

The Keller Group
City of Seattle
Municipal Jail Project
May 15, 2008

Notes from Haller Lake Community Club Meeting May 15, 2008

Following are notes taken from the discussion at the Haller Lake Community Club Meeting on May 15, 2008. Doug Carey from the City and Cynthia Scheiderer from The Keller Group attended; Mr. Carey went through the information packet and people made comments and asked questions throughout. These notes are an attempt to capture what we heard, in the order that things came up.

Overall the themes that we heard the most often and the most strongly were (a) concern about proximity to residential, (b) concern about transporting inmates and the various risks and affects that could have on the area (c) concern about release of inmates, and (d) concern that this would exacerbate existing area problems.

Questions and points raised by meeting participants:

- If the City comes to an agreement with the North and Eastside cities, doesn't that make this site more likely?
- Will the facility include court rooms? Meetings rooms for attorneys to meet their clients? Will there be video capability?
- Will the precinct and jail be built at the same site? The precinct facilities are inadequate. Will those projects be linked?
- How often will inmates be transported between the jail and downtown for court appearances, etc.? Doesn't that safety risk to our community cancel out the safety risk of transporting inmates between floors of a high rise building?
- Has the City considered what can happen to the timeline if they end up in negotiations or disputes with private property owners, compared to using a site where the City already owns the land?
- It's hard to believe how the City can say that this is not in a residential zone (comment made multiple times from multiple participants).
- The zoning that makes this extremely narrow strip non-residential is woefully out of date.
- Did the City try, with their attorneys, to close the loophole that allows the County off the hook with misdemeanants?
- Has the City considered the wetlands/flooding issues in this area?
- Can the City use eminent domain to take land?
- How much of an increase in traffic will there be as you have to take people back and forth to the courthouse? Is the City looking at the impact on the environment (pollution, more driving), traffic, and community safety?
- Where will they be taken to be released? What time of day?
- Can we expect bail bonds and those kinds of businesses to spring up?
- What about 4th Avenue, ½ mile north of the Spokane Bridge, the former Pacific Industrial Supply, as an alternative?
- Stone Avenue N. is a dead end. Lots of surveying work is happening there. Is that related to this project?
- Do you have data on where the most crime is, where the most arrests are? Would that be the best place?
- You're probably going to need to expand. Governments are always underestimating the size of things, freeways, whatever. You probably need to make it larger.
- Are you considering proximity to schools? Hospitals? Do the people at the hospital know about this?

- How can this be considered compatible with current use?
- Do you realize there are seven schools within less than a mile?
- We have a lot of problems in this neighborhood without adding more.
- Who did you interview from this part of the City? (Four people present acknowledged that they or their organization had been interviewed.) Can we see the list of the 50 people you interviewed? Can we see the list of issues they raised?
- What department will do SEPA?
- Did you hear the issue of wetlands raised?
- From your handout, there are four criteria that would seem to eliminate this site: It's residential, it's not compatible with surrounding use, environmental concerns, and site development.
- What about downtown, between 3rd and 4th, and Cherry and James, as an alternative?
- Why can't it be downtown? When they're released downtown, there's bus transportation to anywhere they need to go. Here, there's just one bus line.
- This is going to affect public safety because of increased drug activity. Even if drugs aren't very many of the misdemeanor crimes, what do you think is going to happen when they're released here?
- Use the Myers Way site, it has a Park and Ride so they can leave the area on release.
- How has the North End Master Plan, or Bitter Lake Urban Village plan been taken into consideration?
- When is the decision going to be made?
- Make sure you have a big enough venue for the community meeting. This was a very last minute meeting and many people aren't here that care about this issue. Consider using Ingram High School for the meeting.
- There's overcrowding and all kinds of problems with the Northgate I5 bridge. We have a terrible transient issue in the cemetery. This is just going to make these problems worse.
- The 358 bus line is a problem. This is just going to make it worse. It's the only line to get downtown from here.
- Property values are going to plummet. This is a fiscally irresponsible decision. The tax base here is going to erode.
- Aurora is a major arterial and it's the only one. This is going to have a terrible impact on traffic.
- How can we stop this?
- The comment section on the web site has a character limit of 1000 words or something like that. That's been very frustrating.