

What is the City Council of Issaquah considering on September 5 and how does that affect our hopes for purchasing property for our new schools?

There is an approximately 7 acre upper portion of land adjacent to Swedish Hospital that would work well for an elementary school and is likely our best hope for a new elementary school in the Highlands. The City of Issaquah's recommended plan is to save the trees on the slope, develop the lower portion, and then we would hope to build on the upper portion. For all of this to work, the City of Issaquah would need to approve annexation of the property which is currently in King County and also establish a zoning designation of Community Facilities or CF-F for the upper portion of the hill.

We have also requested that the council consider revising the zoning in the CF-F category to allow us to construct schools on less property with a smaller building footprint and increase our ability to locate schools in the neighborhoods they would serve. We need this re-zoning to ensure we can move forward with our plans to build a middle school on the land that is currently the school administration building and build a new high school and elementary on any future site within the City of Issaquah.

What happens now that the City has approved Providence Heights as a historical landmark?

The City of Issaquah Landmark Commission has recommended that entire Providence Heights property, approximately 40 acres, be designated an historic landmark. City Church, the current owners of the property has stated publicly that they do not support this recommendation. We would anticipate City Church would appeal this

decision and may challenge it in court. Until this resolved, our eminent domain proceeding to acquire the property is on hold. This is difficult news as this site looked to be our best location for a new high school. This site is also large enough for us to build a second elementary as well. We may be forced to look at other properties as this could be tied up for years. To find another large site to accommodate a high school will be extremely difficult, and yet we have an urgent need to alleviate overcrowding and prepare for increased enrollment in the north and central side of our district. If we are unable to locate a school near the growth, we will be busing students long distances, which we really want to avoid, but our options are truly limited.