

Below is the draft agenda for the Monday, May 19 CNC meeting, along with background and an updated 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, May 19, 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) bayowonder@comcast.net
Acting Secretary: Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish) alamodem@earthlink.net

DRAFT AGENDA:

- 6:30 Introductions, review/approval of agenda, approval/revision of April 28 minutes (attached)
- 6:35 Roundtable on helping at-risk youth to happy, safe, productive lives (for details, see below)
- 8:05 Retrospect on founding of the CNC and district councils--former City Council President Jim Street
- 8:20 Reports of CNC's committees
Budget Committee--Ron Boddie, Chair [revision and possible action on budget letter; link is below]
Neighborhood Planning Committee--Irene Wall, Chair
Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee--Laine Ross, Chair
Citywide Review Team--Chair
Transportation Committee--Ref Lindmark, Chair
CNC executive committee--recommendation of Peter Aberg to fill vacancy as CNC secretary
- 8:50 Other business
- 9:00 Adjourn

UPCOMING

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

May 19 CNC meeting will focus on at-risk youth. In some sense, all youth are at-risk today. The May 19 CNC meeting (agenda above) begins with a roundtable on what government and neighborhoods can do to help youth to happy, safe, productive lives. Guest speakers include Willie Austin, the Austin Foundation; Petrina Fisher, Communities in Schools; and Jim Street, Reinvesting in Youth. After the roundtable, we will hear from former City Council President Jim Street on the 1987 founding of Seattle's neighborhoods program, CNC, and the district councils. He sponsored and led the effort, and shaped it in every way.

CNC June 30 meeting. Suggestions are welcome for the agenda for CNC's June 30 meeting-- 6:30 p.m. at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia St.

CNC Executive Committee next meeting is Tuesday, June 3, 5-6 p.m. at the Fremont Neighborhood Service Center, 908 N. 34th Street. All are welcome to attend, or if you would like to participate by conference telephone, contact Chris Leman at (206) 322-5463 or cleman@oo.net.

CNC Budget Committee, chaired by Ron Boddie (Central District), rjboddie_2@msn.com. Next meeting: Wednesday, June 4, 5 p.m. in room 370 of City Hall, 601 Fifth Avenue.

CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee, Chaired by Laine Ross, laine@ceoworkz.com. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 p.m. at the Queen Anne/Magnolia Neighborhood Service Center, 160 Roy Street.

CNC Transportation Committee, chaired by Ref Lindmark (Northwest District), refl@nwlink.com. Next meeting: Friday, June 20 (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: Tuesday, June 17, 6:30 p.m. at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia St.

BACKGROUND

District Council membership issue. As summarized in the draft minutes (attached), the April 28 CNC meeting received a presentation from some individuals and groups who strongly objected to the current allocation of voting seats on the SE District Council. The CNC unanimously passed a resolution asking each side in the dispute to submit a one-page statement outlining their differences, and to encourage all the district councils to discuss the issue of their own voting membership, both as it relates to their district and to the SE District. As these one-page statements are not yet available and most of the districts will not meet in time to discuss them prior to the May 19 CNC meeting, CNC chair Chris Leman and Vice Chair Pete Spalding jointly suggest that the May 19 CNC meeting not include this item on its agenda. We propose that, once CNC and the districts have received these one-page statements, the Executive Committee will develop a draft agenda for a future CNC meeting that will address the issue. We are concerned that this unresolved conflict is not good for the SE district. We believe that the SE district council dispute is best and most lastingly resolved by those within the district, and encourage both sides to engage in dialogue to that end.

Draft budget letter. For many years, the City Neighborhood Council has annually written to the Mayor and City Council its recommendations on the City Budget. CNC's budget committee asks the district councils to review for possible revision and adoption the draft letter that is available at http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/draft_51908.pdf, or by going to the "What's New" section of <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>. As the Mayor is actively putting together the two-year budget that he will present to the City Council in September, it is desirable for this CNC letter (and any budget letter that we urge that your own district consider sending to the Mayor) to be sent well before June 30 (the next CNC meeting date). While it is unlikely that the letter can be approved in full at CNC's May 19 meeting, it could be discussed and authorized then, but with the final text worked out and circulated in the following weeks, based on additional input from the district councils that are not meeting until after May 19. District council chairs or representatives are asked to provide input on the text of the letter and how and when it should be completed, to CNC Chair Chris Leman, cleman@oo.net; and CNC budget chair Ron Boddie, rjboddie_2@msn.com.

District councils co-sponsor City Council's budget meetings. Most district councils have accepted Councilmember Jean Godden's invitation to co-sponsor May community meetings of the City

Council's Budget Committee, which she chairs. Co-sponsorship helps empower people in your district by informing them about the budget and giving them a chance to influence it. The City Council's budget committee consists of all nine Councilmembers, so you are likely to have a lot of the City Councilmembers there. The remaining meetings are Tuesday, May 20, 2008, Ballard Northwest Senior Activity Center; Thursday, May 22, 2008, High Point Community Center (Spanish and Vietnamese translation provided); and Thursday, May 29, 2008, Rainier Valley Cultural Center (Chinese and Tagalog translation provided). If your district is not already co-sponsoring one or more of these meetings, please contact Godden's office via tom.vanbronkhorst@seattle.gov or by calling 684-8807. Also, the May 8 meeting was only moderately attended. Please help spread the word that this is a great opportunity for everyone to voice their views on the budget directly to City Councilmembers. For further background: http://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/budget_comm.htm

Neighborhood planning. In May, the City Council will be reacting to the (still very vague) proposal from the Mayor, DON, and the Department of Planning and Development to update the 38 neighborhood plans. It appears that the Mayor, DON, and DPD do not want to allow those neighborhoods that want to, to repeat the model of the 1990s under which they hired planning consultants for their neighborhood plan under City guidelines and oversight. Unless the City Council insists, that grassroots model will be dropped in favor of having City staff and City-hired consultants prepare the neighborhood plans. Also, the Mayor is proposing that the plans to be updated will be only in one or two sectors per year (there are six sectors) rather than based on which plans most need updating.

CNC's April 19 neighborhood planning workshop was lively and successful, attended by more than 110 (including three City Councilmembers). Seattle P-I reporter Deborah Harrell's article about it is http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/359823_hoodplans20.html. Crosscut.com reporter Peggy Sturdivant's coverage of neighborhood planning (and her May 11 article about the City Neighborhood Council) is <http://www.crosscut.com/authors/peggy-sturdivant>. Also, Seattle Channel 21 is airing videos of CNC's April 19 conference on neighborhood planning; to find these on the schedule, go to seattlechannel.org, and search for "neighborhood planning". For viewing on the web, here are the links: Panel on "Why do Neighborhood Planning--GMA Compliance and More?" <http://seattlechannel.org/schedule/programDetails.asp?title=5010827>; How Should Planning Be Done and by Whom? <http://seattlechannel.org/schedule/programDetails.asp?title=5010829>; and What does Success Look Like? <http://seattlechannel.org/schedule/programDetails.asp?title=5010828>

Neighborhood Leadership Training Program. The City Council in the budget and in resolution 31044 provided \$100,000 to the Department of Neighborhoods with the requirement that it "develop and provide leadership training to community councils and other community organizations in 2008." The plan (available at seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil) for spending this money that DON provided to the City Council on April 2 does not appear to meet this requirement, notably departing from the suggestions that CNC sent to DON and the City Council in a March 18 letter (available at <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>), and the further discussion at the March 31 CNC meeting. CNC's March 18 letter recommended that: (1) the training be of practical value to those building neighborhood organizations; (2) that funds build a training program that is sustainable for future periods when funds may decline; (3) that a peer-to-peer model be used that ensures practicality and sustainability; and (4) that the funds not be focused primarily on the update of the neighborhood plans. The following additional points were made at the March 31 CNC meeting: (5) A major component should be web-based, allowing people to learn without being in a meeting, and in the coming years even if on-site trainings are reduced or eliminated; (6) that the web site include organization-building resources such as sample by-laws, etc.; and (7) that the City require in its request for proposals and in contracts that the materials provided by the consultants become property of the City and continue to be available to the public (rather than being privately withheld from the public, as has been the case with some past City-funded curricula).

SR 99-Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement. A state-county-city stakeholder committee is examining this issue. Open houses where the public is invited to comment are being held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with the remaining one being Thurs., May 15 at Adams Elementary School (6110 28th Avenue NW). For more information: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/awv.htm>

Possible parks levy. The City Council included four district council chairs on a 29-person advisory committee to explore a possible parks levy. The committee welcomes comment, including meetings on Wed., May 14, 2008 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the Northgate Community Center - Multi-Purpose Room, 10510 5th Avenue NE; and Thurs., May 15, 2008 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the Rainier Community Center, 4600 38th Avenue South. For more: http://www.seattle.gov/council/issues/parks_levy.htm.

Residential Parking Zone policy review. SDOT is now reviewing the RPZ program, which helps residents find on-street parking that would otherwise be occupied by non-residents parking long-term. The program has suffered in recent years from a lack of priority and funding from SDOT, such that neighborhoods wanting an RPZ were not allowed to apply for one. Some fear that the current review could lead to a major increase in fees, and other changes. Advisory committees have been created of residents, businesses, and major institutions. See http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/rpz_policy_review.htm for the existing policy and process, examples of different approaches to RPZs in other cities, a subscription form for updates, and a comment form you can fill out on-line. For further information: (206) 684-3025 or jennifer.hayes@seattle.gov.

Red Cross language bank. As follow-up to CNC's March 31 discussion of overcoming language barriers, NE District Council co-chair Peter Aberg reports that the Red Cross offers over 400 volunteers providing translation and interpreter services in over 80 languages and dialects. Many of these services are free or inexpensive to individuals and all-volunteer organizations. For information: <http://www.seattlredcross.org/show.aspx?mi=4033>

Workshop on community-building. District councils are invited to co-sponsor a workshop on community-building modeled after the January 2007 event which featured public officials and citizen speakers, and breakout sessions. The 2007 workshop video is at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5010713>. As several district councils have already done, please have your district council be co-sponsor, designate a volunteer to serve on the planning committee, and arrange for your district coordinator to allocate \$100-200 from your district's outreach fund. Pledges made last year expired with the end of the year, so need to be reaffirmed. Coordinator is Judith Edwards (Greater Duwamish District Council) at judedw@comcast.net or 329-8801.

Conclusion. Comments on this e-mail are always welcome. Please note especially the meetings and deadlines listed.

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