

**CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Minutes for the May 19, 2008 meeting**

District Council voting representatives in attendance: Adrienne Bailey (Central district representative); Robert Drucker (Ballard district representative); Judith Edwards (Greater Duwamish representative); Nicole Franklin (Magnolia/Queen Anne district representative); Chris Leman (Lake Union representative, and CNC Chair); Janis Maloney (East district representative); Dennis Ross (Southwest district representative); Pete Spalding (Delridge district representative, and Vice Chair); Sarah Valenta (Southeast district representative); Irene Wall (Northwest district representative).

Guests in attendance: Dan Nolte (office of Councilmember Sally Clark; Ted Divina and Alex Wiggins (DON); Jim Street (Reinvesting in Youth), Matthew David (King County Superior Court), Dawn Nannini (King County Juvenile Court), Petrina Fisher (Communities in Schools), Willie Austin, Rev. Terrence Proctor and Gordon L. Glaspy (all from the Austin Foundation), Paul Stoms (East district chair), Leslie Miller (Southeast), Tony Russo (Capitol Hill); Ref Lindmark (Chair of CNC's transportation committee), Michael Dobbie (Olive-Denny Neighbors), Dennis Saxman (Pike/Pine), Denise Gloster (Hillman City Business Association)), Pat Murakami (Mount Baker Community Club), Johnathan Wrice (Cleveland High School),

Agenda. The agenda was adopted after being amended to move the approval of the minutes to be the first item under "Other Business,"

New DON manager. Ted Divina, who has been acting in that role, introduced Alex Wiggins, newly appointed Manager of Neighborhood District Coordinators and Neighborhood Service Centers. Alex will be the Department of Neighborhoods' liaison to the City Neighborhood Council.

Roundtable on at-risk youth. Chris Leman and Pete Spalding jointly moderated this roundtable on how neighborhoods and government can best help our youth to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. Following is a summary of the presentations and discussion.

Communities in Schools; Reinvesting in Youth. Petrina Fisher, of the non-profit group, Communities in Schools (which is housed at the Seattle School District headquarters), spoke about efforts to mentor and assist students, and keep them in school and on the road to graduation. Jim Street of the non-profit group, Reinvesting in Youth (which is housed at the Puget Sound Educational Service District), had been drawn to youth issues from his experience as a judge. He urged intervention and a systemic approach to drop-out prevention and education for at risk youths with emphasis on children of color. We all have the same stake in the promise that America made that all people are created equal

and that all people have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but America has not delivered on that promise and for a significant part of our population that promise remains unfulfilled. Protecting and nourishing our youths will help keep them out of the justice system and on to successful lives.

Partnership for Youth Justice. Matthew David heads the King County Superior Court's Partnership for Youth Justice. This is a Diversion Court Program with 23 Community Accountability Boards, with approximately 300 members. The program addresses approximately one third of juvenile cases, and operates with the assumption that change is possible. To qualify for having an infraction dropped from their record, first and second time juvenile misdemeanor offenders work with Community Accountability Boards which meet separately with parent(s) and the juvenile and formulate an Accountability Plan contract which can involve drug/alcohol treatment, community service, counseling, skill building classes, etc. and accountability and responsibility for actions that can include making restitution to the injured party.

Austin Foundation. Willie Austin and Rev. Terrence Proctor spoke about their efforts to reach youth through athletic conditioning and other healthful pursuits. Austin emphasized that youths themselves have far more leadership impact on their peers than can any adult. A first requirement of the Foundation's employment of teens is that they stay in school. Teen Gordon Glaspy expressed concern that students can be discouraged by disrespectful teachers. He is employed by the Austin Foundation, which he feels has kept him in school and out of trouble.

Discussion. Pete Spalding (Delridge district) asked what is being done, or could be done, for early intervention. The speakers agreed that too little of this is being done, even though it is much cheaper and more effective to prevent problems than to deal with them once they have arisen.

About one-third of Seattle public school students who enter the first grade will eventually drop out without graduating. Truancy (missing school) is not being addressed as seriously in the Seattle School District as by neighboring school districts, which employ more truancy officers, and have volunteer truancy boards to work with students and families to get the kids back into school. In Seattle, students often miss school for weeks or more without the District reporting this to the state and the courts as state law requires. One reason the School District is not doing more to keep these students in school may be that doing so would pull down the district's WASL scores, and make the District look less successful. Of course, losing students entirely should not be seen as a mark of success.

Adrienne Bailey (Central district) spoke of the importance of people in a neighborhood acknowledging and getting to know their youth, advocating for their interests and

keeping them accountable for their behavior. Do not lie to your kids; talk and be open and do not “beat around the bush.”

Other discussion topics included the possibility that CNC could write to the School District and others to urge more proactive handling of truancy issues; how neighborhoods can partner with schools; and ways to bring youth into district councils and residential and business associations. Jim Street suggested that district councils include youth in their membership and discussions.

Retrospect from Jim Street on founding Seattle’s neighborhood programs. As a City Councilmember (1984-95, and served as Council President 1994-95), Jim Street developed the 1987 legislation (Res. 27709) that created the City Neighborhood Council, district councils, Neighborhood Matching Fund, and neighborhood planning. Mayor Charles Royer opposed the legislation, but became a supporter of the program in subsequent years. In developing the legislation, a special effort was made to learn from the experiences of other cities. An important purpose was to make City decision-making more grassroots, on the principle that it is best for decisions to be made at the lowest practical level.

District councils allow neighborhoods to learn from one another, and to work jointly (within the districts, and through the City Neighborhood Council) on issues they have in common. District councils are required to represent neighborhood businesses as well as neighborhood residents, and those who represent neighborhood businesses need not be Seattle residents. The Neighborhood Matching Fund is to be citizen-designed and led. There was a particular initial emphasis on benefiting underprivileged parts of the City by directing NMF funds there. Also, City staff were assigned to organize residential and business associations where they did not already exist—an effort that declined or disappeared in subsequent years.

Neighborhood Matching Fund committee reports. The Citywide Review Team, a CNC committee, is intensively reviewing and rating Neighborhood Matching Fund applications, and will provide its recommendations for action at the June CNC meeting. The Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee is helping to plan the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program.

CNC Neighborhood Planning Committee. The committee is closely tracking the administration’s proposals on neighborhood plan updates. In part as a result of CNC concerns last year, the City Council refused to authorize funding for this process until more details are provided. City Councilmember Sally Clark will be CNC’s guest at its June meeting to speak about this and other topics.

CNC budget committee. There was discussion of the committee’s draft for CNC’s annual letter on the City budget that the Mayor is developing [the draft letter is available

on [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil)]. The draft closely follows the letter that CNC last year. It was suggested that the letter be shortened. The June CNC meeting is expected to act on the letter; district councils are urged to review the draft and suggest revisions, as well as to send their own letters.

Office of CNC Secretary vacancy and election. CNC's executive committee recommended the election of Peter Aberg (co-chair of the Northeast District Council) to become CNC Secretary. This was moved, seconded, and passed without opposition, and Peter Aberg was elected as CNC Secretary.

April 28 minutes. As the tape had run out at the April 28 meeting and the motion was not written down, there was disagreement on the content of the motion passed at the April 28 CNC meeting regarding future district and CNC discussion of voting membership in the district councils and the SE District in particular. As the May 19 CNC discussion of the April 28 minutes was at the end of the meeting, the lack of a quorum was noted, and no action on the April 28 minutes was taken.

DON letter. DON's Alex Wiggins presented a May 19, 2008 letter [now at [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil)] from DON director Stella Chao regarding the legislation and procedures for determining voting membership within the district councils.