

Below is the draft agenda for the Monday, Jan. 26 CNC meeting, along with background and a 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, January 26, 2009
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
West Precinct Conference Room
810 Virginia Street

Chair: Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish District) kenyland@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Laine Ross (Downtown District) laine@ceoworkz.com
Secretary: Steve Sindiong (Southwest District) gnoidnis@comcast.net

DRAFT AGENDA:

- 6:30 Introductions, review/approval of agenda and of November minutes
- 6:40 Stella Chao, Director of the Department of Neighborhoods
- 6:55 H.B. 1490, "Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements"
- Futurewise/Washington State Low Income Housing Alliance
 - Seattle Displacement Coalition/Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness
- 7:30 Open discussion on CNC's coming year--goals, connections, work plan (see link below), etc.
- 8:15 Reports of CNC's committees
Budget Committee--Ron Boddie, Chair
Neighborhood Planning Committee--Irene Wall, Chair or Cindi Barker, Vice Chair
[Action item: CNC Exec Comm recommends Cindi Barker as Acting Chair of this committee]
Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee--Laine Ross, Chair
Transportation Committee--Ref Lindmark, Chair
Education Committee--Mike Warren, Chair
CNC executive committee
- 8:30 Adjourn

UPCOMING

All CNC and district council events are open to the public. CNC agendas and minutes (including the draft minutes from CNC's Nov. 24 meeting) are available at <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>, which also has CNC's by-laws, work plan, contact information for district representatives, correspondence, authorizing legislation, and other documents, videos and links. An on-line meeting calendar that includes the district council meetings is <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/calendar.pdf>.

CNC January 26 meeting. Draft agenda is above.

CNC February 23 meeting. Will be held, as always, at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia St. Suggestions are welcome for the agenda.

BACKGROUND

Draft minutes. Draft minutes from the Nov. 24 CNC meeting (and approved minutes from previous meetings) are available at <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil> by clicking on "Meeting Minutes and Agendas."

CNC work plan. One topic for discussion at the Jan. 26 CNC meeting is revision of the work plan. The 2008 CNC work plan can be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/CityNeighborhoodCouncil%27s2008workplan.pdf> or by going to <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>, and clicking on "documents, videos, and links."

H.B. 1490. One item on the Jan. 26 CNC agenda is presentations by groups for and against a recently filed legislative bill, H.B. 1490, "Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements." The text of the bill can viewed at <http://leg.wa.gov>. The sponsors include Seattle legislators Jamie Pedersen and Mary Lou Dickerson. The first public hearing on the bill is scheduled for Wed. Jan. 28, 8 a.m. in Olympia.

Neighborhood Street Fund and Cumulative Reserve Fund. Fri., Feb. 27 is the deadline for nominating projects for \$1 million in Cumulative Reserve Funds and \$200,000 in Neighborhood Street Funds. This is an important deadline; members of the public should submit any project they think would be worthy of consideration (up to \$90,000 per project, but lower-priced projects will have more chance). The application, rules, schedule, etc. are on-line at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/btgnscrf, along with instructions in seven languages and information on interpretation and translation opportunities. District Councils will be asked to designate their priorities among the applications by April 10. And after receiving feedback from SDOT and the Parks Dept., district councils will identify their final priorities by July 24.

Performance audit of district council/CNC system. The Office of the City Auditor welcomes suggestions for its performance audit of the district councils/CNC system. For background, see CNC's Oct. 27 minutes and http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/Process_audit_system.pdf. For questions or to send your views: mary.denzel@seattle.gov or 684-8158.

Neighborhood Matching Fund. The Department of Neighborhoods is considering some major changes in NMF, and it is important that CNC and its NMF Oversight Committee be consulted in a timely way, to ensure continuation of the collaboration that produced and has sustained NMF. As yet, despite requests, CNC and its NMF committee have not received a draft of DON's evaluation of the Neighborhood Matching Funds or of the background materials (such as the focus groups that were conducted). CNC and its NMF committee need these materials in order to best provide input to the evaluation before it is finalized and sent to the City Council, and to advise DON before it makes any decisions based on the evaluation. The City Council mandated the evaluation and set August 2008 as the date for it to be made final, but as yet neither the City Council nor CNC have received anything from the evaluation.

Neighborhood Leadership Training. The 2008 City budget included \$100,000 for neighborhood leadership training, although this no such funds were added in the 2009 budget. The 2008 funds were contracted for and are now being spent in two ways: a training academy restricted to a small number of selected individuals; and training for district councils (as yet not announced) in how they can become more diverse. It is not clear what has been done to respond to CNC's March 18 letter asking for that the funds be spent with an emphasis on "practical skills such as assessing neighborhood needs, raising funds and other resources, attracting and motivating volunteers, and other tasks that are so important at the neighborhood level," that a peer-to-peer model be used, and that plans be made for continuity after the funds are expended, such as by including training materials in the DON web site.

Citizen training sessions that are open to the public. Although it does not appear to be funded from the Neighborhood Leadership Training budget, the Department of Neighborhoods for the first time in several years is offering some training sessions in citizen organizing, all offered Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in room 3211 of Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway: Jan. 28 on "Community empowerment and organizing"; Feb. 11 on "Building community, one web site or blog at a time"; and Feb. 25 on "Personal and community stories of how to improve your community."

Web improvements for district councils? District councils that wish to have a web site, or to improve and update the one they have, have begun meeting to share ideas and to identify needs. To get involved, contact Karen Ko, karen.ko@seattle.gov or (206) 233-3732.

Citizen input in hiring of managers with direct responsibility for district councils and the CNC. In the past two years, the Department of Neighborhoods has selected some neighborhood district coordinators and some higher-level managers of the districts/CNC system without input from district-level volunteers. At least one neighborhood district coordinator position was filled without being opened to all applicants. District councils and the CNC generally are not receiving notice that these positions are being advertised or filled. CNC has not received a response from a request that the CNC chair made on Sept. 23 that DON director Stella Chao provide CNC and the district councils timely notification of openings for the position of district council coordinator and for other Department of Neighborhood positions that have direct responsibility for the district councils or the CNC; occasionally to provide CNC and the district councils the position descriptions so that they might suggest revisions; and to include at least one neighborhood volunteer on any committees that interview candidates for the district coordinator positions and the position of manager of the district coordinators and liaison to the CNC (a position now in the process of being filled).

Citizen guide to neighborhood growth targets. CNC's neighborhood planning committee has a valuable new addition to the CNC web site at http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/cmcm_overview.pdf and http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/growth_targets.xls It's an overview and Excel guide to how the City has "grown" the growth targets that the 1994 Comprehensive Plan assigned to each urban village and urban center. "City Math" is the concept of endlessly emerging new targets that obscure that many neighborhoods have already met the original targets. "Citizen Math" tracks how each urban village and urban center has done in meeting its original target, and how much more growth the new targets would impose. The Excel document provides powerful evidence of how each urban village and urban center is faring. Thanks to committee vice chair Cindi Barker for this remarkable resource.

Jan. 29 meeting on townhouse design. On Thurs., Jan. 29, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (presentation at 6 p.m.) in City Hall's Bertha Knight Landes Room, 601 Fifth Avenue, the Department of Planning and Development is hosting a public meeting on possible changes in how the City permits townhouse development. For information, contact Geoffrey Wentlandt at (206) 684-3586 or geoffrey.wentlandt@seattle.gov.

The draft agenda was developed jointly by the outgoing and incoming CNC officers. The new officers begin their terms at the January 26 CNC meeting. The background information was prepared by Chris Leman (206-322-5463 cleman@oo.net), whose term as CNC Chair ends at the Jan. 26 CNC meeting.