



Snohomish County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marysville, Snohomish County announce members of race track advisory committee

A highly regarded former Snohomish County Council member will chair an advisory committee aimed at providing answers to questions about a proposed NASCAR speedway in the Marysville-Arlington area.

John Garner, formerly Marysville City Administrator and Marysville-Pilchuck High School principal, will head the group, whose members represent a cross-section of local civic, business, tribal, non-profit, government and labor organizations. Committee appointees come from across north Snohomish County, including participants who live in residential communities near the proposed speedway site and the Arlington Airport.

The announcement was made today by Marysville Mayor Dennis Kendall and Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

Kendall said the group will analyze information that has emerged since Marysville, Snohomish County and the Snohomish County Economic Development Council released a conceptual proposal to build a speedway and family recreational area.

"This advisory committee will look at the race track proposal from the standpoint of what is best for everyone in our area, based on facts as we know them and receive them," Kendall said. "Its members are local people who know this area well. They come from across north Snohomish County, but they don't all come from the same point of view. That's important as we put together answers about the race track's feasibility."

Reardon said, “There are questions about the speedway proposal that still need solid answers. We have asked the people of Snohomish County to raise as many questions about the proposal as possible – and they have done that. Now we’re asking Snohomish County citizens to advise us on these questions and the important issues raised.”

In addition to Garner, members include:

- Vickie Gates, chair of the Marysville School Board;
- Wendy Bart, Executive Director of the Marysville/North County YMCA;
- Guy Kennedy, chair of the Arlington Airport Commission;
- Jim Rowley, owner of Windermere Realty's Marysville office;
- Steve Gobin, a senior manager of the Tulalip Tribes;
- Jim Lonneker, a Senior Vice President with Whidbey Island Bank;
- Margaret Hedlund, a Gleneagle resident involved in youth athletics;
- Jim Scharf, Everett Police Chief and Marysville resident;
- Jeff Soth, former Snohomish Mayor and a member of the Snohomish County Labor Council; and,
- Bruce Spaulding, District Secretary-Treasurer with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local No. 751.

City and County officials announced they would establish an advisory committee at a June 1 public forum.

The proposal was submitted to the Daytona Beach, Fla.-based International Speedway Corporation (ISC) in April after ISC announced in late 2003 its interest in locating an 80,000-seat track in the Pacific Northwest. NASCAR is a subsidiary of ISC.

The proposed site consists of approximately 600 acres east of I-5 and west of 51st Avenue NE. It has direct access to Smokey Point Boulevard, a major north-south arterial. It can be expanded to the west to include an additional 148 acres. The site is less than a three-hour drive for more than 5 million people living between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia.

ISC and its subsidiaries are predominantly sports-oriented, producing and conducting major motorsports activities in the form of stock car, sports car, motorcycle and go-kart racing events for spectators.

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