

## **Downtown District Council Meeting | DRAFT Minutes | 5.05.15 | 8:30 – 10:00 AM**

**In Attendance:** Yun Pitre - DON; Christina Dunsmore – DSA; Lauria Ames – DON; David Levinson – BCC; Riisa Conklin – FPA; Jamie Lee – SCIDPDA; Wren McNally – CIDBIA; Laine Ross – Allied Arts & HSD; Linda Mitchell - Downtown Resident's Council, Monica Smith, Downtown Resident's Council

**Guests:** Councilmember Nick Licata

### **I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Approval of April Minutes with one changes (Bertha Knight Landes)

### **II. Nick Licata on Participatory Budgeting Proposal**

Participatory budgeting is a different way to manage public money, and to engage people in government. According to Licata's presentation, it is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. It enables taxpayers to work with government to make the budget decisions that affect their lives. Research shows that PB connects underserved communities which is why Seattle is interested in focusing on youth.

800 K has been identified for the first step of the participatory budgeting process (the money is already set aside) – part of that funding will go toward a PB consultant. In addition to the Youth Commission overseeing the distribution of funds, Licata recommends another advisory committee – perhaps the District Councils.

The project ideas are generated by the Youth Commission, which are then vetted for feasibility and put to a vote. For example 120 ideas to 30 with 15 moved forward for funding. Funded projects are typically capital projects but could be programming in nature.

Licata believes that this could work and it could change how we do our city budget for the better – it could change the dialogue, which should be less driven by staff and more by citizens.

The next steps for this project include:

- A letter from the Mayor's office to fold money into next supplemental
- Refine the structure of the program
- Organize an advisory committee – District Councils?
- Resolution and funding from Council by end of June

DDC Discussion: Denny Triangle has reservations about PB and will start a task force to discuss the issue. Some DDC members have questions about where the money is coming from and want to be sure that another fund is not raided in perpetuity. DDC will ask Ben Noble to explain/discuss how the budgeting process works and how it will be affected by the changes.

### **III: CNC Update: Design Review**

- Survey online to comment - receiving comment until Mid May
- Christina would like to do a "deep dive" of this process
- Aly Pennucci – DPD heading up review process - would come to talk with DDC

**2014 First Tuesdays - Meeting Location: Securities Building | 1904 Third Avenue | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Chinatown/International District | Pioneer Square | Commercial Core | Belltown | Denny Triangle**

- CID is different – Historic District does not go through same process – this is a problem – how do we remedy this?
- Access Seattle – should be looped into design review process

#### **Neighborhood Updates/New Business:**

- PACE – May 29 deadline
- Working on creating a West Edge Neighborhood Association
- DSA – focus forward breakfast on Friday – 7:30am at Cutter’s
- Downtown Dweller’s - Transit Advisory Board – deadline for application is May 8
- CID is hiring a new retail recruitment person to bring new retail to King Street Station
- July 11-12<sup>th</sup> Dragon Fest
- Sept 12 – Night Market
- June – August Bell Street will be closed to buses and cars only on one block – will be ready to go for events without street closure

**Adjourned!**