

SAMMAMISH SENIORS - COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS - January 25, 2023

Guest: Roisin O'Farrell, Sammamish City Councilmember

BACKGROUND: Roisin shared her journey to the U.S. –

- Grew up in Ireland, graduated in Marketing from Trinity College (Dublin)
- Came to U. District with future husband as a temp w/low paying jobs. No family here, all on East Coast.
- Married here, then moved to Redmond area, heard about new homes being built in Sammamish off SE 8th St.
- Found a home they loved, settled here to raise a family.
- Worked retail management (Bellevue Square, Redmond Town Center), loved managing people.
- Two children: Cian (22) has autism, Niamh (17) at Skyline High. Cian's needs prompted advocacy in schools.
- Considers herself a Life Facilitator for family (less cleaning, more managing!)

WHY COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- With children older, decided it was time to reach out into to connect with broader community.
- Volunteered on Planning Commission; gave her a great experience.
- Acknowledged Sammamish as their "chosen" home.
- Decided why not run for council; currently evaluating if she will run for election when partial term is over.

FAVORITE PLACES IN SAMMAMISH:

- Metropolitan Market's coffee shop upstairs to meet with friends.
- Sammamish's Community Parks because they are quiet, easy to access, and she can connect with nature.
- Likes pedestrian connectivity with Big Rock Park, hopes for additional connectivity to lower commons.

WHAT'S COMING IN 2023, HOW WE CAN HELP:

- City newsletter is restarting.
- She and the rest of Council make their best decisions with as much public comment as possible. Keep it coming!
- Without public comment, Council only exists in a bubble; they want to hear from more people.
- City Commissions want to hear from more people, too, and desire to attract more volunteers