

## **CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

### **Minutes for the January 26, 2009 meeting**

District Council representatives in attendance: Ron Boddie (Central Area Neighborhoods District Council, CNC Budget Committee Chair); Mike Warren (Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council, CNC Youth and Education Committee Chair); Robert Drucker (Ballard District Council); Chris Leman (Lake Union District Council); Lynn Ferguson, (Northeast District Council); Cheryl Klinker, (North District Council); Paul Stoms (East District Council); Janis Maloney, (East District Council); Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish District Council and CNC Chair); Judith Edwards, (Greater Duwamish District Council); Laine Ross (Downtown District Council, CNC Vice Chair); Pete Spalding (Delridge District Council); Chas Redmond (Southwest District Council); Steve Sindiong, (Southwest District Council, CNC Secretary).

Guests in attendance: Ted Divina, DON; Sara Nikolic, Futurewise; Dennis Saxman, East District; Cindi Barker, Rachael Myers, Low Income Housing Alliance; Allison Brown, Seattle University; Brigid Sullivan, Seattle University; Elizabeth Nielson, Seattle University; John Fox, Seattle Displacement Coalition; Sarah Hartzell, Vietnamese Friendship Association.

#### **Agenda and Minutes**

The Jan 26 agenda was approved with one minor revision – DON Director Stella Chao is unable to attend. November minutes were approved with minor revision.

Ted Divina presented outgoing Chair Chris Leman a certificate recognizing his work on the City Neighborhood Council and in the neighborhoods.

**DON/NMF Update:** Small and Simple timeline extended to 12 months, funding for food allowed, signature requirements streamlined. Reminder that Letters of Intent to Large Fund are due February 2. Please spread the word.

#### **House Bill 1490 – Transit Oriented Communities**

Goal to amend Growth Management Act pertaining to development in identified high-capacity transit station areas. Addresses minimum density thresholds, neighborhood design guidelines, pedestrian oriented development, ensuring low and moderate income households are not displaced. Average net density of 50 dwelling units per acre in the half-mile radius in station areas. Legislation will require that development include percentage of housing affordable to low and moderate income households.

Some groups concerned over zoning changes in the bill. Feel housing unit number is too high and are concerned over loss of open space, streams and tree canopy. Character of affected neighborhoods would be changed, especially single family zoned areas. Ignores recommendations of neighborhood plans and planning for station areas already completed, as well as exceeding growth targets already established. Neighborhoods at 50% of 20 year growth targets already. Low income housing prices set too high. Feel advisory group was staffed heavily by developer and real estate interests. Formula used to set density number not realistic.

#### **Q&A**

Q. Comment that state should not dictate to neighborhoods

Concern that low-income will be displaced. Affordability costs not realistic. Median income figure distorted by high incomes earned in area.

A. Low income units must be replaced on one-to-one basis. Low income units will be set at 1/3 of income.

Q. Comment that this is too much information when time to make decisions is short

Q. How was radius determined and how will low-income housing be kept low-income?

A. Half-mile radius determined by length of distance people would be willing to walk to station. Low income housing numbers maintained by legislation.

Q. Comment that density numbers need to be recalculated using more realistic formula

Q. What about bus rapid transit (BRT) routes?

A. Will only apply where a future BRT route is primarily along a highway. The existing RapidRide and Swift bus transit routes are not included in the legislation.

Q. No provision made for concurrency required by Growth Management Act

A. City will need to do; neighborhood plans will need to be updated to address

Q. Concern that legislation waives all parking requirements for development within transit area, and also waives voter approval of extension of transportation taxes in area. No percentages set for low-income units to be built by developers.

Q. What areas will be exempt?

A. The stations at SODO/Qwest Field, and the University District (Husky Stadium) will be exempt

Q. Will replacement low-income units be adequate in size and affordable for low-income families?

A. Legislation does not require match in size; only in affordability levels.

Q. Concern over disregard for neighborhood plans. Concern that advisory committee did not include citizens. City Council and Mayor allowing state to have too much influence on neighborhoods and neighborhood plans.

Be sure to make District Councils and Neighborhood Councils aware of this information. Will be modifications to the legislation and public hearings.

### **CNC/Workplan/Goals and Purpose**

- Request for more consistent information from committees – don't get enough feedback on important issues
- Would like to see written Committee minutes from their meetings, and sent out with the CNC agenda.
- Would like to see more information flowing from CNC to District Councils. Use of CNC website for information and links to District Council sites on CNC website.
- Delridge District Council website did not receive many hits. Decided it was not worth the effort to keep up.
- Technological updates have made creating/maintaining a web site easier.
- Be leader on issues; not reactive.
- Need to be able to get timely information from City Council and its committees

- Not getting enough contact/information from DON
- Need liaison in all City Departments; don't know who to go to for information
- Would like input on DON hiring
- Confidentiality issues may arise over this
- Kimberlee Archie regularly participates in CNC Executive Conference call
- Mickey Fearn from Parks volunteered to be contact person in Parks Department for CNC
- SDOT, DPD are other departments CNC would like stronger connection with
- Need more timely information/regular briefings from DON
- Need to plan a candidate's forum, start thinking ahead to budget conference, neighborhood summit
- Discussion whether to hold candidate's forum prior to or after the primaries
- Budget Conference and Neighborhood Conference generally held every two years
- List of issues from Councilmember Clark's Office: Comp Plan submittal date change, multi-family code legislation, ethics code review, budget revisions in April
- Other upcoming issues in 2009 that may be addressed or reviewed by CNC include:
  - Zoning experiment in Northgate
  - Pedestrian Master Plan
  - People for Streets Initiative
  - Parks Levy Citizens Oversight Committee
  - Would like more input on Neighborhood Street Fund and Neighborhood Matching Fund process
  - Audits on Neighborhood Matching Fund and District Council/CNC ready this spring
- Kathy will prepare work plan draft and route for comment

### **Committee Reports**

Budget Committee: Next meeting: February 3, City Hall, Rm 370, 5:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Planning Committee: Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee – CNC NP Chair Irene Wall taking sabbatical; Motion was approved to allow Cindi Barker as interim chair while Irene is out, and to serve on Advisory Committee. NPAC meeting on third Tuesday of the month, CNC's NP Committee's regular meeting time. Will need to reschedule. Station Area Plan workshops scheduled for March. Looking at scope of updates for plans and outreach.

Transportation: Ref Lindmark absent. It was suggested that the Transportation Committee Vice Chair attend CNC meetings when the chair cannot attend. Recommendation that CNC take position on viaduct tunnel option. Kathy will check in with Ref on this. SW and Delridge Districts sent letter to Mayor Nickels, Ron Sims and Governor Gregoire on this issue.

Youth, Schools and Education: School closure issue. Interested in expanding focus to younger children, as well. CNC approved committee name change to "Youth, Schools and Education Committee". Will be looking to CNC for resources to include youth and put together a workshop. Next meeting: Thursday, March 5, location TBD. Executive Committee: No official meeting held yet. Will e-mail notice when time is set. All are welcome to attend.

### **Announcements**

Gathering of Neighbors Event: Saturday, April 4. Co-sponsored by West Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Friday, April 3 volunteer recognition event.