

City Neighborhood Council Minutes
June 25, 2007

In attendance: Irene Wall, NW; Dennis Ross, SW; Chris Leman, Lake Union and CNC Chair; Bob Frazier, Magnolia/Queen Anne; Pat Murakami, SE; Judith Edwards, Greater Duwamish; Molly Hanson, Ballard; Robert Drucker, Ballard; Malaika Lafferty, Lake Union, Janis Maloney, East, Adrienne Bailey, East; Robin Sizemore, North

DON Staff: Scott Minnix, Garry Owens, Allynn Ruth

Also attending: Dave Cargill, SE Crime Prevention Council; Dolores and Richard Ranhofer, Lakewood/Seward Park, Carol Simon, Madison Park Community Council

Guests: Councilmember Sally Clark, Nathan Torgelson, OPM, Holly Miller, DON, Office for Education

Councilmember Clark:

Serves on Neighborhoods and Economic Development Committee of City Council

Neighborhood Plan audit and Nightlife Ordinance

Audit underway. Concerned that plans are followed and implemented. Would like to see City departments work more closely with neighborhoods. Audit report should be completed this fall. Ten year anniversary of plans approaching; some may need to be updated. Executive Office beginning to be aware of this need.

Nightlife Ordinance: City lacks tools to deal with unruly clubs. Mayor would like authority to suspend/revoke license without waiting for Liquor Board input. Economic Committee looked at. Councilmember Clark has been spending time in neighborhoods affected by bars/clubs. Doesn't feel there are enough votes to pass ordinance as is. Can probably change/strengthen noise ordinance and form advisory committee to look at club/neighbor relations. Need to have sufficient police presence. Goal to have wrapped up by end of July.

- Q. CNC Neighborhood Plan Committee has not been included in interdepartmental meetings re Neighborhood Plans. Would like to know what is happening.
- A. Councilmember Clark concerned that not enough broad participation will come from neighborhoods and process will be too top down. Could miss opportunity to reconnect neighborhoods and government, get creative ideas and energize communities.

Q. Certain areas have seen little progress from plans. SE Action Agenda has replaced plan; and plan stewards not involved in formulating that document.

A. Action Agenda easier for city to monitor, but does diminish community input.

Q. Zoning has changed. Affordable housing being lost.

A. Affordable housing concern all over city. City limited in what it can do. Housing Levy being rewritten in 2008. Need to figure out how to keep median income housing.

Q. How to enforce Nightlife Ordinance?

A. Four to six Liquor Control agents at work throughout County on any given Friday night. Police budget doesn't fund enough coverage. Need to identify funding and hold enforcement accountable. Grant funding doesn't generally cover personnel. Weed and Seed funding does fund some emphasis patrols. SPD does not want clubs paying for overtime police officers directly. Bars could pay into central fund to cover.

Q. How willing are you to stick your neck out and say that plans are too top down?

A. Willing to do so. Could look at it as gaining grassroots support.

Q. Citizen's Advisory Panel on NSF/CRF Bridging the Gap not happy with process. Appreciate Councilmember Clark's help.

A. Wanted to make sure Bridging the Gap money for pedestrian/mobility projects went where needed and determined by neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Recommendations:

\$1,598,108 available for Large Projects this year. Received 25 applications. Twenty-three projects recommended for funding, with two projects moving to Small and Simple Fund. CRT will be debriefing process on July 10. Mayor will present awards on July 18. Robin Sizemore recognized for her work as chair of CRT this year. **CNC voted unanimously to approve project award recommendations.**

Holly Miller, DON Office for Education:

Focus of 2004 Education Levy was on academic achievement and closing achievement gap. Created list of outcomes for school readiness, academic achievement and reduction of achievement gap utilizing WASL test scores, and drop-out reduction. Instituted new program to track results by child. Reports available on web site.

Q. Have you considered using a different test than WASL?

A. Need to use the test that district uses to assess results.

- Q. What happens if kids aren't ready for kindergarten?
 A. Trying to get School District to devise a uniform assessment. If child scores below a certain level on assessments, information is given to family support worker and principal and plan is written for child right away.
- Q. What is service in proportion to need at this point?
 A. Family support workers only in elementary schools at this time. Not even all elementary school needs are being met. Wage increases for family support workers make it difficult to increase number of staff.
- Q. Do these workers fill in gap of health workers (nurses)?
 A. Health funding spent for middle and high school clinics and nurses in those schools. District spends money to fund other schools, but has cut funding and they are spread thin.
- Q. What is connection with organizations providing after-school programs?
 A. YMCA and Parks run programs at middle school level. They contract with organizations also. Trying to add programs at high school level. RFP is used for elementary school level programs.
- Q. How much funding goes to administration of program?
 A. 5% spent in downtown office. Council put limits on amount of funding that can go to administration.

Nathan Torgelson/School Surplus:

Five properties have been identified as surplus. Can either sell or lease to communities. Have one year to come up with agreement to use building. Crown Hill, Phinney, Fauntleroy, University Heights and Webster School are five schools identified. Another list contains inventoried schools; those that have just been closed. That list not available yet. City has contracted with Cascade Land Conservancy to work with community and three of the schools. School District needs to receive market rate for the buildings. Communities will need help to come up with funding. Lots of maintenance/repair issues with buildings. University Heights has been funded with Matching Fund to hire Cascade Land Conservancy and some ProParks money. Phinney in good position to move forward. Council may consider bond sale also for University Heights and Phinney.

- Q. Fauntleroy concerned that they will not be able to come up with full market value.
 A. There is a lot of community action around that school.
- Q. What happens if community can't raise money? (University Heights)
 A. Probably will need private partnerships to make it work. Will need historic tax credits, additional revenue-generating tenants, other creative financing ideas. Will be requesting money from county and state.

Q What schools are on the inventory list? How long will they be on the inventory list?

A. Viewlands, MLK. Others. It is up to the School Board if they will be released to be sold or leased. Some are still in legal challenges.

Q. Want to make sure buildings remain public and private entities don't come in and take over.

A. Process involving School Board, City and neighborhoods to determine use.

Q. What are new market tax credits?

A. A new federal tax credit to underwrite space.

Q. If a school is purchased, what is the School District's role in the use?

A. School Use Advisory building still can rule on uses.

Q. What specific expertise does Cascade Land Conservancy bring?

A. Have done lots of work on buying land for public ownership. Good at engaging different parties. Seen as objective third party. Have the staff and time to dedicate.

ProParks money has been given for park at Crown Hill site. That money can go toward purchase of building.

University Heights and Phinney building eligible for historic landmark designation.

Approval of May Minutes:

Change in chair of NPI committee

Change in wording of last sentence in NPI committee section

Minutes adopted with these changes

Budget Committee:

Copies of proposed 2008 City budget and CNC budget letter distributed. Suggestion to strengthen Parks section relating to ProParks and ask for continued staffing of various programs relating to youth programs at community centers. Suggestion to remove sentence relating to a new Parks Levy. Suggestion to add sentence stating that if Zoo Society builds parking garage, zoo will become ineligible for future ProParks funding. Suggestion that separate letter addressing Parks Levy be sent. Comment regarding increase in human services/housing with lack of oversight of spending resources. Suggestion to add sentence: Funding should ensure that subsidized housing and related services are not unduly concentrated in any particular part of the city. **Letter adopted with suggested changes with 7 yeas and two abstentions.**

Neighborhood Planning Committee:

Will be sending letter for comment via e-mail before July meeting.

Transportation Committee:

Ref out of town. Advisory Committee met and discussed NSF/CRF process. Need representatives from districts to serve on the committee.

Report on District Council Meeting with Stella Chao:

Meeting was productive. Waiting to see minutes from meeting. Was good for District Chairs to get together to support each other and share thoughts/ideas. Generated lots of ideas/more questions than answers. Suggestion of forming a Yahoo group. Many felt they already had too many e-mail messages to deal with. Feel need for more informal chance to talk. Idea of round robin at start of CNC meetings.