

CNC May 20, 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); Jody Grage, (Ballard District Council and CNC Secretary); Andrew Taylor, (East District); Chas Redmond, (Southwest District); Alexis Gallegos, (Greater Duwamish District Council); Bill Bradburd, (Central District and CNC Budget Committee Co-Chair); Gabrielle Gerhard, (Northeast District); Rick Klingele, (Northwest District); Catherine Weatbrook, (Ballard District); Tod Rodman, (Southwest District)

Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approval

Agenda and Minutes were approved as presented.

Social Media and the CNC Website

Lauren Balter has created a CNC Facebook page. Encourage district councils to “like” the page. Have already received seven likes. Andrew Taylor gave kudos to DON for quick link to the East District Council blog on the CNC web page. NE district council members met with Vicky Yuki to help develop their FB page. CNC members had a difficult time finding the link to the district web pages from the CNC page. CNC members have been meeting with the city on improving the navigation and layout of the page, as well as archiving historical information. Andrew Taylor suggested CNC could create its own web site independent of the city. Phil stated it might be difficult to keep it up to date, depending on volunteers. Bill Bradburd asked if it would be possible to get statistics from the city regarding hits to the CNC pages. Chris Leman stated removing the web site from under the city’s jurisdiction might lessen the CNC’s credibility. Phil stated the CNC FB page and district council pages are independent of the city. Chas stated the city hosts some, but not all. The committee is meeting this Thursday at Starbuck’s on First Ave.

Election Forum

Three of the seven mayoral candidates have been scheduled to attend so far. Date is June 26 in the BKL Room. Panel will begin at 6:30 p.m. Committee is working on a flier to help get the word out. Format is still being worked out. Questions will be solicited from both district councils and the public. Can also send questions prior to the forum that require lengthier answers. Phil will serve as moderator.

Parks Legacy Plan

Andrew Taylor reported on the plan. The plan stresses maintenance of existing facilities, rather than purchase/creation of new property. Parks may be asking for a Parks Levy in 2014. Members expressed concern over lack of community input into creation of advisory board. Chris Leman raised concern that Metropolitan Park District, if created, would be outside of city jurisdiction and would only be subject to state rules and laws. Metropolitan Park District would allow additional tax monies to be collected without a vote.

CNC Committee Reports

Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee/Laine Ross, Chas Redmond

Committee met last Tuesday. CNC wrote a letter to DON regarding changes to the NMF Large Project review process. DON Director Matsuno responded that the department plans to continue with changes, including joint open house. Committee decided at its meeting that a letter would be drafted to go to the Mayor’s Office around these changes and process used to arrive at changes, as well as meeting request with Mayor to discuss. Large project fund received six applications. That is far lower than in previous years. \$1.1 million is available in funding. Question is what becomes of the excess funds. Some of the money could be reallocated to Small and Simple projects. Chris Leman suggested that DON offer a second Large Project application cycle in the fall to use the remaining funds. Phil stated that outreach has suffered due to cuts to district coordinators, as well as NMF staff. CNC member stated that this would be a good issue to ask the mayoral candidates about. Chris Leman stated that while CNC is unhappy with the number of applications and lack of outreach, it should be careful not to overreact to this. Reviving the second application cycle would be the

most positive way to react to this. Alexis stated the larger issue is that DON is not listening to CNC. Opening up a second cycle would not solve the underlying problem.

Chas stated he worked with DON for three years, including assisting with surveys and recommendations and neither DON nor City Council members have implemented recommended changes. CNC member stated reductions to DON staff are probably the primary reason for lack of outreach/applications. Larger issue remains that city does not listen to CNC. CNC member suggested that all mayoral candidates receive a copy of the letter so they know about the issues.

CNC members agreed to move forward with the letter. Suggestions to shorten the letter and add a page with bulleted list of ideas for consideration.

Budget Committee/Chris Leman/Bill Bradburd

CNC Budget Committee drafted a letter and circulated for comments. Many items were taken from previous letters. This year the city is in better shape financially, so letter does not have to take the same tone as those of the past years when budget was being cut. Rick Klingele stated that CNC should formulate its positions and reformat letter with CNC goals. He distributed a revised sample letter. CNC member stated letter should be more focused on CNC priorities; not try to cover so many areas. CNC letter/advocacy have been effective in the past in preventing worse cuts to DON. Should be more specific with numbers, dollar amounts, FTEs, etc. Chris stated listing specific amounts, etc. can be divisive within the CNC. Glenn stated in the case of restoring cuts, need to show damage done by cuts, provide facts/data to back up requests. Letter needs to be finalized by the end of June. Departments are already being asked to submit budget proposals. Budget is finalized by mid-August. Either Mayor or City Budget Director attends September CNC meeting to present/discuss budget. City Council makes final budget decision and passes budget by the end of November. District Councils should review and also write their own letters citing district priorities. Phil stated he thought letter should focus on a few issues that districts/CNC feel strongly about, rather than be a long list of items. Jody stated letter is too vague, should spell out specific dollar amounts to allocate to specific items. Chas seconded this idea, stating city is more likely to implement recommendations if dollar amounts are attached/research is already done on costs. CNC member stated that CityClub has an online voters guide that CNC could use/link to. Suggestion to look at city department budgets on a yearly basis to identify possible cuts/efficiencies.