

Esperance Annexation – Information Meeting

May 31, 2018 6:30PM at “My Sisters Place” 8304 212th St SW, Edmonds, WA

What is your position on annexation? What do you want to do about the latest effort?

Looks like Edmonds Mayor Dave Earling has been plotting to annex us without telling us. A few of us caught the rumors and have gathered resources to see where we stand. There will be background information from county planning, parks, and legal resources. Then open discussion of pros and cons of being annexed — and next steps either way.

If you can't make the meeting but have an opinion, please email me with your concerns at hgg9140@seanet.com.

Thanks. Harry George. [Esperance resident since 1959. I remember farms and forests; 228th was gravel.]

Brief History

See also: <http://www.seanet.com/~hgg9140/politics/esperance/index.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/359692671189141/>

In the early 1960s a few residents of Esperance (including my family) pushed for annexation in order to gain access to a sewer system. That failed repeatedly. But once sewage was solved without annexation, “No Annexation” became the common response. Later Edmonds decided it wanted chunks of Esperance for industrial development, so carved off piece after piece, turning residential areas into industrial and high-rise taxing sources. The remaining 5-precinct core (Ann, Chapel, Holly, Rob, Summit) has held firm for decade after decade.

Edmonds even changed state annexation law to allow one last gulp (“island annexation”). However, annexation is a change of taxation. Under the rule “**No taxation without representation**”, taxpayers get to decide if they will be annexed. It can be tricky (special elections, reverse petitions etc.) but there is a mechanism for taxpayers to decide their own fate. The last annexation effort was 2008. It was defeated.

Issues (so far)

- 1. Politics** Esperance has about 2200 active voters (2016 General), roughly 10% of the Edmonds total. At best we could participate in coalitions.
- 2. Regulations** Edmonds has interesting views re backyard farming, and home-based business. Any other reasons we want to remain in the county?
- 3. Funding** Esperance is considered a potential revenue source in Edmonds planning, implying taxes go out of Esperance and into downtown or “the bowl”. Edmonds' debt (incurred for existing Edmonds residents) would be paid back by Esperance taxpayers.
- 4. Zoning and ecosystem** Edmonds zones ALL its heavy development along the edges of Esperance. Are they waiting to color Esperance all red? Edmonds blithely approved illegal tree cutting above the salt marsh, and has had questionable designs on Chase Lake. It wants Esperance Park (“Edmonds Wants a Garden” Everett Herald 2017-09-30, page A3.). There are rumors of a 4-lane 228th.