**LWVSJ Observer Corps\*: County Council April 4, 2023**

Dr. Fishaut spoke about the **dangers of fentanyl** and its impact on the young in the county.

The county has received the **first $34k in opioid settlement money**; those **payments will continue for 15 years** and additional settlements are expected. The county will set up an **internal committee to identify and fund projects.** The **Parks Department acquired Narcan.** The Council appointed Barbara Labrash to the regional Opioid Abatement Settlement Program.

The Council approved **$100k for senior and disabled rent subsidies** covering 26 tenants with annual incomes below $18k.

The Home Trust and Favor 34 each presented their proposals to develop the **Argyle Lots** to the Council and answered questions about the two quite different visions. **The Council will discuss the proposals again at the April 18 Council Meeting.**

The **Home Trust** proposal is to build a **40-unit development** of mostly 1 bedroom apts. and studios with a few two bedrooms, with a **$15 million budget** and a projected **2027 completion** date, possibly with some units open earlier via staged construction. Their unit mix meets the market for lower income households with smaller units to support affordability. They will use **public funding and fundraising;** and if needed can borrow up to 97% in low-interest USDA loans. They have a long community track record of building and managing affordable housing.

The **Favor 34** proposal is to build a **42- or 48-unit development** with more large units that can house families, with half of units for moderate income and half for lower income brackets with a **$20 million budget** and projected **2025 completion**. They do not plan any bank borrowing, but will fund the project from private investors with a stake in the community. The team includes an experienced architect, project manager, and property developer from the region as well as local residents.

The County will host a **State Department of Transportation Commission meeting on San Juan Island on June 21-22** to discuss ferries, sea level rise impact on infrastructure, and challenges of island specific ferry issues.

The County will soon advertise its **internship program.**

\*The **League of Women Voters,** a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League or its members.