

CNC July 29, 2013 Meeting Minutes

District Council representatives in attendance: Phil Shack, (North District and CNC Chair); Chris Leman, (Lake Union District and CNC Budget Committee Co-Chair); Laine Ross, (Downtown District and CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee Chair); Janis Maloney, (East District); Chas Redmond, (Southwest District); Alexis Gallegos, (Greater Duwamish District Council); Catherine Weatbrook, (Ballard District); Glenn Avery, (Magnolia/QA District); Ed Marquez, (Greater Duwamish District); Irene Wall, (Northwest District); Bill Bradburd, (Central District); Tony Provine, (Northeast District); Dick Burkhart, (Southeast District); Rick Klingele, (Northwest District)

Guest: Tod Rodman

Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approval

June meeting minutes were approved with revisions to members present to include Bill Bradburd and to add voting record for approving budget letter. Agenda was approved as presented.

CNC Budget Committee

Discussion of draft letter regarding Parks Department budget. Request for City Auditor to study Parks budget. Seem to be many inefficiencies that could be addressed. CNC member queried whether volunteers could fill in for some work without creating a reaction from union members. CNC member mentioned several "friends of" parks groups who did regular clean-ups of local parks. Laine Ross stated there are several groups who work in conjunction with the Parks Department to do clean-ups of Downtown area parks. Morgan area has worked well with the Parks Department in improving their parks with no union issues.

Letter requests legal analysis of Metropolitan Parks District proposal. Chris Leman stated this issue had been looked at in 1999. The Seattle Parks Foundation hired Ken Bounds and Tom Byers two years ago to do an analysis of MPDs in other cities. Result was a policy document which highly recommended creation of a MPD in Seattle. Document is available on city website. However, no drawbacks are noted in the document. Letter does not take a for or against position, simply asks for more information.

CNC voted to approve the letter with addition of sentence relating to consideration of funding raised via MPD in relation to current funding level at Parks, need for publicly available legal analysis and cc to Parks Board. Downtown District abstained.

Neighborhood Planning Committee

Discussion of draft letter regarding microhousing. Committee has discussed the issue, as well as having DPD staff present to committee. Independent analysts have studied the microhousing building code in Seattle and have concluded it is too complicated. Letter asks for City Council to get an outside, independent expert to look at inequities in the code. CNC member suggested the letter focus on parking and SEPA threshold issues. Requiring SEPA review would cover all of the requested issues. CNC member stated that requiring SEPA affected much more than parking.

CNC voted to allow the committee to revise the letter per discussion, with final approval from the Executive Committee. Downtown, East and Southeast Districts abstained.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee

Committee met in July. Suggestion was made to send another letter to the Mayor's Office and DON regarding request for a second round of Large Project Fund and issues with review process. Still waiting to hear back from Mayor's Office to follow up to meeting with them in June. Chris Leman stated the CNC should draft a letter specifically asking that DON open up a second round and re-implement the letter of intent process. Laine stated DON may not change the review process for a second round, even if it opened, as the process may need to be consistent for both rounds in the interest of fairness. Concern that lack of applications in first round could influence Council to cut funding in future years. Laine

stated she could make edits to the letter and forward to the Executive Committee for final approval. CNC voted unanimously to move the letter forward in this manner.

Communications Group

Committee met with the City IT department and learned about how the website gets updated. City is working on archiving system. Current CNC FaceBook page is independent and outside of city system.

Mayoral Forum went well. Committee is creating handbook to assist in putting on events.

DON is celebrating its 25th anniversary. CNC and District Councils are also celebrating 25 years. Possibly will do an event in October. Could do a retrospective of last 25 years and look forward to next 25. Provides a good opportunity to put out message on budget regarding restoring community center hours, DON staff etc. before budget.

Irene asked if CNC could consider redesign of logo. Communications Group working to come up with some collateral/outreach materials.

Discussion of City Council Candidates Forum – traditionally CNC has sponsored. Not many contests this year. Would still be good to hear where candidates stand. Communications Group agreed to take a look at feasibility of hosting or co-hosting a City Council candidate forum.

Transportation Committee

Metro planning for 17% cuts if new revenue is not found. Cuts would begin in June 2014 and would gradually increase until September 2015. If new funding is voted in by March in King County, most cuts could be avoided. Some are urging Governor Inslee to call in a special session to address. King County has some options it could use, including creating a transportation benefits district. Proponents of large highway projects are not in favor of this, as it takes King County out of a larger statewide transportation package.

Bicycle Master Plan is another issue the committee is following. Goals are laudable. Trying to bring more people into cycling. Cycle tracks are new and provide a physical barrier between cyclists and cars. Greenways are another new feature. Many individual routes on the maps need more study. Implementation will take work.

Northeast District had concerns about some of the routes in NE. They wrote letters to SDOT/Mayor regarding this issue.

CNC discussed drafting a letter regarding the Bike Master Plan. Dick agreed to draft a letter addressing issues.