

City Neighborhood Council draft minutes for meeting of April 30, 2007

In attendance: Ron Boddie (Central District and Chair, Budget Committee); Cheryl Klinker (North District); Malaika Lafferty (Lake Union District); Chris Leman, CNC Chair; Ref Lindmark (Transportation Committee Acting Chair and member of transportation levy Oversight Committee); Stephen Lundgren, (Ballard District); Janis Maloney (E District); Pat Murakami (SE District and CNC Vice Chair); Dennis Ross (SW District); Laine Ross (Downtown District); Pete Spalding (Delridge District); Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish District); Paul Stoms (E District); and Irene Wall, (NW District and Chair, Neighborhood Planning Committee). Guests: Hon. David Della, Seattle City Council, Hon. Jean Godden, Seattle City Council; Scott Minnix (DON staff); Michael McGinn (Seattle Great City Initiative and member of transportation levy Oversight Committee); Tim Burgess, City Council candidate; Carlo Davis, North Seattle

Beginning of Dialogue on “Best Practices” or “Toolbox” for District Councils

[Upon request of Pete Spalding (Delridge District), the agenda was amended to move part of the final agenda item (discussion of the “possible best practices for district councils” document that had been circulated) to be first on the agenda. Although most of the discussion occurred later in the meeting, the two segments are combined here in these minutes.]

Chris Leman introduced the “possible best practices for district councils” document as a first draft effort to kick off CNC’s 2007 work plan item, “In dialogue with the districts, develop model district procedures and by-laws.” Pete Spalding (Delridge) objected strongly to the draft as being judgmental about districts, and said that district by-laws should not be discussed. Chris said that he had failed if the draft is seen as stating any inadequacy in a district. It was based on his review of existing district practices to help the district begin discussing what works--such as Delridge’s excellent “Gathering of Neighbors” November winter fair, and its April Stewardship Forum.

The discussion was resumed later in the meeting. The following comments are based on an audio recording, and hence the names of some of the speakers are not known.

- There are good ideas here, but the title might be changed to seem less judgmental about existing District Council practices.

- Kathy Nyland commented that Greater Duwamish is in a rebuilding and recruiting phase, and doesn't have the resources right now to consider some of these suggestions, such as a web site.
- Cheryl Klinker (North District) found the document too "top down" and suggested recasting it as a "tool kit".
- If this is a Department of Neighborhoods proposal, it should be the role of District Coordinators to dispense information. (Chris Leman and Scott Minnix emphasized that the Dept. of Neighborhoods did not create this document. Scott suggested that any list should be drawn from meetings of each of the district councils)
- Ron Boddie (Central District) emphasized the importance of building community. He proposed revisiting the City Council resolutions that created the District Councils and CNC.
- There was a comment that CNC is an advisory group; not a policy making organization

It was agreed that the draft should be retitled as a "tool box." Chris will begin to recast it to avoid any impression of "one size fits all," and will send it out again for comment. The May 21 CNC meeting will begin with a large segment of dialogue among the district councils on what works and what challenges they face.

Councilmember Jean Godden – Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee

- Have been able to reduce electric rates 8% for residential and commercial.
- Assembling Advisory Committee on rates; looking for residents to be on committee.
- City Light also making progress on environmental issues, particularly saving salmon in areas of dams.
- City Light has been "carbon neutral" for past two years.
- Addressing areas of customer service related to last winter's wind storm, especially in the area of communication.
- Worked on critical areas ordinance and added additional protections.
- Renegotiated contract with Comcast with strong customer bill of rights

Q+A

Q. Can low-income neighborhoods have power restored sooner?

A. North end was restored first, because power was lost there first in wind storm. South end got hit harder and required more effort to get its power back. Main power stations had to be restored before feeders.

Q. Intermodal solid waste facility.

A. Supported zero waste study. Have toured proposed site. Traffic is a concern. Zero waste will require discipline and sacrifice.

Q. Why was outside help delayed during wind storm? Low income neighborhoods don't have good system for communications.

A. A joint committee is investigating these issues. Flyers were distributed door-to-door in some areas. Snow and rain storms preceded wind storm. PSE was already working on repairs in outlying areas and were not available. Crews from Portland were summoned and agreements are in place for the future.

Q. Has any outside entity ever asked to purchase City Light?

A. No, not to my knowledge.

Q. Privatization vs Public Utility?

A. 100 years as public utility; rates remain low.

Q. Labor issues; staff not allowed to finish emergency tasks.

A. Not allowed to work over 17 hours straight. Difficult to work in the dark. Understand the frustration, but need to follow safety regulations. Looking at possible provision of hotel rooms for staff that live further out so they would be available sooner during storm. Working with outside consultants to learn from this experience.

Councilmember David Della – Chair of Parks, Education, Library, Labor Committee

- Concerned over livability of the City.
- Committee oversees the Parks Levy, Family and Education Levy, Libraries for All bond, and Community Center Levy.
- Projects in Magnuson Park, Discovery Park, Occidental Park, and others still being debated. Working out compromises for uses in parks.
- Voters approved charter Amendment to give Council authority over reappointment of Parks Director and several other departmental heads
- Arranged for audit of public involvement in Parks projects; seeking to improve process

- Identifying source of funds for when Parks Levy expires
- Seattle Center is planning for the future (Century 21 Committee)
- Targeting educational achievement gap; early childhood education
- Seeking return to community of surplus School District properties
- Pedestrian Safety – over 400 pedestrians hit by cars in Seattle yearly; a special Council committee is working to identify and correct dangerous intersections/areas.

Q&A

Q. What funding sources are being looked at to replace Parks levy money?

A. Discussion just beginning. Parks Department is working on a business plan. Public should send to the Parks Dept. its requests for parks improvement/maintenance.

Q. ProParks Levy funded new parks, while neglecting maintenance of existing parks. City departments not listening to what neighborhoods want.

Q. Need increased input/new plan on garage at zoo.

A. Zoo operations have been turned over to zoological society. Part of agreement included long-range plan, including parking garage. Zoo looking to increase draw to more region-wide area, requiring more off-street parking.

Q. Zoological society not meeting all of its agreements in the contract. No public input on plan; only on parking garage, which neighborhood wanted at South end and underground. Did not follow these recommendations. Would like to see entire plan looked at again.

Q. Poor engineering is a major factor in pedestrian accidents. Need to slow cars down.

Ref Lindmark and Mike McGinn, members of Bridging the Gap transportation levy oversight committee

Bridging the Gap transportation levy. On November 7, Seattle voters approved the nine-year \$365 million Bridging the Gap transportation levy. A levy oversight committee is required by the levy ordinance. The oversight committee's first meeting was held on April 24. The committee sees its role as ensuring that the City does a good job of prioritizing

projects and provides balance in the types of projects done. The Committee has requested a variety of reports from SDOT. Ron Boddie suggested that it make a special effort to obtain input from traditionally under-represented groups. The committee intends to hold some of its meetings in different neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Street Fund. Copies of the Mayor's reply to the March 27 CNC letter were distributed. May 18 is the crucial deadline—citizens should nominate their preferred project, because for large projects, SDOT intends that the next deadline for applying for Neighborhood Street Fund levy funds will not be until the year 2010. For the NSF levy funds, which are to be restricted to “large projects,” open houses will be held in September for community input. SDOT does not intend to submit the projects to a district-based ratings process, but is proposing a citywide review team, possibly with members of CNC Transportation Committee. For the smaller projects funded by the Cumulative Reserve Fund, district council ratings are to occur sometime this summer.

Budget Committee:

Chair Ron Boddie intends to approach the City budget with an asset-based philosophy, emphasizing that the challenge is not the lack of resources, but a need for better coordination and utilization of existing resources. The Department of Finance on April 23 published the budget that the City council adopted on November 20; this is not prompt enough to ensure proper oversight by citizens of how their tax dollars are being spent. The committee's monthly meetings are now held in the Board Room at Central Neighborhood Service Center at 23rd and Jackson.

Neighborhood Matching Fund

The CNC appointed the following to its Citywide Review Team: Mike Warren (Queen Anne/Magnolia), Kristin O'Donnell (East), Dic Selin (Lake Union), William Mallow (Greater Duwamish), Mako Fitts (Central), Laine Ross (Central), Robin Sizemore (Northeast), Robert Drucker (Ballard), Tayo Bolonduro (North), Gretchen Heiden (Delridge), Andrea John-Smith (Southeast), Kate Martin (Northwest), Ann Owchar (At-Large), Darryl Cook (At-Large), Antoinette Angulo (At-Large), and Malaika Lafferty (At-Large). Ron Momoda was also appointed to an At-Large position but later declined. (Note: Malaika Lafferty abstained from the unanimous vote regarding the appointments, including her own.)

Neighborhood Planning Committee – Irene Wall

All are welcome to the Saturday, May 19 workshop on neighborhood planning, 9 a.m. to noon in the Bertha Knight Landes Room (first floor of

City Hall). Please help us spread the word! All are encouraged to participate in a survey on neighborhood planning being conducted by the City Auditor, <http://tinyurl.com/ysqhz2>. A member of the auditor staff will be attending the May 19 workshop.

Comprehensive Plan amendments now before the City Council include zoning changes from industrial to commercial and creation of “sustainability measures.” Adoption of “policies” seems to be lagging behind and retroactively justifying actual zoning and land use ordinance changes. Policy should precede, not follow, ordinance changes.

Approval of March Minutes

The March 26 draft minutes were approved without changes.

20th anniversary picnic for district councils and City Neighborhood Council

CNC secretary Judith Edwards has secured Jefferson Park’s Lawn Bowling clubhouse for a potluck on Sunday, July 15, noon to 4 p.m. to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Res. 27709, which established the district councils and the City Neighborhood Council. The event is a chance to have some fun, to honor past district council and CNC members, and to introduce new and prospective volunteers to the district council system. Please spread the word!!