

CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Draft Minutes for the November 24, 2008 meeting

District Council voting representatives in attendance: Ron Boddie (Central Area Neighborhoods District Council); George Counts (Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council); Robert Drucker (Ballard District Council); Lynn Ferguson (Northeast District Council); Cheryl Klinker (North District Council); Chris Leman (Lake Union District Council and CNC Chair); Janis Maloney (East District Council); Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish District Council); Laine Ross (Downtown District Council); Pete Spalding (Delridge District Council); Chas Redmond (Southwest District Council); Sarah Valenta (Southeast District Council); Irene Wall (Northwest District Council).

Guests in attendance: City Councilmember Tim Burgess and his staff members Peter Aberg and Betsy Gray; Steve Daschle (SW Youth and Family Services); Ron Wilson (Commander of the Robbery/Gang/Fugitive Unit, Seattle Police Department); Tom Acker and Pat Murakami (South East Neighborhood District Council); Adrienne Bailey (Central Area Neighborhood District Council); David Miller and Philip Shack (North District Council); Mike Peringer (SODO Business Association); Brian Ramey (Eastlake neighborhood); Dennis Saxman (East District Council); Steve Sindiong (Southwest District Council, and CNC Secretary); Tamra Smilanich (South Seattle); Paul Stoms (Chair, East District Council); Peggy Sturdivant (CrossCut.com); Andrew Taylor (East District Council and member of CNC nominations committee); Mike Warren (Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council).

Agenda and Minutes

The Nov. 24 draft agenda was adopted as proposed. The October 27 draft minutes were approved, with one abstention.

City Budget

Councilmember Tim Burgess reported that the City Council had passed the 2009-11 biennial budget earlier in the day. The Council had placed particular priority on utility rates, youth violence and human services. It reduced and approved a utility rate increase, but \$30 million less than what the Mayor had proposed. In human services, it added over the Mayor's proposals more money for emergency food purchases and for food distribution, for emergency shelter programs, and for the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Mayor's Youth Violence Initiative was approved, but with a reduction of \$1 million, and a request for more immediate response and more preventive measures.

Burgess said that although crime is at an overall 40 year low and is expected to decline further this year, it continues to be a top concern for the City Council. Unfortunately, "level 2" crimes (misdemeanors) are rising: graffiti, car prowls, assault and robbery. The City Council supports continued increase in number of officers. Implementation of the community policing program underway; currently ½ implemented. Second ½ will be increase in patrol shifts/officers, increase in 911 staff.

CNC Chair Chris Leman thanked Councilmember Burgess for role in helping to arrange for the immediate placement of the City Council's 2008 budget decision documents on the City web site. The City Neighborhood Council first wrote to the City Council about this need in 2006, and again this year. As a result, the budget process is more transparent and accessible than ever before.

Youth Gangs and Violence

Steve Daschle, Southwest Youth and Family Services: Violent crime among youth has stayed flat, not fallen as have other types of violent crime. The Mayor's Youth Violence Prevention Initiative seeks to address the issue

in a comprehensive manner. Goal is to reduce youth crime by 50% by next year. Coordination among agencies has been lacking. Police, Human Services, Parks and Department of Neighborhoods are now working together to brainstorm ideas and make recommendations. Programs are needed for after-school, late night; the details still being worked out. Plan is to have three coordination networks: SW, SE, and Central. First step is identify the roughly 800 youth who are most at risk. These include middle school kids who are skipping school, suspended, etc., kids who have had involvement with police, kids who have been in detention, and kids with violent behaviors. Disconnection between schools, courts, police, and human services can lead to kids slipping through the cracks.

Ron Wilson, Seattle Police Department: We can't arrest our way out of the problem. Easy access to guns makes issue much more violent and serious than they used to be. Prevention, intervention and enforcement are all necessary.

Councilmember Tim Burgess: Kudos to Steve Daschle on the model and success of his agency's programs.

Q&A

Q. How will County cuts affect law enforcement in the City?

A. Gang violence is regional problem, so SPD is watching this. SPD is involved in a regional task force. Might recruit some laid off county enforcement staff. Improved SPD salary and benefits are attracting candidates, including some who had previously left SPD. City has very high standards, and has not hired back all of those who wanted to return.

Q. Lack of funding for neighborhood community service officers, truancy officers

A. Priority is to increase police staffing and implement community policing. May look at other options when those are completed.

Q. Lack of security staffing at High Schools

A. The Mayor's Youth Violence Initiative includes funding, to be matched by the School District, for truancy officers in five high schools: Chief Sealth, Cleveland, Garfield, Rainier Beach, and Franklin.

Q. What about programs outside of the target areas, such as North Seattle?

A. No plan now to extend areas. Areas chosen by rate of crime and where most youth referred are living. Plans to increase police staff citywide will help other areas

Q. Is task force tracking connections/addressing current violence throughout the region?

A. Have met with various groups in King County to develop regional model. Meet twice monthly to identify players and track violence but not yet a true task force. Trying to break down "silos" that prevent communication between agencies.

Q. What about youth employment opportunities/programs?

A. Youth employment openings are far less than they were in previous decades. Some initiatives are being made, but much more is needed.

Q. Tax breaks for small businesses who hire kids?

A. Could look at this idea. Federal programs exist for this.

Q. Specialized juvenile services in the court system?

A. County cuts are dismantling these programs at the very time when their expansion is most needed. A portion of the sales tax goes to mental health needs of the courts, but it cannot be spent if the youth programs are eliminated.

Q. Role/effectiveness of peer counseling

A. Is a key element of the program. Need to have role models that kids can relate to and identify with. Work with families and community, and in mentoring and case management programs. Studies show the great impact of prior gang members who have reformed.

Q. Truancy system ineffective. School doesn't know or doesn't tell parents that their child has not been in school.

A. School district is moving to improve this situation. Programs exist for kids who have been expelled and cannot immediately return to a public school. SW Youth and Family Services offers school for these kids.

SE Neighborhood District Council's Application for an At-large CNC Position

Tom Acker was given an opportunity to speak about SENDC's application. He stated that there had been much e-mail discussion and conversation over this issue. Has been embarrassed for CNC, SE District Council, City Council and Department of Neighborhoods, none of whom have shown leadership. SENDC is seeking the CNC at-large position because it does not feel that the Southeast District Council is representing SENDC's member groups. SENDC believes that SEDC is not obeying its by-laws, has adopted inappropriate membership criteria, has not followed rules of order, and has refused to provide a list of current members. SENDC has had to file a public records request to get this information, and finds that the list maintained by the Department of Neighborhoods is not accurate.

CNC Chair Chris Leman laid out several options for handling discussion of SENDC's at-large application. CNC Vice Chair Pete Spalding moved to allow each district representative to speak for no more than 90 seconds, followed by a CNC vote on the application. This motion was adopted, with Leman voting no.

District Council comments:

(North) CNC has spent too much time on this. The SE district dispute will not be solved by this CNC vote. Would like to see the group represented, regardless of whether it is a voting membership position. Need to hold mediated meetings so the SE district can come together. The Department of Neighborhoods has responsibility to make sure governance is what it ought to be.

(Magnolia/ Queen Anne) Issue has gone on for a long time. DON should take a stronger role in bringing the parties together to resolve this issue. Vote to support membership.

(Northeast) Important to have neighborhood councils represent neighborhoods. Northeast District supports SENDC's application for at-large membership.

(Ballard) Have sense that injustice occurred, but at-large membership is not the way to resolve the issue. Do not support.

(Duwamish) Don't support at-large membership, but favor mediation.

(Southeast) Hope that groups can get back to the table and resolve their differences. Want to reduce the apparent civil war in the SE District. Hope for useful recommendations from City Auditor report.

(East) Think the bylaws should be the same for all district councils. Responsibility for resolution should be through paid employees of DON.

(Downtown) Downtown has discussed, but must abstain at this point.

(Deldrige) Delridge District was created after a split from the SW District. Now work together well and hold joint meetings. Not convinced that granting at-large membership is in the best interest of the district council system at this time. SEDC and SENDC need to come together and work out their differences. Do not support the application.

(Southwest) Southwest District Council voted at last meeting. Was unanimous to allow SENDC at-large membership.

(Central) Central Area Neighborhood District Council voted to abstain.

(Lake Union) The Lake Union representative has been working on resolving the SE issue throughout his two years as CNC chair, and believes that a solution is within reach. On Wed., Nov. 19, the SE District Council voted to “respond positively” to the Oct. 27 CNC resolution, "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."

Tom Acker and Pat Murakami presented final comments in support of the SENDC application for an at-large CNC voting position.

Approval of the application of the SE Neighborhoods District Council for an at-large position on CNC did not pass. With all thirteen district councils voting, the vote was 3 in favor, 7 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

A member of the public requested the opportunity to speak. It was moved, seconded, and passed (with Chair Leman voting no) to end discussion on this issue.

CNC Officer Elections

The slate that had been presented Oct. 27 by CNC’s nominating committee had lacked a nominee for chair of the Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee. After discussion, Laine Ross agreed to be nominated the position, in addition to her existing nomination for CNC vice chair. As provided by the CNC by-laws, secret ballots were distributed. They were counted by CNC nominations committee member Andrew Taylor. Those elected (who will, under the CNC by-laws, take office as of the January 26 CNC meeting) were:

Chair: Kathy Nyland

Vice Chair: Laine Ross

Secretary: Steve Sindiong

Budget Committee Chair: Ron Boddie

Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee Chair: Laine Ross

Transportation Committee Chair: Ref Lindmark

Education Committee Chair: Mike Warren

Committee Reports

Budget Committee, Ron Boddie: Would like to see more time for input into budget process. The biennial budget process doubled the length of the budget without adding any extra time for consideration.

Education Committee, Mike Warren. Invites volunteers and ideas for the committee. Committee will develop a work plan and consider requesting that its name be changed to include “youth” in the title.

Neighborhood Planning Committee, Irene Wall, No meeting in November. Neighborhood Planning Advisory Council (NPAC) meeting rescheduled for Dec. 2. DPD has asked Irene to serve as co-chair of NPAC. CNC

members encouraged her to accept this offer, but only on an interim basis, and to ensure that NPAC is given the opportunity to determine its own procedures and officers.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee, Laine Ross: Committee met last week. Working on membership for the Citywide Review Team for 2009. Food will now be allowed as a budget item in NMF applications and contracts. The application is being streamlined. A group may apply for additional funds when it has an open project (not allowed before). Contrary to CNC's recommendation, NMF funds have been reduced, such as by not rolling over to 2008 the \$180,000 in NMF reserve funds. Previously, unexpended funds were rolled over to the following year. Some loss of staffing. The NMF evaluation that the City Council mandated for August 2008 is still not available. It will be important for CNC and its NMF committee to review and comment on the draft evaluation before it is finalized.

Transportation Committee: SDOT Transit staff is expanding, and spoke to the committee's November meeting. Committee is developing a draft letter on parking issues for CNC consideration.

Neighborhood Summit

CNC Chair Chris Leman thanked the Department of Neighborhoods, Mayor and City Council, and City Hall staff for help with the Oct. 28 summit arrangements. Working on written report. A video is available on the Seattle channel web site at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5210842>.