

City Neighborhood Council Minutes
September 24, 2007

CNC members: Malaika Lafferty (Lake Union), Janis Maloney (East); Chris Leman, Chair; Dennis Ross (SW); Robert Frazier (Magnolia/Queen Anne); Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish), Irene Wall (NW), Judith Edwards (CNC Secretary); Andy Macdonald (Ballard), Pat Murakami (SE and CNC vice chair) Robin Sizemore (NE); and Renee Staton (North). Others in attendance: Andrea John Smith (SE); Scott Minnix (Department of Neighborhoods),

July Minutes adopted with corrections

Dwight Dively

Director of the Department of Finance

As it was his birthday, the volunteers presented Dwight with a cake (decorated with dollar signs) and sang Happy Birthday.

Four documents related to Mayor's proposed budget (all of them available at <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment>) were distributed. Some highlights:

- Economy is strong
- 105 police to be added by 2012 – this adds \$20 million to costs
- Expiration of Parks Levy—Mayor is not proposing renewal, but is proposing to fund from general revenues maintenance that recently has been levy-funded. Parks Opportunity Fund created with leftover Levy money. (\$7 million)
- Revenue has been good since 2005
- Challenges – Legislature changed the B&O Tax, leading to a drop in City revenues. The City budget proposes a square footage tax to make up for loss.
- New North Precinct Facility in planning
- New City jail – King County is turning over housing of misdemeanor prisoners to cities by 2013. There is money in the budget for consultants who will study possible sites and reach out to the public. The siting decision will be made by the City Council sometime in 2009.
- Possible loss of Sonics/funding for Key Arena bonds
- Funding for staff for neighborhood plan updates
- Mayor is proposing funds to extend the Lake Union Trail
- Surplus Schools - \$1 million for each to purchase/plan
- Hat 'n Boots restoration funds
- Mayor did not take CNC's recommendation to restore and expand the Neighborhood Matching Fund from past cuts, but will initiate a process, including CNC, to determine need for increase in funding. **Emphasis patrols?**
- Photo radar would be expanded to catch red light runners

- Neighborhood Street Fund--\$1.5 million increase for Large Projects Fund, but it would be spent immediately, so the next Large Project deadline would not be until 2009. \$500,000 would be added to the annual Small Projects fund.
- Climate Action Now
- Energy Efficiency for City Departments
- Customer Service – 311 System

Suggestion that, as City is tapping Millenium for fiber link of Town Hall to the Seattle Channel studios, it should also insist on such a link with the public meeting rooms in Municipal Tower and the Parks headquarters board room (both recommended by CNC the last two years). Also suggestion that City heed CNC's recommendation to do a better job preventing damage to roads and bridges by heavy vehicles.

Marilyn Young-Skogland – Manufacturing and Industrial Council of Seattle Industrial Neighborhoods

Includes manufacturing, construction, distribution, warehousing and maritime industry. Skogland distributed information about DPD and the Planning Commission's proposed changes to industrial land use code. Twelve percent of Seattle's land is currently industrially zoned, and of this, 50 percent is owned by a governmental agency. The privately owned industrial land (6 percent of the Seattle area) produced 31 percent of tax revenue. Average salary in city \$47,200, while the industrial wage is \$55,500. Provide family wage jobs without requiring expensive graduate degrees. City is receiving requests to rezone industrial land, but it is a finite resource which cannot be replaced. Concern over speculative purchases of industrial lands. Current zoning allows up to 100,000 sq-ft to retail/commercial in industrial areas. Retail/commercial willing to pay more per square foot than industrial; thus industrial business is lost. Mayor is recommending that only 10,000 sq ft of retail/commercial be allowed. Also recommending changes to comp plan. City Council will be acting on legislation in November.

Neighborhood Planning Committee

Chair Irene Wall reported. Councilmembers Rasmussen and McIver attended the committee's last meeting and discussed proposed extension of property tax forgiveness to encourage developers to include low income housing in development. Committee members are not enamored of idea; not convinced it would work. Also discussed proposed SEPA threshold changes. Committee does not see the logic of raising the thresholds further in urban villages. (Enlarges the projects that would not be subject to public notice and comment, SEPA checklist, and appeals opportunities, all of which can make growth more acceptable). DPD claims that the Critical Areas Ordinance and Design Review would cover, but they not address everything SEPA would. DPD relied on an advisory committee composed of developers and their attorneys, not enough

citizen involvement. With one abstention, CNC voted to authorize a letter opposing the changes; committee will draft a letter to send out for comment and revision.

Mayor's proposals for updating neighborhood plans do not seem to have taken recommendations in CNC's August 20 letter. Committee would prefer to see money go to neighborhood groups to hire consultants (as was done with the current neighborhood plans), rather than to City staff or City-hired consultants. Would prefer more money go to DON, rather than DPD. Message from neighborhood groups is they liked the process used last time, and would prefer to see it more neighborhood-driven. Relying primarily on City staff appears to be conflict of interest: is it neighborhood's interest or Mayor's interest being represented? With one abstention, CNC authorized a letter to the City Council requesting more money to go to DON, rather than DPD, and other changes for updating plans. The committee will draft the letter and circulate it for revisions.

Transportation Committee

Dennis Ross reported that the Bridging the Gap Large Projects Review Team held its first meeting. Two hundred project applications were received; forty have been removed as ineligible, or will be done from other funding. Remaining projects will be reduced to fifty for the committee to evaluate. \$1.5 million will be available for each sector (North, Central, South). Twenty projects will be done in both North and South, and ten in Central. SDOT relied on a consulting firm, which produced cost estimates that seemed very high; and in some cases, dramatically changed from what the applicant had asked for. Sidewalk or trail projects were expanded to require widening street, retaining wall, drainage, etc. which all added to cost. Same projects had varied cost estimates. With one abstention, CNC voted to authorize a letter (to be circulated for revisions and consensus) to the City Council with comments on the current NSF and suggested conditions for the Mayor's proposed new money for the program.

Nominating Committee

With one abstention, Judith Edwards, Cheryl Klinker, Dennis Ross and Andrew Taylor were appointed to serve as the CNC nominating committee, to report with a slate of officers and committee chairs at the Oct. 29 meeting.