

# Status Check

Seattle Citizens Assess Their Communities and Neighborhood Plans

*Summary of the Westwood/Highland Park Neighborhood Discussion*



**Status Check: How is Your Neighborhood Doing?**

Prepared by  
**Seattle Planning Commission**  
October 2009

## What is this report?

This report contains summaries prepared by members of the Seattle Planning Commission. These summaries document discussions co-facilitated by members of the Planning Commission and the Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) at a series of neighborhood meetings held in June and July of 2009.<sup>1</sup> The Commission and NPAC co-hosted five open house workshops that included 24 neighborhood specific breakout sessions.<sup>2</sup> In all, about 350 people participated in the five open house meetings.

The Commission was asked to provide a summary for each of the 24 neighborhood specific breakout sessions. The summaries will help City staff to complete the Status Reports and will be a part of the "State of the Neighborhood Report" that goes to the Mayor and Council at the end of the year.

The Commission and NPAC developed four questions so that we could gather information from the people who live, work, attend school and have businesses in the neighborhood to better understand perceptions about the neighborhoods and how well the neighborhood plan is doing. Participants at the meetings were grouped by neighborhood and asked these four questions by the NPAC co-host while the Commission co-host worked to capture the sentiments of the participants. Participants were also provided questionnaires that contained the same four questions and were encouraged to fill them out and return them to be included in the record. All of the original questionnaires returned from the open house workshops are contained in the appendix of this report.

## Outreach and Interpretation

The City of Seattle's neighborhood planning team arranged for interpretation services to the communities often under-represented because of language barriers. Spanish interpretation was available at 14, Chinese interpretation was available at 4; Vietnamese interpretation was available at 6; and Tagalog interpretation was available at 3 of the neighborhood community discussions. Interpretation services were used at 4 of the neighborhood community discussions: Columbia City, Georgetown, Rainier Beach, and the West Seattle Junction.

## Virtual Meeting

In an attempt to broaden participation, the Planning Commission also created and hosted a virtual on-line meeting from June through August. The virtual on-line meeting included a questionnaire that asked the same four questions that participants at the open houses were asked. The on-line questionnaire had a total of 4,576 participants. The Commission has provided a companion piece to this report that includes the responses to the on-line questionnaires for each of the 24 neighborhoods.

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1. The Seattle Planning Commission (SPC) was adopted into the City Charter in 1946. The Commission is an independent and objective group that advises the Mayor and City Council on Urban Planning issues such as land use, zoning, transportation and housing issues.
  2. The Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) was formed in 2008. NPAC is a committee of Seattle residents and business-people that advises the Department of Neighborhoods and the Department of Planning and Development on conducting the neighborhood updates and neighborhood status reports.

## What is included in this report?

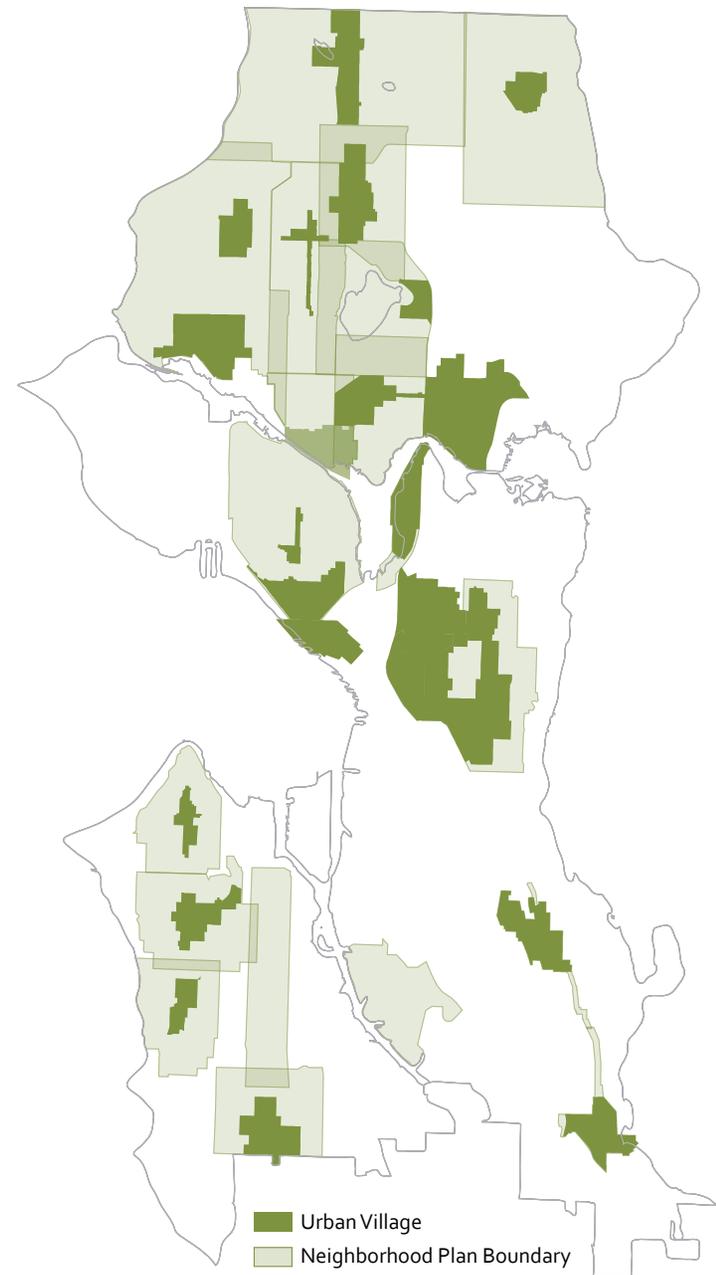
*Summary of one of 24 neighborhood discussions held in June and July 2009*

Admiral	Georgetown
Aurora/Licton Springs	Green Lake
Belltown	Greenwood/Phinney Ridge
Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake	Lake City
Capitol Hill	Morgan Junction
Central Area	Pike/Pine
Columbia City /Hillman City/Genesee	Queen Anne
Crown Hill & Ballard	Rainier Beach
Delridge	University Community
Eastlake	Wallingford
First Hill	West Seattle Junction
Fremont	<b>Westwood/Highland Park</b>

*Appendix A – Sample agenda*

*Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings*

*Appendix C – Notes and questionnaires submitted at meetings*



# WESTWOOD - HIGHLAND PARK

## General Summary

About 15 people participated the neighborhood discussion for Westwood-Highland Park. A majority of them had lived in the neighborhood for several years. Many felt that the merging of the Westwood and Highland Park neighborhoods for planning purposes was forced because the neighborhoods don't have much in common, but expressed hope that the neighborhood planning process could help knit the separate areas together.

## Highlights

Participants noted a mixed-bag of accomplishments toward the goals of the neighborhood plan. While the community is very happy with progress toward establishing a better connected pedestrian system, there was concern about pedestrian and bicycle safety especially on streets with ever increasing traffic volume and speed, especially on Delridge Way. There was some concern that the establishment of a community recreation center was being stymied by the school district, but that some good progress has been made on specific projects. Commercial redevelopment is proceeding, streetscape improvements are good, and the neighborhoods are excited about new businesses being opened.



## 1. Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted, (or since you've been there)?

- Highland Park is diverse, blue collar and working class. It is becoming more diverse than when the neighborhood plan was adopted, and this is generally good, but there are drawbacks, including the difficulty in getting the diverse communities together. For instance, the Vietnamese community is very tight and they tend to keep to themselves and not participate in other community events. Greater outreach is needed.
- Westwood is different than Highland Park – put together for purposes of planning, but the statistics may not be representative of either neighborhood.
- The Seattle school district management of the Sealth/Denny school site will impact the neighborhood. This is a big concern since the school district does not seem to be inclined to communicate with the neighborhood.
- Delridge has more housing now, especially on the south end.
- Westwood Village renovation is somewhat complete, new anchors are good.
- Sealth/Denny complex is complete.
- No kids in the neighborhood at the time of the 1999 plan – lots of kids now, also seniors.
- Westcrest Park has been fixed up — the dog park is good.
- Stewardship of the Duwamish greenbelt has improved.
- The reservoir viewpoint is good.
- There is a greater police presence and officers are very responsive.
- New business development is a positive change, ie) Zippy's Burgers.
- There is more of a "there" there.
- The library serves the community well.
- Athletic complex – the open field has been transformed to programmed space, not so welcoming. The school district wants to rent out the fields to adult sports groups to the exclusion of the neighborhood use of the space.
- Longfellow Creel legacy trail –the gate is locked too often. The school district which controls the access is uncooperative.
- There has been an increase in the involvement in community organizations.
- Westwood and Highland Park are very different – there should be better connections but the needs are diverging.
  - Westwood is more about economic development whereas Highland Park features open space.
- Need more safe-to-walk-to destinations -desire a more walkable community.
- Concern about what will happen to the Denny school property.
- 35th/Barton – what will happen to this property – P patch?

### 2. What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you most pleased about?

- Westwood is walkable.
- Longfellow Creek legacy trail is a huge success, also Roxhill. Took a long time, but incredible positive change.
- Westwood Park greenbelt trails should be extended and linked to other trails – make the connections. Volunteers have helped to clean up the park – especially kids. Reduced drug dealing and cruising.
- Newer housing in Delridge is positive – new residents should support local businesses.
- Westwood Village is important to Highland Park, but Highland Park needs more small businesses.
- Each little new thing is much appreciated.
- Plans for St. James Church are good – they need to raise funds to make it happen.
- Improved walkability.

### Most dissatisfied about?

- SW Roxbury too busy and fast.
- Number one issue is traffic safety.
- 16th at South Seattle Community College is a beautiful street but traffic is too fast and there are no crosswalks
- There seems to be a confrontation brewing between Westwood and the Seattle School District and the Seattle Public Utilities.
- Westwood Village needs more of an edge where the Post Office parking lot is currently – another retail structure instead of a parking lot. The entire shopping center should be more walkable – although it is better than it was.
- Lack of bicycle facilities and transit.
- The City is missing input by holding meetings with such big groups.

### 3. How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved? Are they still the priority?

- Strategy A
  - Mostly achieved.
  - Not much east-west link between Westwood and Highland Park.
  - East/west trails need to be extended and enhanced.
- Strategy B
  - Not happening as described.
  - What is the "South Civic Center?"
  - Funds for improvements to the community center have been hard fought. Prices have increased so more stuff has not been accomplished.
  - New building, pool renovation, all weather track all good.
  - But the center is not welcoming/inviting.
  - Integrate the school district property better with the neighborhood.
  - Locked gates that don't have to be locked create a "penitentiary" feel.
  - Planning for the Sealth/Denny site redevelopment has been done – need to implement.
  - There is an impending clash between the school district, parks department and the neighborhood.
- Strategy C
  - Could be better, even though much improved.
  - Less prostitution.
  - Don't feel safe waiting for transit.
  - Reestablish neighborhood walks – ie) in the Westcrest greenbelt.
  - No parking available for small businesses – taken out by street improvements.
  - White Center CDA supportive of improvements.
  - Sense of entry not implemented well everywhere. Could use art and banners like in White Center.
  - Delridge Corridor is a term not being used much any more.
- Strategy D
  - Not working on Delridge for balancing traffic with safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.
  - This is still a priority.

### 4. The city is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks. What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months? Are there any important gaps in the draft status report?

- Vacant houses.
- Threat of a jail.
- Boundary issue of Delridge development plan area – greenbelt should be included in the neighborhood.
  - Hundreds of homes not addressed in the neighborhood plan – expand boundary to include.
- Infrastructure work was supposed to include combined sewer system – none on the north, not on the east.
- Want more long-term owners in the neighborhood.
- No quantifying small businesses – home based businesses.
- How much commercial square footage is in the neighborhood?
- Westwood Village vs small businesses – some tension. The big Village should mentor small businesses instead.
- Need professional business group – create clout.
- Economic viability of small businesses.
- Assess the use/value of industrial zoned property as the bottom of the hill.
- A discussion needs to happen about what type of new commercial development should occur in the future.
  - Need information about current conditions as a base.
  - Economic development not always retail-based.
  - Better jobs/housing balance in the neighborhood.
- Focus on creating a neighborhood identity in the built and natural environment – Longfellow Creek is a good example.
- Bike and pedestrian trails need to be extended and linked – get Feet First involved.

## Wrap-Up Comments

### Parks and Open Space

- New priority need to be preserving the Duwamish greenbelt – improve trails in it.
- Include Riverview and West Duwamish greenbelt.

### Community Development

- Entry features on Highland Park Way, Roxbury.
- Look at how commercial property is being used – are churches the best use?
- More small businesses.
- Townhouses are ugly and poorly placed.
- Look at how commercial property is being used – are churches the best use?
- Two neighborhoods need to support small businesses.
- Encourage small businesses to meet customers' needs – make themselves attractive to neighborhoods.
- Architecture and aesthetics of new development important.
- Pay attention to architecture and landscaping – including parking strip landscaping that needs to have street trees.

### Transportation/Traffic

- Traffic/bike issues are fluid – need to stay on top of this.
- Transit to downtown is slow.
- Public spaces, walking routes and transit need to be safe and available.
- Walkable neighborhoods.
- How about a funicular.
- Delridge barrier between Westwood and Highland Park – need better crossings.
- Traffic safety is a concern, especially at 9th Avenue.

### General

- Positive change is happening
- Major concern about the planning process – should be “bottom-up”. Seems like it’s the other way around
- Find ways to integrate all the things/activities going on in the neighborhood to help implement them
- More public outreach to more people know about meetings in the planning process
- West Seattle blog is great outreach
- Get two groups together more often
- Grass roots not top down – city should support neighborhood by dealing with the school district
- Boundary concern – Fauntleroy is changing rapidly
- West Seattle – a neighborhood of neighborhoods. Need some cohesion and coordination
- Need to reach more people in the process
- Good turnout at neighborhood meetings – put lucks, raffles are effective draws
- Census numbers are old
- Neighborhood plan should be a living document
- Need to be more involved with the school district

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Five Open Houses, 24 neighborhood discussions

1. June 22 at the South lake Union Armory; Uptown/ Queen Anne; Belltown; Eastlake; Capitol Hill; First Hill; Pike/Pine
2. July 8 Northgate Community Center Lake City, Aurora/Licton Springs, Broadview - Bitter Lake - Haller Lake, University Community (University District NW, Ravenna)
3. July 23 Phinney Neighborhood Center Greenwood/Phinney Ridge, Crown Hill & Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, Green Lake
4. July 27 Rainier Community Center Central Area (Madison-Miller, 23rd & Union - Jackson and 12th Avenue), Columbia City - Hillman City - Genesee, Rainier Beach
5. July 28 Delridge Community Center Admiral, West Seattle Junction, Morgan Junction, Delridge, Westwood/Highland Park, Georgetown

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Neighborhood	Planning Commission Host	NPAC Member Host
Admiral	Catherine Benotto	Mark Wainwright
Aurora/Licton Springs	Michelle Zeidman	Sharonn Meeks (Mark Wainwright unable to attend)
Belltown	Kay Knapton	Catherine Stanford
Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake	Linda Amato	Craig Benjamin
Capitol Hill	David Cutler	Heidi Oien
Central Area	Mark Johnson	Kate Stineback (Adrienne Bailey did not attend)
Crown Hill & Ballard	Leslie Miller	Ashley Harris
Columbia City/Hillman City/Genesee	Leslie Miller	Linda Amato of the SPC (Eddie Hill unable to attend)
Delridge	Chris Persons	Boaz Ashkenazy
Eastlake	Martin Kaplan	Brian Ramey
First Hill	Kevin McDonald	Sharonn Meeks
Fremont	Chris Fiori	Toby Thaler
Georgetown	Amalia Leighton	Judith Edwards
Green Lake	Jerry Finrow	Kate Joncas
Greenwood/Phinney Ridge	Linda Amato	Kate Stineback
Lake City	Colie Hough-Beck	Renee Staton
Morgan Junction	Jerry Finrow	Cindi Barker
Pike/Pine	Josh Brower	Dennis Saxman
Queen Anne	Matt Roewe	John Coney
Rainier Beach	Chris Persons	Christie Coxley
University Community	Mark Johnson	Jeannie Hale
Wallingford	Amalia Leighton	Irene Wall
West Seattle Junction	Kay Knapton	Sharon Meeks
Westwood/Highland Park	Kevin McDonald	Christie Coxley

## Neighborhood Open House

*June 22, 2009 - 6:00 – 8:00 pm*

*South Lake Union Armory – 860 Terry Ave. N.*

### Hosted by the Seattle Planning Commission & Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee Agenda

#### 1. Opening Session – 20 minutes

Introduction & Welcome – Josh Brower, NPAC Co-Chair

Opening Remarks – Councilmember Sally Clark

Orientation Video

#### 2. Six (6) Neighborhood Breakout Sessions – 75 minutes

Breakout sessions for Queen Anne, Belltown, Eastlake, Capitol Hill, First Hill, Pike/Pine

##### Presentation by SPC table host (5-7 minutes)

- Goals of the breakout session
- Presentation of background information on neighborhood plan and status update
- How to provide input (discussion, written questionnaire, easel pad, on-line questionnaire)
- Additional resources available

##### Facilitated discussion of question led by NPAC table host

1. Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted, (or since you've been there)?
2. What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you most pleased about? Most dissatisfied about?
3. How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved? Are they still the priority?
4. The city is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks. What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months? Are there any important gaps in the draft status report?

#### 3. Closing Remarks and Next Steps – 5 minutes

Closing Remarks & Next Steps – Josh Brower, NPAC Co-Chair

## Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings

Tim Ahlers	Kara Ceriello	Patty Foley	Jim Jensen	Phil Mocek
Joy Anderson	Jose Cervantes	Nancy Folsom	Dale Johnson	Rob Mohn
Jennifer Anderson	Gordon Clowers	Becca Fona	Blair Johnson	Dave Montoure
Aurora Anunicacion	Clarice Coker	Tony Fragada	Matt Johnston	Jesse Moore
Katheryn Armstrong	Rene Commons	Eric Friedli	Giff Jones	Patti Muller
Jill Arnow	John Coney	Bill Fuzekas	Mary Jones	Lisa Muller
Boaz Ashkenazy	Colleen Cooke	Dennis Galvin	Roger Jones	Dan Mullins
Joanne Auterjung	Dorene Cornel	Herbert Getchell	Alan Justad	Mars Mure
Maris Avots	Michael Cornell	Lucille Getchell	Laura Kalleb	Jessica Nguyen
Emi Baldwin	George Counts	Joseph Gockowski	Erica Karlovits	Tri Nguyen
John Barbee	Stuart Crandall	Daniel Goddard	Elias Kass	Hong Nguyen
Scott Barkan	Sally Crone	John Golobiec	Narom Khath	Dan Nolte
Tod Barker	Web Crowell	Kirsten Graham	Phoeun Khim	Richard Nordstrom
Deb Barker	Michael Cuadra	Lynn Graves	Melanee King	John Nuler
Catherine Barker	Mike Dady	Matt Gray	Wesley Kirkman	Karen O'Brien
Rick Barrett	MJ Davidson	Elizabeth Guenara	Cheryl Klinker	Jeannie O'Brien
Zander Batchelder	Susan Davis	Justina Guyott	Chris Knapp	Dara O'Bryne
Vicki Baucom	DeEtte Day	Julia Hadley	Kay Knapton	Susan O'Connell
Ellen Beck	Christo de Klerk	Jeannie Hale	Amber Knox	Kristy O'Donnell
Craig Benjamin	William Decherd	Craig Hanway	Sam Knoz	Pennie O'Grady
Cory Bergman	Jim Del Cielo	Susan Harmon	Sybil Knudson	Sokunthea OK
Jane Bigby	Jon deLeeves	Kathy Harper	Karen Ko	Kenneth Olsen
Derek Birnie	Rory Denovan	Michael harthorne	Diane Kremingk	Vlad Oustimoritch
John Bito	Donn Devore	Ralph Heitt	Tom Lee	Chris Pasco
Allina Black	Brian Dougherty	Tom Henry	Dorothy Lengye	Betty Pata
Neel Blair	Lloyd Douglas	Eva Hermesmyer	Jeff Libby	Nina Pata
Mark Bloudek	Nancy Driver	Hai Hoffman	Ref Lindmark	Bert Patrick
Anna Bowers	Chanta Dumas	Dick Hogan	Peter Locke	Jeffrey Pelletier
Dave Boyd	Christa Dumpys	Charles Hogg	Julie Lubre	Andrea Petzel
Sheila Brown	Shannon Dunn	K Beth Hollingsworth	Wendy Luker	Beth Pflug
Jan Brucker	Tim Durkan	Raft Hollingsworth	Andrew M	Boyd Pickerell
Susie Burke	Ruth Dyksterhais	John Hoole	Matt Ma	Erik Pihl
Janice Burnell	Sherell Ehlers	Bert Hopkins	Glenn MacGilvra	Jeff Pittman
Gloria Butts	David Ellinger	Ron Hornuns	John Magnenat	Ed Pottharst
Priscilla Call	Julie Enevoldsen	Megan Horst	Mike Mariano	Jen Power
Pablo Cambinico	John Enger	Serin Houpton	Velma Maye	Tim Pretare
Leon Capelo	Alicia Fadul	Ryan Hughes	Vivian McLean	Susie Prets
Kevin Carrabine	David Fansler	Wendy Jans	Douglas McNutt	Mary Quackenbush
Eudora Lowery Carter	Abdy Farid	Joan Jeffery	Sandra Melo	Brian Ramey
Susan Casey	Bill Farmer	Sarah Jenkes	Susan Melrose	Craig Rankin
Chris Caster	Andrea Faste	Susan Jensen	Richard Min	Jordan Rash

## Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings

Matt Rehder  
Mike Reinhardt  
Diane & Bob Rhea  
Marjorie Rhodes  
Scott Ringgold  
Amelia River  
Kirk Robbins  
Joan Robbins  
Delight Roberts  
Lee Roberts  
Ray Robinson  
Donna Roseveark  
Dennis Ross  
Jon Rudical  
Dennis Saxman  
Sue Scharff  
Dena Schule  
Shirley Schurman  
Deanise Schwarz  
Sharon Scully  
Rita Selin  
Dic Selin  
Philip Shach  
Sarah Shoup  
Sam Simone  
Steve Sindiong  
Susan Sisson  
Cindy Small  
Tamra Smilanich  
Marty Spiegel  
Catherine Stanford  
Catherine Stengord  
Kate Stineburk  
Ruth Stinton  
Conan Storlie  
Mike Stringer  
Adam Strutynski  
Christine Stuffels  
Jean Sundrorg  
Jeff Taylor  
Nicole Taylor

Tony To  
Viet Tran  
Alexandra Tu  
Ron Turner  
Cathy Tuttle  
Sarah Valenta  
Diana Vergis Vinh  
Jessica Vets  
Roger Wagoner  
Forrest Wald  
Irene Wall  
William Walsh  
Ed Wecloires  
Stuart Weiss  
Catherine Wentbrook  
Al Werner  
Julien Wheeler  
Patty Whisler  
Scott White  
Mary Whitmore  
Stephen Whitmore  
Thomas Whittemore  
Adrienne Wicks  
Kraig Wilhelmsin  
Adrian Wilkenson  
Vivian Williams  
Terry Williams  
Betty Williams  
Laura Wing-Whitebear  
Greg Winterstea  
Laura Wong-Whitebear  
Mikala Woodward  
Jason Woycke  
Sara Wysocki



# WESTWOOD / HIGHLAND PARK - July 20, 2009 ~~14~~ c table

- ① Highland Park diverse, blue collar, working class — more diverse, which is good, but
  - Drainbacks - difficult to get various communities together
  - ii) Vietnamese community is very tight
- Westwood diff. than Highland Park - put together for purposes of planning, but statistics may not be representative
- Reach out to communities
- School district is South Denny will impact neighborhood
  - ↳ big concern
- Delridge - more housing now - esp. on southern end
- Westwood Village - somewhat completed, new anchors
- South/Denny complex completed
- No kids then, lots of kids now, also seniors
- Westcrest park - dog park good
- Stewardship of Dramish greenbelt
- Reservoir - viewpoint
- More police presence, very responsive
- Business development - positive change ie) Zippy's Burgers
- More of a "there, there"
- Library serves community very well
- Athletic complex (open field transformed - not so welcoming - no open space)
  - ↳ school district wants to rent out to adult sport groups
- Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail - gate @ This is locked
  - ↳ school district property (uncooperative)
- Increase in involvement in community organizations
- HP + Westwood very different
  - ↳ park/open economic development  $\Rightarrow$  need connections but identities diverging
- Need safe-to-walk-to destinations
- What will happen to Denny School property

35<sup>th</sup> / Baker - what will happen to this property - Parks Dept - patch  
 Walkable community needed

## W/H. PARK

- ② Transportation - SW Roxbury too busy/fast #1 issue is traffic safety
- Cut thru traffic to avoid West Seattle Bridge
  - ↳ too much, too fast
- 16th @ SCCC - beautiful, but too fast, no crosswalks
- traffic to dog park
- Westwood - is walkable!
- Partnership - Westwood Neighborhood vs Seattle School District  
Seattle Public Utilities, also
- Kingsfells Creek Legacy Trail huge success - also Roxhill
  - ↳ took a long time but incredibly positive change
- Open space/parks - Westcrest Park greenbelt trails should be extended and linked to other trails - make connections
  - ↳ Volunteers (kids) clear up park - to dog dealing, cruising
- Westwood village - needs more of an edge where P.O. parking lot is currently
  - ↳ maybe a structure
  - ↳ needs to be more walkable - although better than it was
- New housing in Delridge triangle positive for 'hood - support businesses
  - ↳ s/o of Henderson
- Westwood Village important to Highland Park as economic center, but H.P. needs more small commercial opportunities
- Each little new thing is much appreciated
- Plans for St. James church is good - need to raise \$
- Improved walkability - lack of bikability - need more transit
- Missing input by having such big groups

# W/ H. PARK

- ③ • D. Not working on Delridge for balancing traffic/ bike/ped safety
  - ↳ still a priority
- A. Achieved - not much E-W link between Westwood/M.D. by E/W trails / links need to be extended & enhanced
- B. Not happening as described "South Civic Center"? [SW Complex] improvements to Community Center had fought for it
  - ↳ prices ↑ so more stuff did not happen
  - new building / pool renovation / all weather track all good but not welcoming / inviting
  - integrate school district better with neighborhood
    - ↳ locked gates don't have to be locked - "penetration"
  - Plan for Denny side redevelopment has been done - need to implement
  - clash between School District → Neighborhood  
→ Parks
- C. could be better, even though much improved
  - ↳ less prostitution
  - ↳ don't feel safe waiting for transit
  - ↳ reinstitute neighborhood walks
    - ↳ re) Westcrest greenbelt
  - ↳ no parking for small businesses - taken out by street improvements
  - White Center CDA supportive of improvements
  - Sense of entry - not implemented well everywhere
    - ↳ e) Art piece, banners @ White Center
  - "Delridge Corridor" is a term not being used much anymore

# W/ H. PARK

④

Vacant houses

Threat of a jail

Boundary issue of Delridge development area - greenbelt should be included in neighborhood

hundreds of homes not addressed in neighborhood plan

↳ expand boundary

Infrastructure work was supposed to include combined sewer system - done on north, not on East

Want more long term owners in neighborhood

No quantifying small business - home based businesses

How much commercial \$ in 'hood

Westwood vs small businesses - some tension should mentor instead

Need professional business group - create club

Economic viability of small businesses

Assess use of industrial zoned property at bottom of hill  
value

Discussion about what type of new commercial development should occur in the future needs to happen

↳ need information about current conditions as a base

↳ economic development not always retail-based

↳ better jobs/housing balance in 'hood

Focus on creating 'hood identity - in built and natural environment

↳ Longfellow Creek!

Bike/Ped trails need to be extended and linked

↳ Feet First involved

Wrap

## W/H. PARK

- New priority - preserving Dravish greenbelt - improve walkability
- Positive  $\Delta$  - things are happening - positive
- Major concern - need to bottom up neighborhood planning
- More small businesses
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Townhomes - ugly and poorly placed
- A bridge barrier between westwood (Highland - better crossings)
- Traffic safety (9th Ave in particular)
- Find ways to integrate all the things/activities going on in neighborhood to help implement plan
- More public outreach so more people know about meeting in the planning process
- West Seattle Blog is great outreach
- Get two groups together more often
- Cross roads not top down - City should support neighborhoods by dealing with The School district appears to be "top down"
- Public spaces / walkability / transit - safe and available
- Need to reach more people in process
- Good turnout at neighborhood meetings - pot luck, raffles effective
- Census numbers old
- Neighborhood plan should be a living document
- Need to be more involved with The School district
- Traffic / bike issues are third - need to keep on top of this
- Transportation to downtown - transit is slow to downtown
- Two neighborhoods need to support small businesses
- Encourage small businesses to meet customers needs - make themselves attractive to neighborhoods

# W/ H. PARK

- Architecture/aesthetics important
- Boundary - Faunterloj is changing rapidly
- West Sutt - a neighborhood of neighborhoods
  - ↳ need to be cohesive and coordinated
- include river area & west dreamish greenbelt
- entry features on Highland Park way, Roxbury
- look at how commercial property is being used
  - ↳ Love churches. The best use?
- Architecture/landscaping/parking strip street trees
- Funicular needed

# Status Check: How is Your Neighborhood Doing?

Please provide the following information and attach additional sheets if necessary.

Which neighborhood are you commenting on? HIGHLAND PARK / WESTWOOD

98106

For how long have you...

less than 5 years    5-10 years    more than 10 years    does not apply

Name:

lived in this neighborhood?               

owned a business in this neighborhood?               

regularly visited this neighborhood?               

worked in this neighborhood?               

attended school in this neighborhood?               

other (please describe)               

Email Address:

## Question 1

Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted (or since you've been there)?

- HP & Westwood are both becoming more unique, so connecting the 2 is becoming more difficult (in NP)
- HP more young families & couples - need for more walkable destinations

## Question 2

What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you:

most pleased about?

- transportation
- housing
- safety
- parks and open space
- public facilities (e.g. libraries, community centers)
- business district (e.g. stores, restaurants)
- buildings - new and existing
- other (please specify) community involvement

most dissatisfied about?

- transportation
- housing
- safety
- parks and open space
- public facilities (e.g. libraries, community centers)
- business district (e.g. stores, restaurants)
- buildings - new and existing
- other (please specify)

Do you have any comments related to what you are pleased or dissatisfied about?

### Question 3

How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved?

- very well
- somewhat well
- somewhat poorly
- very poorly
- don't know/neutral

*please describe*

Are they still the priority?

- yes, very much so
- some priorities have changed, some haven't
- no, not at all
- don't know/neutral

*please describe*

### Question 4

The City is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks.

What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months?

There should be more focus on...

There should be less focus on...

Are there any important gaps in the draft status reports?

- No
- Yes (please describe)

*Two distinct neighborhoods*  
*• walkability - safe routes in the neighborhood*  
*• business needs in HFP*  
*• include homes E of 9th Ave SW ; West Downtown Greenbelt in the boundaries.*

Please return this questionnaire by **Tuesday, August 11, 2009** to:

The Seattle Planning Commission  
700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000  
PO Box 34019  
Seattle, WA 98124

You can also fill out the questionnaire on-line at:  
[http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood\\_Planning/StatusReports/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood_Planning/StatusReports/default.asp)

# Status Check: How is Your Neighborhood Doing?

Please provide the following information and attach additional sheets if necessary.

Which neighborhood are you commenting on?

Highland Park

For how long have you...

less than 5 years    5-10 years    more than 10 years    does not apply

Name:

lived in this neighborhood?

owned a business in this neighborhood?

regularly visited this neighborhood?

worked in this neighborhood?

attended school in this neighborhood?

other (please describe)

Email Address:

## Question 1

Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted (or since you've been there)?

There are more people actively involved in community organizations

## Question 2

What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you...

most pleased about?

- transportation
- housing
- safety
- parks and open space
- public facilities (e.g. libraries, community centers)
- business district (e.g. stores, restaurants)
- buildings - new and existing
- other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

most dissatisfied about?

- transportation #23 bus frequently
- housing
- safety
- parks and open space
- public facilities (e.g. libraries, community centers)
- business district (e.g. stores, restaurants)
- buildings - new and existing
- other (please specify) pedestrian

Do you have any comments related to what you are pleased or dissatisfied about? amenities

Need better pedestrian connections:

1. between Highland Park and Westwood Village shopping center
2. between Westcross Park and homes west of 9th Ave / Henderson Place

### Question 3

How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved?

- very well
- somewhat well
- somewhat poorly
- very poorly
- don't know/neutral

please describe

Are they still the priority?

- yes, very much so
- some priorities have changed, some haven't
- no, not at all
- don't know/neutral

please describe

The Longfellow Creek trail is nice, but it does not "link" Highland Park and Westwood. There is an opportunity for a pedestrian corridor on Henderson St. from 25th Ave up to the existing stairway at 22nd and Henderson. This would connect well with the existing pedestrian path in the shopping center.

### Question 4

The City is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks.

What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months?

There should be more focus on...

There should be less focus on...

family wage jobs  
small business facilitation

Are there any important gaps in the draft status reports?

- No
- Yes (please describe)

- 1) Home east of 9th Ave should be included in Highland Park neighborhood, & Riverview
- 2) Impact of potential jail site adjacent/near neighborhood should be addressed.

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# WESTWOOD/HIGHLAND PARK

.....  
.....

1. Less abandon cars on the block, neighbors are more quite, increases in investment from private and public sectors (I.e. houses being flipped and new art at Westcott).

2. 'm very satisfied with the increases in investment, including housing development. I would like to see section 8 housing leave our neighborhood. Section 8 housing has created a lot of problems, especially when an entire building is classified as 'section 8'.

4. The city should focus on faster transporation to downtown. Right now it takes a good 40 minutes to get anywhere towntown via bus. I have no incentive to ride the bus as it takes me 10-15 minutes by car. I don't think the government should worry about creating affordable housing-this lowers the value of owners homes. Historically, those that cannot afford housing move to bedroom towns just outside the city. If the city is concerned about affordable housing they should issue permits for people that want to move houses faster than 6 months! If the city would like to see additional development in the area they should not make developers wait so long to get permits and pay thousands and thousands in fees, it is getting out of control.

Kelsey Diller

would really like answers to several questions:

1 it was the westwood/highland park plan so y DCC? Y not meet in one of our 2 neighborhoods?

2 y weren't the people who worked on this plan kept in the loop?

(One of those who gave countless hours days weeks n months of my life working on that plan just so it could be ignored)

I can't make it, but my concerns are:

1. Crime.

2. Traffic, especially on Holden.

THANKS!

8  
10/10

# WESTWOOD/HIGHLAND PARK

Out of the country, so cannot go to the meeting.

But have some ideas. The Neighborhood Plan approved the idea of a bike walking greenway trail from Riverview Park, thru the Soundway property, extending through the SCCC college property (They have it on their master plan) and along the Chinese Garden. This would connect neighborhoods, increase safety for walkers and bikers, increase safety of homes with in one block. Studies indicate homes within one block of a trail have INCREASED safety! Better for health and it is a rarity to find a greenway trail in a large city such as Seattle.

I would like to see this trail progress and do not know what kind of progress the city has made on it.

One half mile was laid in River View park

Thank you

I think one of the biggest impacts on our HP neighborhood is transportation. I am worried what will happen to WS when the viaduct work finally starts (no matter what they do to it-- personally I like a cool bridge like the GG bridge, but that isn't happening).

I also think that ALL of WS needs to present a UNITED front on what needs to happen to serve our community. Most of us do not work in WS and we need to get off and back. Personally I go to Beacon Hill, but my husband goes to Everett and he uses the viaduct everyday.

What can we as a neighborhood, city and county do to mitigate some of this impending 'traffic of doom'?

I also would love to see more of the multifamily housing being built fit in with the neighborhood and be aesthetically pleasing and have functional garage spaces that can be used. Not these boxes being thrown up for a quick buck, with garages that only a smart car can maneuver into, let's face it smart cars are great, but most people can't get one.

K