

CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes for the June 23, 2008 meeting

District Council voting representatives in attendance: Peter Aberg (Northeast district representative); Adrienne Bailey (Central district representative); Robert Drucker (Ballard district representative); Nicole Franklin (Magnolia/Queen Anne district representative); Chris Leman (Lake Union representative, and CNC Chair); Janis Maloney (East district representative); Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish representative); Dennis Ross (Southwest district representative); Laine Ross (Downtown district representative); Pete Spalding (Delridge district representative, and Vice Chair); Michael Woo (Southeast district representative); Irene Wall (Northwest district representative).

Guests in attendance: City Councilmember Sally Clark and her staff person Dan Nolte; Patricia Lopez, Allyn Ruth, and Alex Wiggins (Department of Neighborhoods); Bill Bradburd (Jackson Place), Kathryn Keller (neighborhood unidentified); Geof Logan (Seattle Community Council Federation); Pat Murakami (Mount Baker Community Club); Boyd Pickrell (Chair, SE District chair), Charles Prestrud (Haller Lake Community Club); Charles Redmond (West Seattle Trails Alliance); Ron Richardson (WA Public Campaign and SW Fauntleroy Community Association); Dennis Saxman (Pike/Pine), Yalonda Gill Masundire (SE Crime Prevention Council).

Amendment and adoption of the agenda. The agenda was adopted after the following actions: Approval of the April and May minutes was relocated to be later in the agenda. It was moved, seconded, and discussed to relocate the discussion on voting membership of district councils in the Southeast District Council dispute to the top of the agenda, ahead of the presentation by Councilmember Clark. The motion was defeated 8-2. .

City Councilmember Sally Clark. Clark is chair of the Planning, Land Use, and Neighborhoods Committee (PLUNC), and Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee. Topics she addressed included the neighborhood plan update, campaign finance reform, neighborhood leadership training, the Pike Place Market Levy proposal, the new multifamily code.

Neighborhood plan update. As described by Councilmember Clark, the Mayor has changed his proposal to begin with a one-year citywide assessment, yielding for each existing neighborhood plan an “almanac” of facts and recommendations, and then there would be a threshold decision on whether each existing plan would require an update and what the update would look like. The funds that are dedicated to this project are limited (\$1.5 million). Councilmember Clark discusses the relative advantages of a citywide Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee versus having one such committee for each of the six sectors. Councilmember Clark suggested that if the group were citywide, there should also be a “touchstone” group in each area to keep the City and DPD apprised and on task with the community concerns.

Publicly funded campaigns. Councilmember Clark described the advisory committee that reviewed publicly funded campaign laws in other cities. The advisory committee was split, with some recommending full funding, and others recommending matching funds.

Pike Place Market levy. The City Council is expected to send to the voters a proposed property tax levy of \$75 million. It will include rebuilding of the facilities, roofing, flooring, plumbing and ventilation. The City Council is receiving criticisms of the proposal to Victor Steinbrueck Park (later removed from the levy).

Noise Ordinance Revisions. Councilmember Clark is vice chair of the Transportation Committee, which on June 7 approved changes in the City's noise ordinance. Gordon Clowers of the Department of Planning and Development outlined the changes, which include updated measurement criteria; strengthened enforcement (e.g., stop work orders; and variance revocations); and extension from the current 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. the prohibition on noise from site development work in residential areas. There also is a proposed new variance for major public construction projects, defined as those that are expected to last six months or more. The CNC chair asked about the ordinance's repeal of the current right of administrative appeal of temporary noise variances. Clowers stated that he does not believe that the proposed ordinance would remove the right of administrative appeal of temporary noise variances. A possible draft CNC letter on the noise ordinance is available for district council review at <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>. The letter supports strengthening enforcement powers and extending from 7 to 10 p.m. when site development noise is prohibited in residential areas, and it opposes repeal of right to administrative appeal of temporary noise variances, repeal of the public meeting requirement regarding proposed variances, and it suggests that the proposed new variance for major public construction projects is unacceptable as currently proposed.

Letter to Mayor and City Council on 2009-10 biennial budget. The draft letter was shortened and revised, based on discussion at the May 19 DND meeting and input from the district councils. The letter was adopted by a vote of 9-0, with two abstentions.

CNC action on neighborhood planning update. CNC neighborhood planning chair Irene Wall presented a draft letter from the committee. As the letter had been circulated only in the last few days, there had not been much opportunity for district council review. Events are moving quickly, and it was recognized that the letter would probably be too late to influence events if it were held for action until the July 28 CNC meeting. It was moved, seconded, and adopted unanimously to authorize the letter, subject to its additional circulation to the district councils and revision based on their comments. and that the draft letter would be revised based on district council and then be sent by July 7.

Neighborhood Matching Fund. Laine Ross, its chair, reported on the Citywide Review Team, a CNC committee which evaluated 16 applications, of which it recommended to CNC 14 for neighborhood matching funds. CNC hears any appeals of the decisions, but there were none. One a motion that was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, CNC approved the CRT recommendations for presentation to the Mayor and City Council. Members of the City Neighborhood Council and Department of Neighborhoods staff expressed great appreciation for the work of the CRT volunteers.

Minutes. The May 19 minutes were approved as submitted. The April 28 minutes were approved after adoption of the following language jointly submitted by Dennis Ross and Chris Leman: "It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed after discussion and acceptance of friendly amendments, to encourage the district councils to discuss voting membership in districts and possible remedies for the SE District situation, and to come back for a City Neighborhood Council discussion on these topics. As assistance in the discussions, CNC asked the parties in the SE District Council dispute to submit one-page statements."

Voting membership in the district councils and the SE District Council dispute. Boyd Pickrell (Chair of the Southeast District Council and Michael Woo (SEDC executive committee member) discussed the district council's by-laws, which were amended in October to add a number of organizations for the purposes of inclusion and diversity. Pat Murakami, President of the Mount Baker Community Club and former SEDC executive committee member, expressed concern that a number of the new organizations do not have open meetings. She described an instance in which she was not allowed to observe a meeting of Michael's organization. Michael apologized and said that this should not have happened. The CNC Chair said that he has spent exceptional time in trying to resolve this SEDC dispute, and he urged the disputing sides to find a resolution.

Parks levy. Kathy Nyland and Pete Spalding spoke about the City Council's parks levy advisory committee that they have been serving on. A draft report is forthcoming, and neighborhoods can still comment on the project list..

Mayor. It was suggested that Mayor Nickels be the guest speaker at a future CNC meeting. CNC has invited the Mayor to keynote its biennial Citizens Budget Conference, but because of scheduling conflicts, the speaker has been the Deputy Mayor for the past three such conferences. SWDC and Delridge DC will have a joint meeting regarding the Viaduct.