

CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Draft Minutes for the Oct. 27, 2008 meeting

District Council voting representatives in attendance: Peter Aberg (Northeast district representative and CNC Secretary); Ron Boddie (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) Chas Redmond (Southwest district representative); Laine Ross (Downtown district representative); Philip Shack (North district representative); Pete Spalding (Delridge district representative, and CNC Vice Chair); Dick Burkhart (Southeast district representative); Irene Wall (Northwest district representative).

Guests in attendance: Mary Denzel (Office of the City Auditor); Ted Divina (Department of Neighborhoods); Andrew Taylor (East District alternate and member of CNC nominating committee); Steve Sindiong (SW District co-chair); Adrienne Bailey (Central district alternate); Tom Acker and Pat Murakami (SE Neighborhoods District Council); Dennis Saxman (Pike/Pine);

Agenda and Minutes. The agenda was adopted as proposed. The Sept 29 draft minutes were approved as proposed.

Planning for performance audit of district councils/CNC system. Mary Denzel of the Office of City Auditor discussed planning for a performance audit. The objective is to determine if the district councils and CNC are serving their functions as legislated by the City Council, and to recommend changes. [The founding legislation is at [http://seattle.gov/neighborhood council](http://seattle.gov/neighborhood_council). Click on “documents, videos, and links,” and go to the last section.] The Office of the City Auditor is in the first phase, when it is still determining whether the audit should proceed. If the decision is made to proceed, the second phase will collect evidence upon which conclusions can be based. It would include interviews with district council members and representatives of the community in most districts. There will also be a web-based survey, and in-depth studies of four district councils.

Budget committee. Chair Ron Boddie presented a draft letter to the City Council that the committee has drafted. A friendly amendment eliminated the reference to the Cascade People’s Center, as CNC generally does not make recommendations about specific sites or projects. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to send the letter [available at [http://seattle.gov/neighborhood council](http://seattle.gov/neighborhood_council)].

Neighborhood planning committee. Chair Irene Wall reported on the successful Oct. 21 CNC workshop on “incentive zoning.”

Neighborhood Matching Fund oversight committee. Chair Laine Ross reported on the successful series of celebrations of the 20th anniversary of NMF. Members of the CNC expressed regret that at the final citywide celebration on Oct. 11, there were no volunteers among the speakers, and little mention of the central role that volunteers play in administering the program, such as district council and Citywide Review Team rating efforts.

Nominations committee. The committee, consisting of Andrew Taylor, Peter Aberg, Irene Wall, and Chris Leman, widely advertised the opportunity for nominations, and contacted many possible candidates. Its recommendations, completed during the Oct. 27 CNC meeting, were as follows (Irene Wall recused herself from the decision on chair of the neighborhood planning committee):

Chair: Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish)
Vice Chair: Laine Ross (Downtown)
Secretary: Steve Sindiong (Southwest)
Budget Committee Chair: Ron Boddie (Central)
Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair: Irene Wall (Northwest)
Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee: [vacancy]
Transportation Committee: Ref Lindmark (Northwest)
Education Committee: Mike Warren (Magnolia/Queen Anne)

As provided by the CNC by-laws, the election will be held at the Nov. 24 meeting. In addition to the names above, others may be nominated before or during that meeting. The new officers take office as of the January 26 meeting.

Interim CNC Secretary vacancy. Current secretary Peter Aberg leaves the CNC as of the Oct. 27 meeting. Steve Sindiong, co-chair of the Southwest District Council, was nominated and unanimously elected to serve Peter's unexpired term, which ends on January 26.

Application of SENDC for at-large CNC position. The SE Neighborhoods District Council, whose member groups are unhappy with the SE District Council, has applied for a one-year at-large position on the CNC. The application is on the CNC web site at [http://seattle.gov/neighborhood council](http://seattle.gov/neighborhood_council). CNC's Executive Committee (consisting of Chair Chris Leman, Vice Chair Pete Spalding, and Secretary Peter Aberg) is required by CNC's by-laws to review the application and recommend action. The Executive Committee's report (part of which Pete Spalding abstained from) was included in the Oct. 27 CNC agenda materials [which are available on the web site; the report is also to be reprinted in the Nov.24 CNC agenda materials]. It finds that the application is eligible to be considered but does not recommend a yes or no vote. Under the by-laws, the earliest that CNC could vote on the application would be Nov. 24.

Tom Acker, who had submitted SENDC's application, presented the case for why SENDC should be granted an at-large position. Andrew Taylor questioned the CNC's executive committee's ruling the application eligible for consideration. CNC by-law section 2.3(1) requires that to be considered for at-large membership, a community-based organization must "Operate in accordance with democratic principles and procedures under a written constitution or bylaws that do not permit restrictions on membership." Taylor said that SENDC's requirement that its members be based in the SE district is a restriction on membership. CNC Chair Leman said that the Executive Committee had overlooked this requirement and how it could apply to SENDC.

There was also discussion about the SE district dispute and the continuing efforts to resolve it that CNC in 2007 directed its executive committee to make. Most recently the CNC Chair communicated on Sept. 26 an offer by former Department of Neighborhoods director Jim Diers to meet with both sides, but as yet, neither side has accepted the offer. It was moved, seconded, and

passed unanimously as follows: "The City Neighborhood Council asks 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." CNC members emphasized that the resolution was a separate issue from SENDC's application for at-large membership status on CNC.