

*Below is the **draft** agenda for the Monday, Nov. 24 CNC meeting, along with background and a listing of other meetings. You and everyone are welcome to attend and/or send us suggestions and ideas!*

City Neighborhood Council
www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil
Monday, Nov. 24, 2008
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
West Precinct Conference Room
810 Virginia Street

Chair: Chris Leman (Lake Union), cleman@oo.net, (206) 322-5463
Vice Chair: Pete Spalding (Delridge) bayouwonder@comcast.net
Secretary: Steve Sindiong (Southwest) gnoidnis@comcast.net

DRAFT AGENDA:

- 6:30 Introductions, and review/approval of agenda and October 27 minutes (see link below)
- 6:35 Status of the 2009-10 budget
- 6:45 Youth gangs and violence -- Councilmember Tim Burgess and a Police Dept. representative
- 7:25 Possible action on SENDC's application for at-large CNC position (see background below)
- 8:20 Balloting for 2009 CNC officers and committee chairs (see background and nominations below)
- 8:30 Reports of CNC's committees
Budget Committee--Ron Boddie, Chair
Education Committee--Mike Warren, acting chair
Neighborhood Planning Comm.--Irene Wall, Chair
Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee--Laine Ross, Chair
Transportation Committee--Ref Lindmark, Chair
- 8:50 Review of the Oct. 28 Seattle Neighborhood Summit
- 8:55 Announcement of CNC election results
- 9:00 Adjourn

UPCOMING

All CNC and district council events are open to the public. CNC agendas and minutes (including the draft minutes from CNC's Oct. 27 meeting) are available at <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>, which also has CNC's by-laws, work plan, contact information for district representatives, correspondence, authorizing legislation, and other documents, videos and links. An on-line meeting calendar that includes the district council meetings is <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/meetinglocations.htm>.

CNC Nov. 24 meeting. Agenda is above.

CNC January 26 meeting. CNC traditionally does not meet in December. Suggestions are welcome for the Jan. 26 agenda.

CNC Budget Committee, chaired by Ron Boddie (Central District), rboddie_2@msn.com. Next meeting is being scheduled.

CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee, Chaired by Laine Ross (Downtown District), laine@ceoworkz.com. Next meeting is being scheduled.

CNC Transportation Committee, chaired by Ref Lindmark (Northwest District), refl@nwlink.com. Next meeting: Friday, Nov. 14 (11:30 a.m. in room 4090 of the Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue).

CNC Neighborhood Planning Committee, chaired by Irene Wall (Northwest District), iwall@serv.net. Next meeting: Tues., Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m. at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia St.

BACKGROUND

Draft minutes. Draft minutes from the Oct. 27 CNC meeting (and approved minutes from previous meetings) are available at <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil> by clicking on "Meeting Minutes and Agendas."

CNC nominations and elections. As the by-laws require, CNC's nominating committee (Peter Aberg, Chris Leman, Andrew Taylor, and Irene Wall) presented their nominations at the Oct. 27 meeting. Other nominations may be made, and CNC will vote at the Nov. 24 meeting with the new officers to take over at the January 26 meeting.

Nominee for Chair: Kathy Nyland is chair of the Greater Duwamish District Council, and its representative to the CNC, positions that she has held since 2007. She is also co-founder and chair of the Georgetown Merchants' Association, and serves on the board of directors of the Georgetown Community Council. She served on the 2008 Parks Levy Advisory Committee, and is a monthly columnist for the Beacon Hill News. Kathy is co-owner of 'george', a gift shop in Georgetown.

Nominee for Vice Chair: Laine Ross has represented the Downtown District Council on the City Neighborhood Council since 2006. She is chair of CNC's Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee and was 2008 chair of CNC's Citywide Review Team. Her current volunteer responsibilities also include being Chair of the West Precinct Advisory Council, Chair of Seattle Paint Out, President of Allied Arts, and Chair of the Downtown Seattle Residents Council. Nominee for Secretary: Steve Sindiong has been co-chair of the Southwest District Council since 2007. Other volunteer positions include being president of the Morgan Community Association (MOCA), and a member of the Southeast Design Review Board. Steve works as a transportation planner and senior project manager for Pertee, Inc. Engineering.

Nominee for Budget Committee Chair: Ron Boddie is current chair of CNC's Budget Committee. A resident of the Madrona neighborhood, he is also chair of the Central Neighborhoods District Council and serves as its representative to the CNC.

Nominee for Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair: Irene Wall is current chair of CNC's Neighborhood Planning Committee, and in that role has a seat on the Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee. She is President of the Phinney Ridge Community Council and is the Northwest District Council's representative to the CNC. Formerly she served as CNC chair and vice chair. She works for a private consulting engineering and architecture firm in Seattle.

Nominee for Transportation Committee Chair: Ref Lindmark is current chair of CNC's transportation committee. He also serves as co-chair of the Bridging the Gap Levy Oversight Committee. A resident of the Greenlake neighborhood Ref has been an officer on the Green Lake Community Council for over 10 years and was involved in the neighborhood planning.. Ref has previously served as the Northwest District's representative to CNC. Ref works for the King County Metro transit division as a Transportation Planner.

Nominee for Education Committee Chair: Mike Warren is vice chair of the Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council. In the past he chaired the council was its representative to the City Neighborhood Council, and served on CNC's Citywide Review Team. When his children were young, he was president of their school's Parent-Teacher Association. He chairs an advocacy program for people of disability and chairs the Seattle chapter of the Retired Public Employees association. He is a Vice-President of the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans.

Note: CNC's nominations committee is continuing its efforts to identify a nominee to chair the Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee Chair. Please send suggestions to Chris Leman cleman@oo.net (206) 322-5463, Andrew Taylor andrew_taylor@mac.com and Irene Wall iwall@serv.net (Peter Aberg has left CNC to take a paid city position.) Performance audit of district council/CNC system. The Office of the City Auditor welcomes suggestions for its performance audit of the district councils/CNC system. For background, see CNC's Oct. 27 minutes and http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/Process_audit_system.pdf . For questions or to send your views: mary.denzel@seattle.gov or 684-8158.

SENDC's application for an at-large voting position. At the Nov. 24 meeting, CNC may vote on the application of a non-profit organization called the Southeast Seattle Neighborhood District Council (SENDC) for an at-large CNC voting position, which according to CNC's by-laws is for a term of one year. To pass, the application would need two-thirds of those present. The application is at http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/SENDC_App_CNC.pdf. CNC's by-laws are at <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/bylaws.htm> and CNC's process for applying for an at-large position is at http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/Application_process.pdf .

Report of CNC's Executive Committee on the SENDC application. As required in by-law section 2.2, CNC's executive committee reviewed the application and found it complete and that, according to the same by-law section, CNC can vote on it. By-law section 2.2 also requires that CNC's executive committee "make a recommendation to the full CNC for action." The rest of this report is made by executive committee members Peter Aberg and Chris Leman, with Pete Spalding abstaining:

We are not recommending "yes" or "no," but offer the following cautions and questions that we suggest every district council consider before deciding how and whether to direct its representative to vote on the matter.

(1) Under CNC by-law section 6.2, an organization with an at-large position has an equal vote on the CNC with the thirteen district council representatives. Admitting SENDC in addition to the current seat for the Southeast District Council (SEDC) would give Southeast two votes--twice that of any other district. Altering CNC's historic voting balance among the thirteen districts should be done only for the weightiest of reasons, and if there is no alternative.

(2) City Council Res. 28948 (<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/28948.pdf>) allows CNC to add additional positions only "in order to make the membership reflective of the City's diverse population." It does not appear that this application is being presented primarily for this purpose. The five groups comprising SENDC believe they are not being represented by SEDC, and we find that they have some justification for this belief. However, we believe that, without the proper conditions, SENDC's addition as an at-large voting member will not address, and could well worsen, the underlying problem, namely a failure of conciliation on both sides of the SE district dispute.

(3) SENDC's position is that CNC's decision should disregard the wishes of SEDC, and indeed that SEDC should be prevented from voting on the matter. This position cannot be sustained. The City Neighborhood Council values the views of all of its district councils,

especially on matters within their borders. This is what every district council would expect for itself if another group were created that seeks to share or assume its district council responsibilities.

(4) The co-existence of two district council organizations in SE is not tenable. It is confusing to the public and is disruptive of policy discussions there, in other district councils, and in the City Neighborhood Council. The disputing parties must find a way to coexist and cooperate within a single district council. If it were done with conditions designed to achieve conciliation between the parties, it is possible that CNC could add SENDC for a one-year at-large position in a way that successfully resolves the dispute and brings Southeast back to consensus on a single district council.

(5) CNC could pass a resolution asking both SEDC and SENDC to engage in good-faith discussions, facilitated if necessary by a mutually agreed mediator, toward resolving their dispute and returning to a single district council for SE. [Note: this did pass at the Oct. 27 CNC meeting.] As directed by CNC in April 2007, CNC's executive committee has been working toward a resolution of the SE district dispute, most recently by arranging for an offer by former Department of Neighborhoods director Jim Diers to meet with both parties. While some on both sides are willing to engage in discussions, others are not. A breaking of the current standoff might be helped if CNC passed a resolution asking both sides to embark on conciliation efforts designed to reunite them within one district council.

(6) CNC could state its intention that adding SENDC for one year as an at-large voting member is a decision that will not be renewed for additional years, and is adopted only to facilitate conciliation between SENDC and SEDC, toward their re-unification under one district council.

(7) CNC also could ask each of the disputing sides to make a gesture in the other's direction, to show good faith. For example, SEDC could be asked to support the addition of SENDC to CNC as an at-large voting member for one year; and SENDC could be asked to change its name and by-laws to remove the term "district council," along with its by-law claims of the official powers of a district council that SENDC does not have, with or without an at-large CNC position.

(8) CNC could ask for the resolution of two boundary issues between SE and the Greater Duwamish District Council: (a) SENDC could be asked to withdraw its by-law provision defining its west boundary as the "foothills of Beacon Hill/Cheasty Greenbelt," apparently encompassing territory of the Greater Duwamish District Council; and (b) SEDC and the Greater Duwamish District Council could be asked to bring to CNC for its approval their proposal that NewHolly (which is west of the official dividing line of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way) become a part of the territory of the Southeast District Council.

We ask each of the district councils to recognize that changing the membership of the City Neighborhood Council is an important and even historic decision that requires the most thoughtful deliberation. We also recognize that there are good people, and legitimate grievances, on both sides in the SE district, and we urge that whatever CNC does, it be designed to help resolve this tragic and unproductive dispute.

Additional background regarding at-large position. As reflected in the Oct. 27 minutes, Andrew Taylor (East District) expressed concern that the Executive Committee's decision to move the SENDC application forward for a vote may have been in error, as by-law section 2.3 requires that to be considered for at-large membership, an organization may not have restrictions on membership, whereas SENDC restricts its membership to those in Southeast Seattle. After the Oct. 27 meeting, Robert Drucker, Ballard District Council representative to CNC, submitted the following background on the meaning of an "at-large" position: "Merriam Webster [dictionary]: '*at-large*: relating to or being a political representative who is elected to serve an entire area rather than one of its subdivisions.'" From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: '*At-Large* is a designation for representative members of a governing body who are elected or appointed to

represent the whole membership of the body (for example, a city, state or province, nation, club or association), rather than a subset of that membership. In the case of the United States House of Representatives, an at-large representative is one who is elected to represent an entire state either as the sole representative of that state, or as one member elected from the entire state when the same state had geographically defined districts as well."

Neighborhood Matching Fund evaluation and budget. An Oct. 29 CNC letter to the City Council [available at http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/100808_letter_budget.pdf] that was approved at the Oct. 27 CNC meeting, addressed various budget issues. It opposes the growing practice of earmarking of Neighborhood Matching Funds, and urges that the Department of Neighborhoods release the evaluation of NMF that the City Council mandated last year, and was supposed to be ready in August 2008. It is unfortunate that, three months after it was due, the evaluation is not available, even in draft.

Input in hiring of district council managers. In the past year or so, the Department of Neighborhoods has selected some neighborhood district coordinators and some higher-level managers of the districts/CNC system without input from district-level volunteers. Also, a neighborhood district coordinator position was recently filled without being opened to all applicants. And district councils and the CNC generally are not receiving notice that these positions that affect them so directly are being advertised or filled. CNC has not received a response from a request that CNC chair Chris Leman made on Sept. 23 that DON director Stella Chao provide CNC and the district councils timely notification of openings for the position of district council coordinator and for other Department of Neighborhood positions that have direct responsibility for the district councils or the CNC; to include at least one neighborhood volunteer on any committees that interview candidates for the district coordinator positions and the position of manager of the district coordinators (a position that, with the recent departure of Alex Wiggins, is again open); and occasionally to provide CNC and the district councils the position descriptions so that they might suggest revisions.

Citizen guide to neighborhood growth targets. CNC's neighborhood planning committee has a valuable new addition to the CNC web site at http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/cmcm_overview.pdf and http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/growth_targets.xls It's an overview and Excel guide to how the City has "grown" the growth targets that the 1994 Comprehensive Plan assigned to each urban village and urban center. "City Math" is endlessly imposing new targets, obscuring that many neighborhoods have already met the original targets. Also offered is "Citizen Math," which tracks how each urban village and urban center has done in meeting its original target, and how much more growth the new targets would impose. Everyone owes it to themselves to look up in the Excel document how their urban village or urban center is faring. Thanks to committee vice chair Cindi Barker for this remarkable resource.

The above information was prepared by Chris Leman
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