assigned. Served as Acting City Clerk while searching for a replacement in 2019.

Role: Assistant to the City Manager

Employer: City of Sequim, May 2017 – September 2018

Responsibilities: Worked in both the City Manager's Office and the City Clerk's Office; responsibilities included: staff liaison to the Arts



CHARISSE DESCHENES, MBA

International Business
IT / Project Management

Accounting
Business Law and Ethical Decision Making
Planning, Politics & Public Policy
Planning Law
Research Methods I: Plan Making
Planning Methods II & III
Public Sector Ethics
Public Planning & Budgeting

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Secretary for Citizens for Sequim Schools,
2015 – 2016

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
Volunteer, 2013 – 2016

Sequim Noon Rotary, 2014 – 2015

SPECIAL PROJECTS & RECOGNITION

2021 Washington City / County
Management Association Outstanding
Assistant Award – Under 10K Population

Presenter of Leadership ICMA Project at
the 2020 ICMA Conference

Emcee for Keynote Speaker at the 2019
Transforming Local Government
Conference

City of Sequim Facilitation Team Member,
Member since 2017

City of Olathe Innovation Team Member &
Alliance for Innovation Ambassador, 2009 –
2013

Presenter, Transforming Local Government
Conference, 2012

Chair of City of Olathe Sustainability
Committee, 2008 – 2010

Academy for Sustainable Communities
graduate, 2009

Member of City of Olathe Green Team,
2007 – 2009

Finalist, Kansas City Design Center Light Rail
Transit-Oriented Design Competition, 2007

Commission; staff lead for the Music in the Park program; international relations host; Sequim Bicycle Alliance liaison; back-up for City Clerk for completing council packets, meeting preparation, draft, review and edit staff reports, publishing legal notices; back-up for Communications and Marketing Director for social media posts, news releases and newsletter editing; staff lead on Rally in the Alley; staff member supporting ServiceFest; member of the GREASE Facilitation Team; Innovation Academy graduate; volunteer program manager; staff liaison for Music in the Park; managed summer interns; served on senior leadership and management teams; presented to City Council; served as back-up staff representative for the NODC; served on the City’s Emergency Management Team; and other duties as assigned.

Role: Senior Planner

Employer: City of Sequim, September 2014 – May 2017

Responsibilities: Led updates to the municipal code; acted as the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) administrator; act as the staff liaison to the Planning Commission; improved internal processes for development review; served as co-chair of the Sequim Bicycle Alliance (SBA); member of the City’s facilitation team; member of the City’s events committee; facilitated meetings; project manager of current planning land use cases and environmental reviews with cross departmental management of projects; conducted site analysis and SEPA review on applicable applications; provided guidance to Department of Community Development staff on current and long range planning issues; provided customer service to citizens concerning land use, zoning, special events, processes and procedures and records requests; prepared meeting agendas; applied business management knowledge for economic development projects; wrote reports and presented cases to City Council and Planning Commission; and managed software updates.

Role: Owner / Principal

Employer: Risse Group LLC, Sequim, WA, 2013 – 2014

Responsibilities: Developed public outreach materials, prepared meeting agendas and conducted public meetings for the City of Sequim Comprehensive Plan; drafted chapters for the comprehensive plan; prepared administrative documents and completed technical tasks for tracking the comprehensive plan process; and assisted the Community Development Director with preparing a grant to assist in the funding of the comprehensive plan update.

Role: Senior Planner

Employer: City of Olathe, KS, 2011 - 2013

Responsibilities: Headed the long range planning division; led staff and managed the consultant contract for a major update of the zoning code; wrote requests for proposals; provided long range planning mentorship to planners and planning staff; completed comprehensive plan updates; prepared the long range planning budget; conducted research and analyzed data to prepare the City’s Development & Demographic



CHARISSE DESCHENES, MBA

Planning Commissioner, Cheney, WA, 2003 – 2004

Vice President of the Student Planners of Eastern Washington University, 2003-2004

HUD Scholarship Winner, 2002 - 2004

brochures; served on the technical forecast committee for the Mid America Regional Council; served on the Innovation Team for the city and assisted with the development of an internal system for idea generation for coworkers at all levels of the organization; presented at the national Transforming Local Government Conference; prepared agendas and staff reports for planning commission and city council; presented comprehensive plan updates and special projects to the planning commission and city council; and served on the feasibility committee for location of a new library.

Role: Planner II

Employer: City of Olathe, KS, 2008 – 2011

Responsibilities: Worked on comprehensive plan updates; prepared public outreach documents; conducted public outreach; provided customer service for internal and external customers; presented to groups and organizations; promoted comprehensive plan related meetings through video on the Olathe news channel, press releases, website updates, emails, phone calls, flyers and posters; created the City's Development and Demographic brochure; provided planning related communication to customers and internal staff; chaired the city's Sustainability Committee; organized a sustainability forum and fair; served as a member of the city's Green Team supporting internal environmental efforts; served on the development related Communications Committee; managed the outreach and promotion for development forums; contributed to the city's Sustainability Master Plan; wrote planning commission and city council staff reports; and conducted site inspections for subdivisions, commercial development, tree preservation, street tree installation and sign installation.

Role: Current Planner

Employer: City of Olathe, KS, 2004-2008

Responsibilities: Prepared planning cases; wrote staff reports; presented to planning commission and city council; provided technical assistance regarding zoning codes, ordinances, design and development standards; organized, led and facilitated meetings; provided customer service to internal and external customers.

Roles: Parks Program Assistant

Employer: City of Kent, WA 2000 - 2002

Responsibilities: Managed the community center on nights and weekends; supervised staff; completed cash reconciliation; set-up rooms for rentals; provided customer service to patrons and phone customers; supervised the facility during large events; and managed rental agreements.

Roles: Parks and Recreation Intern

Employer: City of Kent, WA 1999 - 2000

Responsibilities: Organized and conducted special events; used marketing and budgeting skills; managed the youth soccer program; and provided programmatic customer service.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

City of Sequim News Release

August 4, 2021

Charisse Deschenes Recognized by the Washington City/County Management Association

SEQUIM—City of Sequim Interim City Manager Charisse Deschenes will be recognized with the Outstanding Assistant Award for populations under 10,000 by the Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) for her role as Assistant City Manager. Deschenes will be presented the award at the WCMA annual conference on Thursday, August 12.

“The award recognizes outstanding achievement and exemplary work by a local government professional who provides valued assistance to a chief local government administrator/manager and who has made significant contributions toward excellence in leadership,” said WCMA Executive Director Tracy Burrows. “It’s a well-deserved award! Congratulations Charisse!”

Deschenes became City of Sequim Assistant City Manager in 2018 following her roles as Assistant to the City Manager and Senior Planner. She was acknowledged for her participation in the City’s facilitation team, Sequim Service Fest, legislative advocacy, regional childcare, management of housing funding, COVID-19 Emergency Coordination Center support, LEAN program support, launching the City’s Performance Management Program, and supporting fellows and interns. She has served as Interim City Manager since February 2021.

Deschenes is a graduate of the Northwest Women’s Leadership Academy, Leadership ICMA, and the Senior Executive Institute, and serves on the NextERA Advisory Group with the Alliance for Innovation. She has a Bachelor of Science in Parks and Resource Management and a Master’s in Business Administration.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

June 18, 2021

Sequim City Council votes to have others continue race discussions - \$1,000 membership not renewed for equity, inclusion group

Author: Matthew Nash

City of Sequim leaders look to pass the baton to other community groups to carry on community conversations about race, equity and inclusion. At Monday's Sequim City Council meeting, the vote was 6-1 — with Council member Brandon Janisse opposed — to stop formal conversations and turn the effort over to the community, with staff and council allowed to participate at their discretion.

Along with stopping formal conversations, council members agreed 4-3 to not renew a \$1,000 membership to The Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), described on its website as "a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all." Council members Brandon Janisse and Rachael Anderson as well as Deputy Mayor Tom Ferrell were opposed.

Council member Keith Larkin, who made both motions, said he feels the city has done a tremendous job in recent months for a "great community conversation." Ferrell said when conversations began, it seemed like the community was in pain. "We're at a point now, like a continuation of the discussion, that's not necessarily led by the city but a rotating leadership group," Ferrell said. He added he'd "love to see the other organizations in town involved, and we stand ready should we need to be."

City staff held guided, virtual conversations on March 20 and March 23 with moderators asking four questions about race, equity and inclusion. The conversations followed multiple rallies and online and in-person conversations on race, equity and inclusion in the area leading the city council to pass a resolution condemning discrimination and racism.

Barbara Hanna, Sequim communications and marketing director, said she has one more meeting with the Community Conversations Design Team, which includes staff and members of the community that helped design the first two conversations, to thank them. "We're hearing from a lot of other community organizations delving into this work," Hanna said.

Anderson said she wants to see conversations continue so as to make emotional and mental health safety just as important as physical safety. "Having these conversations allows that to happen," she said.

GARE membership

Larkin felt the city had gone through the conversation process, so he felt it was appropriate to not renew the GARE membership. He asked that the \$1,000 membership fee go instead to help children who cannot afford membership in Sequim Youth Soccer.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Interim City Manager **Charisse Deschenes** said when the city faced race and equity details that staff members were unfamiliar with, they looked for help from other organizations such as GARE. "Many cities were looking to find a resource to help with community conversations," she said.

Deschenes added that, since the city joined GARE last June, the organization has helped with some internal operations. She said there have been politics arising around race and equity and that is some of the reason why GARE is being targeted. "For the most part, GARE has been very helpful," **Deschenes** said.

Sequim is the only city with a GARE membership on the North Olympic Peninsula, with mostly larger cities across the U.S. holding memberships, Larkin said. He said similar resources were available through the Association of Washington Cities.

Deschenes said city leaders with Port Angeles and Port Townsend have asked them about membership, but she's unsure of their willingness to become members. "I understand where you're coming from and we can certainly not renew that," **Deschenes** said. "We appreciate that support, but can look at other ways for race and equity (information) and let you know how we're using the resource."

Ferrell said he didn't have a problem with the membership. Discussing it felt like micro-management, he said, adding that it should stop. "We've got to trust the city manager to do her job," he said.

Mayor William Armacost said the national narrative on race and equity brought up concerns in Sequim he felt didn't apply in the town. But he told Ferrell he was proud the city passed the resolution and that "city staff have gone above and beyond" with the community conversations.

Anderson said she agrees with Ferrell and she doesn't "think race and equity issues are ever going away."

As for the \$1,000 in funds, Larkin said he learned 15 percent of youth soccer players can't afford membership and he felt the city could help. Ferrell said it could become difficult trying to earmark small funds when there are many groups with many needs. Sue Hagener, Sequim's administrative services director, said the city doesn't have a mechanism in place to allocate funds like that through a parks and recreation district, and it would have to go through an application process for the poor and infirm.

City Attorney Kristina Nelson-Gross suggested speaking with the group and/or Sequim School District to see how their sports program applications work, while **Deschenes** suggested not earmarking the funds specifically but rather putting the funds generally towards the effort for now. The city will review the Parks Master Plan this summer, **Deschenes** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Charisse Deschenes** is listed below.]

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<https://nonprofitlight.com/wa/port-angeles/united-way-of-clallam-county>

UNITED WAY OF CLALLAM COUNTY

PO BOX 937, PORT ANGELES, WA 98362 www.unitedwayclallam.org

Total Revenue

\$937,030

Total Expenses

\$1,661,336

Net Assets

\$5,330,865

Organizations Filed Purposes: UNITED WAY OF CLALLAM COUNTY STRENGTHENS OUR COMMUNITY BY HELPING PEOPLE TO LIVE SAFE, HEALTHY, AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES. WE BRING TOGETHER RESOURCES, PEOPLE, GOVERNMENT, AND ORGANIZATIONS TO WORK ON THE MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS IN OUR COUNTRY.

AGENCY FUNDING: WE PARTNER WITH BUSINESSES, NON-PROFITS, GOVERNMENTS, AND INDIVIDUALS TO RAISE FUNDS SUPPORTING HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS IN OUR COUNTY. VOLUNTARY BOARD AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS DETERMINE THE MOST CRITICAL AND EMERGING NEEDS. FUNDS RAISED ARE DISTRIBUTED TO NON-PROFIT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES AS ALLOCATED BY THE BOARD AND DIRECTED BY THE DONORS. FUNDED AGENCIES ARE REQUIRED TO DOCUMENT OUTCOMES AND ARE MONITORED BY THE UNITED WAY BOARD.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS: TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY, UNITED WAY ENGAGES IN STRATEGIC COMMUNITY BUILDING. THIS WORK IS CALLED COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS. WE IDENTIFY OUR COUNTY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS, AND CONVENE PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT AND RESOURCES TO STRATEGICALLY ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. 1) THE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE COALITION WORKS TO HELP ALL PEOPLE ACCESS HEALTH CARE INCLUDING PRIMARY, SPECIALTY, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE; 2) 211 ACCESS TO HELP - A SIMPLE PHONE NUMBER CONNECTS PEOPLE TO HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES IN OUR COUNTY; 3) THE CLALLAM COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL WORKS TO EXPAND LITERACY RESOURCES, PROVIDE FREE ADULT TUTORING, ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO READ TO THEIR CHILDREN, AND GETS BOOKS INTO THE HANDS OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN. 4) EARLY LEARNING/GREAT BEGINNINGS - WITH A GOAL TO ENSURE THAT ALL

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

CLALLAM COUNTY CHILDREN BEGIN SCHOOL READY TO LEARN. THESE FUNDS WILL BE AWARDED TO AGENCIES PROVIDING PARENTING EDUCATION AND INFORMATION, TRAINING FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS, AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT. UNITED WAY ALSO WORKS CLOSELY WITH OTHER AGENCIES ON COMMUNITY INITIATIVES - THE HOMELESS TASK FORCE, THE REGIONAL EARLY LEARNING COALITION, A UTILITY ASSISTANCE WORK GROUP, THE BACK TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY-WIDE DRIVE FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES; PREVENTION WORKS; FOCUSING ON ENDING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT; AND OTHER COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS WHICH EMERGE TO ADDRESS SHORT OR LONG TERM PROBLEMS.

Executives Listed on Filing

Total Salary includes financial earnings, benefits, and all related organization earnings listed on tax filing

Name	Title	Hours Per Week	Total Salary
Charisse Deschenes	BOARD MEMBER	1	\$0

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

March 30, 2021

Sequim council member urged to resign over résumé discrepancies - Pence denies wrongdoing, saying his qualifications are true

Author: Matthew Nash

Two Sequim-area residents are calling for the resignation of council appointee Mike Pence after finding discrepancies in his résumé. Pence, who was appointed to a vacant seat on April 27 2020, said in a phone interview Friday he has no plans to resign and that he never meant to mislead anyone through his application. Karen Hogan and Marsha Maguire called for Pence's resignation after finding that his résumé falsely lists his job titles for some of his career, including that he was director of Public Works for the City of Liberty, Mo., from October 1988 to October 2009.

Liberty's city recruitment coordinator Beth Vanderhoorn said Friday that Pence worked there from 1988-2009 and his title at the end of his employment was public works maintenance supervisor. "He was not the director of public works, nor was he ever an interim or anything," Vanderhoorn said.

Hogan and Maquire said Steven Hansen was director of Public Works in Liberty from 1989-June 2016. Hansen, a design-build advisor for Emery Sapp & Sons of Kansas City, Mo., was public works director from 1994-2016, he said Friday. "(Pence) has misrepresented himself and he has been less than truthful and I have no idea what his motive is," Hansen said. "Honestly, I don't know why he's doing it. It's just not truthful. "He misrepresented himself, and that's wrong."

Hansen said he was first hired as director of engineering in 1989 when he and Pence were co-department heads. Pence led utilities and maintenance, Hansen added. Hansen became public works director in 1994 when the department was created, and he became Pence's supervisor, and Pence was demoted to a superintendent position, Hansen said. "I promoted someone else in the division to head that operation," he said. "He was unhappy about being demoted."

Current Liberty Public Works Director Sherri McIntyre said in an interview that Hansen was public works director in 2009, the same year Pence retired.

Pence response

Pence said that his intent was not to mislead the council and residents with his resume, which he titled as "confidential resume." "When I got hired in the City of Liberty I was director of utilities and community maintenance, which is public works," he said. He said that in 1994 the city combined public works and utilities and he became maintenance supervisor. "No, I was not public works director," he said. He said that he changed it for his city council application because "nobody knows what a director of utilities and community maintenance is."

But Pence doesn't feel he misrepresented his job descriptions or accomplishments. He said when Hansen's title changed, responsibilities changed so that Pence was no longer in charge of the water and sewer plants, which he was fine with. He said his résumé was a summation of his

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

highest qualifications over those 20-plus years. "What I have accomplished is exactly true," Pence said.

His application listed his responsibilities as management, supervision and coordination of the water department, sewer department and street department along with serving on committees and being involved in the city's budget process. "I have 30 years of municipal government experience and I've never been called a liar before," he said. "I take real offense to that."

He added that when locals called Liberty, they didn't ask what his position was in 1988, just 2009. "Maybe I should have made (the application) clearer," Pence said. "Maybe that was a misstep by me. Most people know public works but they don't know utilities and community maintenance. "But I wouldn't have spent 30 years in municipal government and lied through everything."

No violation

Sequim's interim City Manager **Charisse Deschenes** was unaware of the allegations on Friday, but after discussion with leadership city staff, she said Pence's actions "do not look to be a legal violation or a council rules violation."

On March 25, Hogan and Maguire emailed Pence about the discrepancies and asked him to resign or they'd go public with the information. Pence said he refused to be harassed or follow ultimatums. "I'll seek the advice of a lawyer if these two keep it up," he said. "They are bullying me, I feel. It's defamation of character." Pence said he intends to run for reelection in November for council position No. 3.

Hogan and Maguire also allege Pence stated he was Director of Housing and Community Development for the City of Flat River, Missouri from 1978-1980. The city later merged with other cities to become Park Hills In 1994, but Hogan and Maguire said they connected with city reps who said Pence had a "position of lesser authority and responsibilities." Park Hills representatives could not be reached by press time.

Again, Pence said he didn't mean to mislead as his job involved, according to his application, intergovernmental relations, housing programs, recreation, along with committees and budget planning for those areas. He added that he oversaw parks, filed grants, oversaw a lot of projects for the community and sewer departments and he "didn't know there was a discrepancy" over the title.

Targeted?

Pence said he feels he's being targeted by Hogan, Maguire and other community members. "They're making a mountain out of a molehill," he said. "My intent was not to mislead anyone. They targeted the mayor for months and still are. "Those two ladies know nothing about me and my integrity."

Hogan said she doesn't feel they are targeting Pence specifically and that Mayor William Armacost's recent comment at a council meeting about how much executive experience there

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

was when it came to searching for a new city manager prompted her to examine the council member's experience. "If you uncover behavior and actions that are not in the best interests of the Sequim residents, that's not targeting," she said. "We uncovered major lies on this man's application for city council. He's consistently voting with the mayor who claims (Pence) is one of his people with executive experience. How is that targeting? "We're uncovering something that's not true."

Just leave

When asked for a solution to the matter, Pence suggested Hogan and Maguire leave Sequim. "They don't like anything, in my opinion," he said. "If they don't like it here, why don't they move? They just keep stirring the hate. That's not helping our community whatsoever."

Hogan and Maguire, both members of the Sequim Good Governance League, also questioned Pence's reliability after he was one of four city council members to call for the resignation of former city manager Charlie Bush in January and then on March 22 voted to begin a search for a new city manager after appointing **Charisse Deschenes** as interim city manager. "What they did with Charlie Bush is unforgivable. He was extremely talented and had so much integrity and they got rid of him. We still don't know why," Hogan said.

In January, Armacost said in a press release that the decision was over "philosophical differences" but has not elaborated in multiple interviews and meetings.

Hogan said they expect honesty and transparency from city leaders and she doesn't want Pence involved in a city manager search. "You don't lie about something like (job titles)," she said.

Pence said "philosophical differences can be a lot of things" and he wouldn't go into specifics because it's a personnel matter. "The city was going in one direction and the council felt it needed to go in another direction," Pence said.

Sequim City Council meets next in a virtual meeting at 6 p.m. April 12. For more information, visit www.sequimwa.gov.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

March 26, 2021

Sequim City Council to work with firm for city manager search - Debate heard over timing

Author: Matthew Nash

A search for a new permanent Sequim city manager will begin soon with assistance from a national firm. Sequim City Council members opted to begin the search in a 4-3 vote Monday with those in favor saying time is needed to find the right person — even if that is **Charisse Deschenes**, Sequim's interim city manager.

Deschenes accepted the position in February after serving as assistant city manager to previous city manager Charlie Bush. Bush left after a majority of council members voted in January for him to resign. Mayor William Armacost said in a press release then that the decision came between Bush and some city council members over "philosophical differences ... on some issues facing the city," issues that have not been made public.

At the March 8 council meeting, Armacost said he received several communications from constituents asking why the city hadn't begun a search for a new city manager, so he asked it be put on the March 22 agenda. He recommended not using a national firm because of cost, and said the decision to start a search was not "discouraging or taking away" from the appointment of **Deschenes** as interim city manager. "I'm extremely pleased with **Charisse** and it may produce she is the best candidate for that position," he said. "We have constituents we have to answer to, and to see what the field of opportunity is out there."

On Monday, Armacost reiterated he's pleased with **Deschenes** and "100 percent behind her" but he has a responsibility to listen to constituents to do a search. Council member Keith Larkin said if **Deschenes** is the "truly best candidate then it'll come out in the process." "In a sense, she's given a great opportunity to outshine other candidates (as interim)," he said.

Larkin added that it's in the best interest of the city to have an outside firm involved because they are neutral.

Council member Mike Pence said he felt the council was against a time limit since **Deschenes'** interim contract runs through Aug. 16. He called recruiting a Catch-22, asking rhetorically, "What do you do in that interim time frame? Wait 'til the end of August to decide to recruit? That makes no sense to me."

City staff will work with a committee of three city council members on a request for proposal (RFP) for firms before bringing it to fellow city council members in a special work session. The work session has not been scheduled. Emily Stednick, city human resources manager, said using a firm to help find and vet candidates could come at an estimated cost of \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Attorney Michael Bolasina with Summit Law Group, who consulted with the city to help begin the city manager search, told council members he thinks the process will go smoothly because

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(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

firms receive RFPs all the time, that "they'll know what to do" and that the city should get prompt responses to questions.

Sue Hagener, Sequim director of administrative services, said when Bush was hired in August 2015, they used a firm to assist the city council in the recruiting process.

Council member Brandon Janisse, who voted against the resignation of Bush, said that the council should see **Deschenes'** contract out to the end. "She's qualified, and I stand behind her and the rest of staff," he said.

Deputy Mayor Tom Ferrell, who also voted to retain Bush, said he felt **Deschenes** is already qualified for the position. He said Armacost negotiated with **Deschenes** on her interim contract in good faith, but there's "nothing in that contract that talks about turning around and recruiting right away," adding, "as a city councilor, that was not in good faith."

Bolasina said beginning a search isn't a breach of contract, and her contract allows for a search at any point. However, Ferrell said, "It's a breach of good faith, and I wouldn't be saying that if I didn't think she was a heck of a person."

Council member Rachel Anderson agreed with Ferrell and Janisse. **Deschenes** "seems like she knows what she's doing and she seems super level-headed," Anderson said. "I'm not sure why we're talking about recruiting when we have a contract through August." Anderson, who was appointed in February, added that since four council members are appointees, it would be best to wait until after the November election to make a decision.

That echoed a statement from Candace Pratt, former Sequim mayor and now a member of the Sequim Good Governance League, in a press release issued last week by the league. Pratt said in the release that the council should wait on a decision until after the November election. Choosing a new city manager is "one of the most important decisions that the council makes on behalf of the citizens of Sequim," Pratt said. "It is a simple matter to extend (**Deschenes'**) contract a few months to provide for a smooth search process and that would have the added advantage that whoever is hired as city manager will know who will be on the city council, which is their boss, for the next several years," she added.

Said Eileen Cummings, president of the league: "There has been enough turmoil at Sequim City Hall in the past few months. (**Deschenes**) has only been in her current position for a month. Why are they talking about replacing her without giving her a chance to do the job?"

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

February 24, 2021

Sequim names interim city manager - Contract gives council six months to consider Deschenes in permanent position

Author: Matthew Nash

Sequim Assistant City Manager **Charisse Deschenes** is officially interim city manager. City council members approved her contract at Monday night's city council meeting in a 6-0 vote with Mayor William Armacost absent.

Deschenes' new role follows the resignation of city manager Charlie Bush as council members voted 4-2 for his resignation Jan. 11. His last day with the city after five-plus years was Feb. 12. No specific reasons have been disclosed for his resignation; Armacost has alluded only to "philosophical differences between Charlie and certain members of the council on some issues facing the city."

Deschenes' annual salary as interim city manager will be \$123,000. It includes health and retirement benefits, a \$300 car allowance per month, and paid professional development dues and subscriptions for various associations and organizations.

Deputy Mayor Tom Ferrell said he felt **Deschenes'** contract was fair. "I'm quite happy we have someone of **Charisse's** caliber," he said. "Those of you who don't know her very well, I think you're in for a treat. She's got a lot of good ideas, and she's action-oriented."

Deschenes originally agreed to take on the interim position last year after Bush announced his plan to resign in February 2020 to hike the Appalachian Trail. However, he asked to rescind the resignation to help the city through the COVID-19 pandemic, and council members unanimously agreed. Bush was reinstated March 23, 2020.

Armacost said at the Feb. 8 council meeting that **Deschenes** has "the full support of the council and I believe of staff as well" and that he expects "operations of the city to continue smoothly with her as acting city manager." No public discussion has been made on a city manager search.

Deschenes' contract states her performance review will come on or before Aug. 16, six months after her start date in the position. If promoted to permanent city manager, **Deschenes'** increased salary could range from \$131,185 to \$149,223, the contract states. Similar to Bush's contract,

Deschenes is an at-will employee for an indefinite term and may be removed by the City Council at any time, with or without cause. If she's not promoted to city manager on or before Aug. 16, she'll be offered the opportunity to return as assistant city manager with all her accrued leave intact, unless her employment is terminated, the contract states. If terminated as interim or permanent city manager, her contract states she'll receive six months base salary and six months of continued health insurance coverage. Bush's severance agreement gave him six months of pay at \$60,000, along with \$23,256 in unused vacation time and 12 months of paid health insurance.

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Deschenes began working with the city in 2014 as senior planner and served as assistant to the city manager before being promoted to assistant city manager. She earned a bachelor's degree in park and resource management from Kansas State University and a master of business administration degree from Benedictine College. She also completed the Senior Executive Institute from the Weldon Cooper School of Public Management and the Northwest Women's Leadership Academy.

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)
September 7, 2020

Sequim mayor backs QAnon on local broadcast - ‘Movement encourages you to think for yourself’

Author: Michael Dashiell

Mayor William Armacost supports QAnon, a conspiracy theory that has gained political traction recently and he thinks others should too. The Sequim mayor explained his support for the controversial QAnon theory in a recent radio interview, calling it a "movement that encourages you to think for yourself."

He was responding to a written question from a listener to a "Coffee With the Mayor" broadcast on KSQM 91.5 FM on Aug. 27. The question was: "I would like to hear what Mayor Armacost, a QAnon enthusiast, on QAnon being labeled as a potential domestic terrorist threat, by the FBI."

Note: The FBI did not label QAnon a domestic terrorist threat, but it did warn that fringe political conspiracy theories such as QAnon could move some domestic extremists to crime or violence.

Armacost, who was on the air with City Engineer Matt Klontz and Police Chief Sheri Crain, said, "If you remove Q from that equation, it's patriots from all over the world fighting for humanity, truth, freedom and saving children and others from human traffic — exposing the evil and corruption of the last century in hopes of leaving a better future for our children and grandchildren. "In specifically addressing your question,' Armacost continued, "those who are corrupt will do everything they can to suppress the truth. Ask yourself a question: Why haven't Antifa and Black Lives Matter been called the same?" He urged listeners to listen to a YouTube video on the topic.

QAnon began in 2017 and is traced back to an anonymous online persona claiming to be a government insider seeking to expose the "deep state" allegedly working against President Donald Trump. According to media reports, QAnon claims that public figures and institutions are secretly involved with child trafficking and civil unrest, and that President Trump has a secret plan to bring this group to justice. According to the Institute for Strategic Dialogue's "Genesis of a Conspiracy Theory: Key Trends in QAnon Activity Since 2017," QAnon is also tied to ideologies such as "anti-vaccine, anti-5G ... antisemitic and anti-migrant tropes." Multiple national news outlets point out that the theories have no basis in fact.

Sequim City Manager Charlie Bush and Assistant City Manager **Charisse Deschenes** said city staff received one contact about the mayor's comments.

Both deputy mayor Tom Ferrell and council member Dennis Smith, former Sequim mayor, said they hadn't heard of QAnon nor listened to Armacost's comments. "I think it's best we ignore that stuff, especially in positions in government," Ferrell said. Staff Sgt. Sean Madison of the Sequim

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Police Department said the department does not have a position on the group and that the department has not received any calls or concerns about QAnon specifically.

In Sept. 3 interview, Armacost said he has heard some criticism of his QAnon comments. "I would remind people that I have constitutional rights that they choose to ignore," he said. "I've got some strong opinions (that are) not in agreement (with) other people. "The sad part is, it doesn't seem to be what the item is, whenever you have an organization that is inclined to expose evil things to humanity, there's going to be a pushback. It (QAnon) is an opportunity to ... dig up the information, maybe look at a different channel. "We know the truth is sometimes hard to find in mass (and) social media."

Armacost, a local salon owner, said he "has the ear to the public" and that he will "speak on the side of the citizen." He added, "We need more transparency and accountability in all levels of government. I hope that we have an engaged community."

FBI, other agencies

In May 2019, Yahoo News obtained and reported on an FBI document distributed to field agents in Phoenix, Ariz., regarding the risks posed by people who believe in theories including QAnon, noting that "fringe political conspiracy theories very likely motivate some domestic extremists to commit criminal, sometimes violent activity." The document lists several instances of criminal activity by believers in such theories, NBC News and PolitiFact report.

On Friday, the FBI National Press Office said in answer to an inquiry that, "the FBI does not and cannot designate domestic terrorist groups. The FBI can never initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights." The FBI National Press Office added: "When it comes to domestic terrorism, our investigations focus solely on the criminal activity of individuals — regardless of group membership — that appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian population or influence the policy of the government by intimidation or coercion. "It's important to note that membership in groups which espouse domestic extremist ideology is not illegal in and of itself— no matter how offensive their views might be to the majority of society. Membership in a group is not a sufficient basis for an investigation."

West Point's Combating Terrorism Center, an academic institute within the United States Military Academy, cited a number of examples of violence related to QAnon in a July report titled "The QAnon Conspiracy Theory: A Security Threat in the Making?" "QAnon has contributed to the radicalization of several people to notable criminal acts or acts of violence," the report states. Chad Wolf, Department of Homeland Security's acting secretary, told CNN on Aug. 23 that QAnon is not a "significant" threat to the U.S., but he condemned the conspiracy theory when pressed on his stance.

Armacost said in a Sept. 3 interview that rather than a threat, QAnon is a movement of "people around the world focused on fighting for truth and freedom and, most importantly, how we can shine the light on evils of humanity." He said that "it's matter of time" that movements such as Antifa and Black Lives Matter are labeled a terrorist threat, pointing out the protests in Seattle

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

that resulted in vandalism of stores and deaths in the "CHOP" protest zone.. "That is the rule of mob, not the rule of law," he said.

Politicians linked to QAnon

Marjorie Taylor Greene, the Republican nominee for Georgia's 14th congressional district in the 2020 general election, came to prominence for her support of QAnon in videos; Politico uncovered hours of Facebook videos in which she reportedly expresses racist, Islamophobic and anti-Semitic views.

Among other political candidates tied to the QAnon theory are Jo Rae Perkins, Republican nominee for a U.S. Senate seat in Oregon; Lauren Boebert, Republican nominee in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District; Mike Cargile, Republican candidate in California's 35th Congressional District, and Theresa Raborn, Republican candidate for Illinois' 2nd Congressional District.

According to The Washington Post, at least 11 candidates seeking seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in the November election had expressed belief in or support for QAnon.

According to an internal Facebook audit obtained by the NBC News, QAnon groups on the social-media platform have millions of members. "The top 10 groups identified in the investigation collectively contain more than 1 million members, with totals from more top groups and pages pushing the number of members and followers past 3 million," NBC News reported, adding that it's not clear "how much overlap there is among the groups."

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

July 1, 2020

Sequim to temporarily close Washington Street for July 4 shopping

Author: Olympic Peninsula News Group

West Washington Street between Sequim and Second avenues will be closed to traffic from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Fourth of July. The closure will allow businesses to expand onto the sidewalk and provide additional space for customers to practice social distancing while shopping, city representatives said.

The street closure is said to be keeping with Sequim's Open Streets and Special Events Initiative: "The City may provide outdoor picnic tables on City property, identify parking spaces for curbside pickup only, schedule street closures for safe shopping, allow additional signage and outdoor seating, permit art shows and performances in public spaces, locate hand sanitation near seating areas and at intersections, and at the discretion of the Public Works and Community Development Directors, temporarily waive fees required for Special Event Permits."

Assistant City Manager **Charisse Deschenes** noted that "we are working with the Chamber of Commerce to support our local businesses without compromising the health and safety of their employees or customers. The street closure creates more space for businesses to comply with Gov. Jay Inslee's 'Safe Start' Initiative."

If successful, **Deschenes** said, it is anticipated that this type of street closure may be repeated or expanded over the summer months.

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)
March 9, 2020

Sequim City Council appoints interim city manager - Deschenes takes lead starting April 18

Author: Matthew Nash

Sequim Assistant City Manager **Charisse Deschenes** will replace outgoing City Manager Charlie Bush on an interim basis. Following an executive session on Feb. 24, Sequim City Council members voted 5-0 to name **Deschenes** the interim city manger, with Brandon Janisse abstaining and Dennis Smith absent.

Bush, who announced his resignation on Feb. 10 for personal reasons, finishes his four-plus years leading the city on April 17. **Deschenes** assumes the city manager role the next day.

"Any opportunity to promote from within an organization, there are great things that can happen," Mayor William Armacost said. "I personally feel we are extremely blessed to have talented staff that Charlie has been able to organize."

Deschenes, who began working with the city in 2014 as senior planner, thanked the council for the opportunity. "I am honored that you are considering me for the interim position," she said. "It's been a wonderful opportunity to work with Charlie and you all." **Deschenes** said in an interview that she'll negotiate a contract with the city prior to the start date.

"This is a great opportunity to have the time to overlap between Charlie and **Charisse**, and having that time together is essential," said Outgoing council member Jennifer States. Council members will discuss the city manager contract process at 6 p.m. today at Sequim Civic Center, 152 W. Cedar St.

Deschenes has a bachelor's degree in park and resource management from Kansas State University and a master of business administration degree from Benedictine College. She has completed the Senior Executive Institute from the Weldon Cooper School of Public Management and the Northwest Women's Leadership Academy. **Deschenes** is expected to complete the two-year Leadership International City County Management Association in October.

Janisse said he abstained from the vote for **Deschenes** and opted not to participate in the executive session on Feb. 24 because he said there was a private meeting about the city manager process that he and some council members didn't know about. The executive session agenda stated it was to "evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee." Armacost said he and Deputy Mayor Ted Miller received an email from administrative services director Sue Hagener seeking input for the process for selecting a new city manager.

They opted to conduct a meeting on Feb. 13 at the Sequim Civic Center with administrative staff; Armacost invited fellow council member Tom Ferrell because of his background in hiring.

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Armacost said they discussed the city's previous hiring processes, formed an ad hoc committee of three council members and opted to narrow the number of firms from seven to three, but that no other decisions were made. Janisse said he felt they chose **Deschenes** at that meeting and other council members were in the dark about the process. However, Armacost said they didn't know if she would be interested and if it was even an option. At the Feb. 13 meeting, **Deschenes** said she'd consider the interim position.

"The executive session was to unpack what we were to do right here," Armacost said. He said there wasn't a hidden agenda behind the meeting but that it pertained to procedures on past hiring practices. "The key is we didn't make any decisions at that meeting," Miller said. "We can't make decisions (there)."

Janisse said his abstention wasn't personal to **Deschenes** and he's "not mad about who you picked but the process." Ferrell offered that Janisse join the subcommittee but Janisse declined, saying he doesn't "agree with that direction of the city government."

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

November 24, 2019

Sequim looks to lobbyist to keep Simdars Road project afloat - City partners with Clallam County, Jamestown Tribe for coalition

Author: Matthew Nash

Despite potential funding gaps for new transportation projects after the passage of Initiative 976, Sequim city officials plan to keep pushing for Simdars Road improvements. Sequim City Council members included \$37,000 in the 2020 city budget for lobbyist Davor Gjurasic to continue advocating for the project in Olympia. **Charisse Deschenes**, assistant city manager, said Gjurasic could advocate for other city priorities too with contingency funds up to \$13,000 more.

The roads project includes finishing the Simdars Road eastbound ramp of the bypass, adding landscaping and creating a new frontage road from Happy Valley and Palo Alto Roads to the interchange. Sequim Public Works Director David Garlington said the tentative cost for the project is about \$26 million total — \$3 million for design and permitting and \$23 million for construction. "We've heard the project is perhaps on the bubble," he said. "What we'll be doing this session is working with city staff and our lobbyist to not take the funding away at minimum. Our strategy is that this is a safety project with a lot of corollary elements to it."

Earlier this year, state legislators approved \$1.29 million for design and environmental work on the project. State Rep. Mike Chapman of Port Angeles recently told the Peninsula Daily News that future funding for the Simdars project may be on hold after voters passed the statewide Initiative 976 in the Nov. 5 general election.

In October, state Rep. Jake Fey, a Port Angeles native representing the 27th District and serving as the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) chair, said Simdars would likely be in the state's 2021 budget. Chapman said if the project is rated as a safety project, it will be easier to receive funding.

Gjurasic told council members on Nov. 12 that he deemed the 2019 Legislative session a success for Sequim. "You were one of a handful of projects that received new funding," he said. "There was a lot of push back for no new projects but with help of our legislators we were able to receive funding."

With the 2020 Legislative session set to start Jan. 13, Gjurasic said various state Department of Transportation projects will be deferred, some put on hold and others funded. Gjurasic said he sees a "stop gap" coming this short session where legislators will ask themselves about the tentative projects and if they need to reshuffle it. "It's incumbent on us to tell them why they shouldn't be deferring our project," he said. "Your project is going to happen. The question is, how long does it take to occur?" He said the original game plan is to gear up for the 2021 session when the governor's office and state Legislature anticipate a new transportation revenue package.

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

For the Simdars project, the City of Sequim formed a coalition with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County, Gjurasic said. "We did everything we could before, during and after the session to advance the project," he said.

That included several meetings with state leaders and staff, and hosting a dinner during a legislative tour of potential projects. "We want to keep momentum going for 2020 and 2021," Gjurasic said. "We need to keep our project in front of legislators, thank them and keep educating them about the next steps and funding requests for project."

Initiative

I-976 was referred to as the "900-pound gorilla in the room" by Gjurasic at the council meeting for its potentially large impact on the state. The Tim Eyman measure requires \$30 car tabs while eliminating 0.3 percent sales tax on vehicle purchases. The effect is to cut about \$2 billion in state revenue and \$2.3 billion in local government impacts over six years.

Gjurasic said many cities' Transportation Benefit Districts (TBD) will be impacted since they charge fees for car tabs, but Sequim receives its TBD funds through a two-tenths of 1 percent sales tax. The TBD tax was renewed last November. "You might have been the smartest people around (for pursuing the tax)," Gjurasic said. He said many projects will remain in "a holding a pattern" but he plans to keep "reminding people of the importance of the projects and next steps." "I see a lot of work being done setting things up for the future," Gjurasic said.

Despite looming impacts across the Olympic Peninsula, legislators remain optimistic projects like the \$3.6 million earmarked for the U.S. Highway 101 Morse Creek curve safety barrier east of Port Angeles will remain funded.

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

June 27, 2019

Port Angeles, Sequim professionals complete Northwest Women's Leadership Academy

Section: News

Charisse Deschenes, Sequim assistant city manager, and Allyson Brekke, Port Angeles director of community and economic development, joined 30 other women from across the state to complete the inaugural year of the Northwest Women's Leadership Academy. The Academy, which ended June 7, was conducted by the Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) to promote more women into leadership roles in local government. Just one of five top executive roles in local government are held by women.

The academy took place over a 10-month period and included six full days of training with the following focus areas: leadership and ethics, governance structure (legislative bodies and appointed executives), communication strategies and nurturing trust, strategic planning, finance and budgeting, labor relations and negotiations, life-work balance, confidence and self-awareness, and interviewing, resume preparation, and working with recruiters.

"I am grateful to be a part of the first graduation class of the Northwest Women's Leadership Academy and thankful to the leaders in local government who built this program," **Deschenes** said. The academy "brought together smart and talented women from different regions of the state with diverse backgrounds," she said. "We developed a bond over local government content and acquired friendships through the process."

Brekke said she was grateful to the city of Port Angeles and City Manager Nathan West for supporting her in her participation in the Northwest Women's Leadership Academy. "It was an incredible experience to study alongside a cohort of professional women who are dedicating their careers to local government," she said. "I now have the opportunity to utilize the skills obtained from the Academy in my on-going work with the great community of Port Angeles."

The Washington City/County Management Association is now in the selection process for the second Academy, set to begin in September.

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

May 22, 2019

Sequim feted by Alliance for Innovation

Author: Section: News

The city of Sequim was honored by the Alliance for Innovation on April 10 at a conference in Reno, Nev. The alliance presented city staff with an Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award for the city's neighborhood revitalization program.

Sequim was one of 10 cities and counties from across the country that were honored.

Pictured, from left, are Alliance for Innovation board member Tanya Ange, Public Works Director David Garlington, Communications and Marketing Director Barbara Hanna, Assistant City Manager **Charisse Deschenes**, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Clallam County Colleen Robinson and City Manager Charlie Bush.

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles, WA)

June 16, 2017

Sequim approves 103-unit housing development on Brownfield Road

Author: Section: News

The first phase of a proposed 103-unit housing development near U.S. Highway 101 tentatively will break ground this summer on Brownfield Road. The Sequim City Council unanimously approved the major subdivision Bell Hill Estates on Monday to allow Bill Barnett of Barnett NW Enterprises LLC of Tenino to construct the homes. They'll consider finalizing the project at the council's June 26 meeting after seeing its findings of fact, conditions of approval and special conditions of approval.

The project's lots range from 6,000 square feet to just over 12,500 square feet in the three phases on 25.66 acres between the highway and Miller Road. The first phase would include 26 homes adjacent to Brownfield Road, while the second phase would mean building 38 homes in the middle of the property. Phase 3 would bring in 39 homes.

Charisse Deschenes, assistant to the city manager, said that Barnett wants to begin immediately and finish the first phase within a year.

Neil Latta, engineer for the project, said Barnett's preliminary plan expired last July and with the new application, they added phases for smaller builds that are "more palatable for market conditions." Tentatively, Phase 2 would begin in spring 2018 and the third phase in spring 2019, Latta said.

In recent months, nearby residents have voiced various concerns about the project ranging from traffic concerns to density. Deputy Mayor Ted Miller said he was surprised there weren't more traffic provisions in place because of the amount of homes going in, but Sequim City Engineer Matt Klontz said that even after doing a growth project to 2035, that still wouldn't be a sizable issue because the road's traffic is so light.

Deschenes also said while the project is large, it's not too dense for the city because it averages 5.8 dwellings per acre, which falls into the city's rule of allowing four to eight dwellings per acre in the Comprehensive Plan.

Some city residents and council members also wanted provisions to protect the Roosevelt elk herd that travels through the property. **Deschenes** said the city requires a habitat management plan only if a species is threatened or endangered, which the elk are not. She said a study provided by Barnett said the acreage makes up 0.1 percent of the herd's priority area, so "the proposed development won't adversely affect them."

Latta said they discussed a corridor for the elk but it wasn't feasible. "We're building the property in accordance with the zoning and density but not trying to create a corridor for wildlife in that context," he said. "We felt it's not safe or feasible to create that avenue for the elk." The city's

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

reports on the project said the site holds no significant archaeological finds or environmental issues, such as wetlands, on the property.

Bell Hill Estates would feature new sidewalks along Brownfield Road and a walking trail on the west side of the development from Brownfield to Miller Road. Latta said it's highly probable the path would be made public.

Residents also expressed concern about the lack of sidewalks on Miller Road and in the area, but **Deschenes** said as the area develops, roadways and sidewalks will be improved and ideally be better connected.

The property's plans also said its stormwater area will be fenced but the city doesn't require fencing along the homes to improve aesthetics.

For more on the project, visit www.sequimwa.gov and search for "Bell Estates."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Olathe News, The (KS)
October 4, 2007

Council says 'no' to camp for dogs

Author: Kristin Babcock

Local dog owners will have to wait for the development of a local day and overnight dog camp. The City Council voted Tuesday to deny the establishment of a special-use permit for the development of a dog facility near 119th Street and Interstate 35. Complete with indoor and outdoor dog runs, the location would have been part of the growing national franchise called "Camp Bow Wow."

Carl and Brenda Heppenstall had hoped to develop the camp, which provides dogs a day- and overnight-stay facility with indoor and outdoor dog runs. Owners can watch their dogs via webcam while their dogs are at camp. "I think people really want a location like this, especially in Olathe," Heppenstall said. "Right now all that is available is boarding day care or boarding in a vet's office."

Business owners located close to the proposed camp have expressed concern regarding potential for noise, odor and parking. Gregory Breedlove signed a protest petition prior to Tuesday's council meeting against the development of the camp. "It seems like it is probably not the best business just by the nature of it," Breedlove said. "This is a small office park. There's no noise in this neighborhood. It's too much."

Given permission, the camp would hold a capacity of 85 dogs, housing 50 dogs in overnight board or 35 dogs in day care. Heppenstall said the likelihood of being filled to capacity was rare. She said she and her husband worked to make it clear the park has ample control for noise, odor and parking concerns, citing examples of how other established camps have handled those particular issues. One such solution is an "entrance interview" to see how the dog responds to new people and other dogs in order to deter excess barking noise. "This is a top notch doggie day care," Heppenstall said.

Mayor Michael Copeland said he thought the businesses already located in the area had valid concerns. There are 15 feet of space between one established business and the proposed location. "According to the diagram, (the location) would be right outside the business next door," Copeland. "It was almost like the dog runs would be butted against the property. They were just too close to build (there)."

Still, Copeland said he would love for a Camp Bow Wow location to develop within the city. He said he hoped the developers would either "work things out with the neighbors" or work to find another location within Olathe. "I hope they don't give up," Copeland said. "I think it is an excellent organization, and I think many people would benefit from it."

Heppenstall said she has been working for 27 months to find a location to develop the dog camp. A plan to develop in Overland Park failed in the spring. "I just didn't think we'd run into the same

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Charisse Deschenes

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

thing here," Heppenstall said. "It's disheartening. There is a possibility we will work something out. I don't know at this point. "

The city's Planning Commission voted to deny the permit request. **Charisse Deschenes**, city planner, said the concerns she has heard regarding the camp were related to the density of the area. But the options for the Heppenstalls would be to wait a year to apply for a permit for the same location or find another. **Deschenes** said an ideal location probably would be one that was not as densely populated.

Research Compiled by: Shannon Farr
 Colin Baenziger & Associates