

DRAFT City Neighborhood Council Minutes
November 26, 2007

In attendance: Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish); Jerry Owens (Northwest); Jeannie Hale (Northeast); Judith Edwards (Secretary and Greater Duwamish); Cheryl Klinker (North); Chris Leman (Chair and Lake Union); Pat Murakami (Vice Chair and Southeast); Ron Boddie (Central); George Counts (Magnolia/Queen Anne); Dennis Ross (Southwest); Richard Selin (Lake Union), Robert Drucker (Ballard); Malaika Lafferty (Lake Union); Janis Maloney (East); Paul Stoms (East). Guests: Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck; his staff person Roger Valdez; Laura Onstat, Seattle Weekly; Scott Minnix, DON; Doug Cargill, SSCPC; Stephen Lundgren, CIRP Library oversight panel; Dennis Saxman, POWHAT

October Minutes

Approved without changes

Good-Bye visit from Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck

Government is a partnership with community and advocates. While electeds try to tune in to community, leadership also means taking lead on ideas other than those put forth from community. Human services are often first to be cut in lean budget times. A new “people-first” ethic recognizes that many still suffer even in our prosperous region. Steinbrueck thanked CNC for budget input this session, and outlined the ways in which the City Council responded to CNC’s requests, such as an increase in uniformed police officers, and restoration from previous cuts of funding for demographic services, human services, library collections, and community center hours. Steinbrueck worked particularly hard on getting \$2 million for library collections and directing the Mayor to increase funding in future years. While patronage at libraries was increasing 80%, no additional money was put into collections, leading to long wait times for materials. Steinbrueck is also focusing on sustainability – not adding costs that cannot be sustained in the future. This budget has the largest “rainy day fund” ever. He would like to see the budget process more transparent, in accordance with CNC’s 2006 letter.

Q&A

- Q. Some neighborhoods are in opposition to sidewalks
- A. If a neighborhood is in consensus, should let its preferences be known

- Q. What are plans for life after Council?
- A. Might teach, form a non-profit or take mission-driven, purposeful private sector work. Might run for office at later date.
- Q. Housing issues?
- A. Macro-level problem. Public subsidy falls far short of what is needed to adjust imbalance between household incomes and rising cost of housing in Seattle. Zoning is 70% single family. Seattle is suburban-like city. Cannot control costs for single family housing. Can support denser housing in urban centers. Can support workers and income issues. Production of multi-family housing is easing some pressure. Have good supply of rental housing, however rents are increasing and condo-ization a problem. Looking to put some controls on conversions. Led in development of 10-year plan to end homelessness. Helped raise fees from developers from \$2 per square foot to \$19 per square foot to fund low-income housing.
- Q. Upzones contributing to problem of loss of housing for working families.
- A. Legislation that when upzone is proposed a contribution will be made to low-moderate (80 and below percent) housing funds. Public needs to demand more.
- Q. South Lake Union getting large amounts of money. What about other neighborhoods?
- A. Looking to maximize public benefits from upzones in South Lake Union. Will be looking into this further.
- Q. Advice to communities to fight powerful special interests, developers, corporations?
- A. Power in numbers. Contributions from powerful interests to electeds is a factor. Can develop skills and enhance effectiveness in communities. Establish relationships, follow issues. Community councils, district councils and CNC can speak for community.
- Q. 911 call center?
- A. Cost was too high. Nine million just to study. Have not heard widespread complaints about current system. Didn't feel proposal was strong enough. Can come back next year if they have a stronger proposal. Did give them \$500,000 to study. Many complaints are about utilities, which are fee supported. Should not use general fund money to support.

- Q. Lack of transportation vision for West Seattle. What would happen if viaduct failed? Need better alternatives.
- A. There is funding and plan for bus rapid transit from West Seattle. Will be built by 2011. Seattle ridership is 80%, but Seattle gets only 20% of Metro's service hours. Urge County Councilmembers to correct this imbalance.
- Q. Budget totals?
- A. General fund \$900 million plus. Growing faster than cost of government. Total budget around \$3 billion.
- Q. Should have subsidized housing fund for police to keep them from leaving city after being trained and paying them to commute to city.
- A. In support of police. Compensation is inadequate to cost of living and not competitive. Leadership must be more committed. Need more proactive community policing, not just 911 response. Now have dedicated police at Third and Pine, which is making a difference.
- Q. Southeast Action Agenda – created by low-income housing providers, not community. Would like a different, revenue-generating plan. Jobs, education, safety have been neglected.
- A. Council needs to be educated on needs of community and hear consensus. Council believed that agenda came out of community. Need to pay close attention to how new neighborhood planning process is done.

Steinbrueck is Introducing legislation to classify carbon emissions as a pollutant and to have it measured.

Steinbrueck was applauded and thanked for his eight years on the City Council and for all he has done for neighborhoods.

Deputy Police Chief Clark Kimerer on the Neighborhood Policing Initiative

Fifteen years ago had four precincts with balanced workload, but demographics have changed. Now have five precincts with varying workloads -- North – 31%, South – 17%, East – 17%, West – 20%, SW – 20%.

Three Objectives:

Emergency calls are to be answered within seven minutes – now can do 60% of the time, but want to improve that score.

Proactive time – get to know people, talk to juveniles, etc. Not consistent throughout city or time of day.

Ten units not on a call anytime during the day to be available to put together team quickly if necessary

Neighborhood Policing will redo the map/staffing/etc for the first time in 30 years. Have been collecting data over the past five years to formulate new plan. Some areas have far more work than others. Calls pull officers out of their areas to assist in busier areas. Want to keep them in their own areas. Precinct boundaries have not been changed too much. Are negotiating with union to change to ten-hour shifts to better accommodate needs. Need to hire more officers. Difficult to recruit and retain enough officers.

Q&A

Q. South Precinct short of officers

A. Next ten officers hired will be going to South Precinct. If White Center is annexed SW Precinct will need more officers.

Q. Screening of officers?

A. For every 20 screened for hiring, only one passes. Extensive screening process.

Q. Any thought to lowering standards to make it easier to hire?

A. Continuously looking at how candidates are selected. Psychological testing is huge and important and won't change. Need to define what makes a good officer. May look for feedback from community on this.

Q. Lack of space in academy?

A. Will put on own academy if get officers. If given enough notice, extra spaces will be opened up.

Need to be more flexible in utilizing resources and getting officers in contact with community/kids/in schools. Aligning boundaries with workloads supported by statistics. Will redistribute staff under sergeants more equitably. New districts take effect Jan. 9. Need to make improvements in communication center (call center for 911 and non-emergency number, 625-5011). Will be looking at this in the future.

Will be attending district council meetings to explain program. If the model doesn't work, it will be retooled.

Community Building Workshop

Format will include time for face-to-face swapping of ideas from different neighborhoods. If your district has not already become a co-sponsor and asked your district coordinator to allocate \$100 or \$200 from your outreach fund, please do so. Contact Judith Edwards to get involved in planning.

Biennial CNC Citizens Budget Conference

Moved, seconded and passed unanimously to authorize and begin planning for CNC's biennial citizens budget conference in early 2008.

District Council Challenges/Successes

Tabled due to time constraints.

CNC Committee Reports

Planning Committee: No report.

Transportation Committee: No report

Matching Fund Committee: At its July meeting, the Committee had recommended returning to interview process, rather than open house model currently used in large project process. Department of Neighborhoods unwilling to accept this recommendation. Committee discussed this and other issues at its November meeting; minutes are forthcoming.

Budget Committee: Looking to increase CNC input to budget; focus on capital budget, not just operating budget. Need to increase transparency in budget process.

Citizen Implementation Review Committee:

CNC nominates half the members of this Libraries for All oversight committee for City Council confirmation. Although the committee is scheduled to end this year, the spending continues into the spring. CNC unanimously adopted a resolution thanking the CIRP committee members and asking the Mayor and City Council to extend the committee's life until the funds are spent.

Nominating Committee

On behalf of the nominating committee (Judith Edwards, Cheryl Klinker, Dennis Ross, and Andrew Taylor, with Taylor not present on Nov. 26), Judith Edwards convened the elections portion of the meeting. She

displayed on a board the slate of candidates that the committee had provided to the October 29 CNC meeting. Judith announced that no other nominations had been received prior to the Nov. 26 meeting, and asked if there were any nominations to be made from the floor. There were none. Nominations were closed, and the ballot consisted of the following:

Executive Committee

Chair - Chris Leman vs. Pat Murakami
Vice Chair - Pete Spalding
Secretary - Dick Selin

Committee Chairs

Neighborhood Planning Committee, Irene Wall
Budget Committee, Ron Boddie
Transportation Committee, Ref Lindmark
Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight, Co-chairs Laine Ross and Robin Sizemore

CNC Members casting ballots in the November 26, 2007 Election

Twelve (12) ballots were distributed to the following CNC District Chairs or Alternates:

Kathy Nyland, *Chair, Greater Duwamish District Council*
Janice Maloney, *Designated Alternate, East District Council*
Jerry Owens, *Co-chair, Northwest District Council*
Jeannie Hale, *Designee, Northeast District Council*
Pete Spalding, *Chair, Delridge District Council*
Dennis Ross, *Designated Alternate, Southwest District Council*
Malaika Lafferty, *Designated Alternate, Lake Union District Council*
Robert Drucker, *Designee, Ballard District*
Pat Murakami, *Designated Representative, Southeast District Council*
Ron Boddie, *Chair, Central District Council*
George Counts, *Chair, Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council*
Cheryl Klinker, *Designee, North District Council*

Election Results

Nominating committee members Judith Edwards, Cheryl Klinker, and Dennis Ross counted the ballots, and reported back to the City Neighborhood Council that the following were elected:

Executive Committee

Vice Chair - Pete Spalding

Secretary - Dick Selin

Committee Chairs

Neighborhood Planning Committee, Irene Wall

Budget Committee, Ron Boddie

Transportation Committee, Ref Lindmark

Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee, Co-chairs Laine Ross and Robin Sizemore

Tie vote for Chair

The three nominating committee members present also reported that there was a 6-6 tie between Chris Leman and Pat Murakami for the position of chair. The nominating committee proposed that Chris and Pat serve jointly as co-chairs, and Chris and Pat agreed to that proposal. It was moved and seconded to recognize Chris Leman and Pat Murakami as co-chairs for the 2008 term of office. There was discussion for and against the motion, and the CNC members listed above as being eligible to vote, passed the motion by a vote of nine (9) yeas, two (2) nays, and one (1) abstention.

The meeting adjourned.

These draft minutes are submitted by Judith Edwards, CNC Secretary