

DRAFT City Neighborhood Council Minutes
June 25, 2007

In attendance: Irene Wall (NW District Council); Dennis Ross (SW District Council); Chris Leman (Lake Union District Council and CNC Chair); Bob Frazier (Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council); Pat Murakami (SE District Council); Judith Edwards (Greater Duwamish District Council); Robert Drucker and Molly Hanson (Ballard District Council); Malaika Lafferty (Lake Union District Council), Janis Maloney (East District Council), Adrienne Bailey (Central District Council); and Robin Sizemore (Northeast District Council).

Department of Neighborhoods staff: Scott Minnix, Garry Owens, Allynn Ruth

Also attending: Doug Cargill, SE Crime Prevention Council; Dolores and Richard Ranhofer, Lakewood/Seward Park, Carol Simon, Madison Park Community Council

Guests: City Councilmember Sally Clark, Nathan Torgelson (Office of Policy and Management), Holly Miller (DON Office for Education)

City Councilmember Sally Clark (Chair of Economic Development and Neighborhoods Committee)

Neighborhood Plan audit. Councilmember Clark requested this performance audit to ensure that plans are followed and implemented. Audit report should be completed this fall. Would like to see City departments work more closely with neighborhoods. Ten year anniversary of plans approaching; some may need to be updated. She has urged the executive branch to consult with neighborhoods as it develops proposals on this process.

Nightlife Ordinance. City lacks tools to deal with unruly clubs. Mayor would like authority to suspend/revoke license without waiting for Liquor Board input. Councilmember Clark has been spending time in neighborhoods affected by bars/clubs. Doesn't feel there are enough votes to pass the ordinance as proposed. Can probably strengthen the noise ordinance and form advisory committees to look at club/neighbor relations. Need to have sufficient police presence. Goal is for City Council to complete action by the end of July.

- Q. CNC's Neighborhood Planning Committee has not been consulted about interdepartmental meetings regarding the new approach to neighborhood plans. Would like to know what is happening.
- A. Councilmember Clark is concerned that not enough broad participation will come from neighborhoods and the process will be too top down. The City could miss the opportunity to reconnect neighborhoods and government, get creative ideas and energize communities.

- Q. Certain areas have seen little progress from their neighborhood plans. SE Action Agenda has replaced the neighborhood plan; and plan stewards were not involved in formulating that document.
- A. The Action Agendas easier for city to monitor, but does diminish community input.
- Q. Zoning has changed. Affordable housing being lost.
- A. Affordable housing is a concern all over city. The City is limited in what it can do. The Housing Levy will come up for re-authorization next year. Need to figure out how to keep housing in the city that is affordable to median incomes.
- Q. How to enforce Nightlife Ordinance?
- A. Four to six Liquor Control agents are at work throughout County on any given Friday night. The Police budget doesn't fund enough coverage. Need to identify funding and hold enforcement accountable. Grant funding doesn't generally cover personnel. Weed and Seed funding does fund some emphasis patrols. SPD does not want clubs paying for overtime police officers directly. Bars could pay into a central fund.
- Q. How willing are you to stick your neck out and say if the new neighborhood plan updates are too top down?
- A. Willing to do so. Could look at it as gaining grassroots support.
- Q. Appreciate Councilmember Clark's help in CNC and other bodies' efforts to restore the levy-funded Neighborhood Street Fund as an annual, district council-based process.
- A. Wanted to make sure Bridging the Gap money for pedestrian/mobility projects went where needed and determined by neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Recommendations

\$1,598,108 available for Large Projects this year. The City received 25 applications. The Citywide Review Team (a committee of the CNC) recommended to CNC twenty-three projects, with two projects moving to Small and Simple Fund. There were no appeals. CNC voted unanimously to approve the project award recommendations. Mayor will present awards on July 18. CNC and the DON staff recognized Robin Sizemore for her work as chair of CRT this year.

Holly Miller, DON Office for Education

The focus of the City's 2004 Families and Education Levy was on academic achievement and closing the achievement gap. To manage results, the City created a list of outcomes for school readiness, academic achievement and

reduction of achievement gap, utilizing WASL test scores, and drop-out reduction. The City also instituted new program to track results by child. Reports are available on the web site.

Q. Have you considered using a different test than WASL?

A. Need to use the test that the School District uses to assess results.

Q. What happens if kids aren't ready for kindergarten?

A. Trying to get the School District to devise a uniform assessment. If a child scores below a certain level on assessments, information is given to a family support worker and the principal and a plan is written for the child right away.

Q. What is service in proportion to need at this point?

A. Family support workers only in elementary schools at this time. Not even all elementary school needs are being met. Wage increases for family support workers make it difficult to increase the number of staff.

Q. Do these workers fill in the gap of health workers (nurses)?

A. Health funding is spent for middle and high school clinics and nurses in those schools. The School District spends money to fund other schools, but has cut funding and they are spread thin.

Q. What is the connection with organizations providing after-school programs?

A. YMCA and Parks run programs at the middle school level. They contract with organizations also. Trying to add programs at high school level. RFP is used for elementary school level programs.

Q. How much funding goes to administration of the program?

A. 5% is spent in the downtown office. The City Council put limits on the amount of funding that can go to administration.

Nathan Torgelson/School Surplus

Five properties have been identified as surplus. Can either sell or lease to communities. Have one year to come up with agreement to use building. Crown Hill, Phinney, Fauntleroy, University Heights and Webster School are five schools identified. Another list contains inventoried schools; those that have just been closed. That list is not available yet. City has contracted with Cascade Land Conservancy to work with community and three of the schools. School District needs to receive market rate for the buildings. Communities will need help to come up with funding. Lots of maintenance/repair issues with buildings. University Heights has been funded with Matching Fund to hire Cascade Land Conservancy and some ProParks money. Phinney in good position to move

forward. Council may consider bond sale also for University Heights and Phinney.

Q. Fauntleroy concerned that they will not be able to come up with full market value.

A. There is a lot of community action around that school.

Q. What happens if community can't raise money? (University Heights)

A. Probably will need private partnerships to make it work. Will need historic tax credits, additional revenue-generating tenants, other creative financing ideas. Will be requesting money from county and state.

Q. What schools are on the inventory list? How long will they be on the list?

A. Viewlands, MLK. Others. It is up to the School Board if they will be released to be sold or leased. Some are still in legal challenges.

Q. Want to make sure buildings remain public and private entities don't come in and take over.

A. There is a process involving School Board, City and neighborhoods to determine use.

Q. What are new market tax credits?

A. A new federal tax credit to underwrite space.

Q. If a school is purchased, what is the School District's role in the use?

A. School Use Advisory building still can rule on uses.

Q. What specific expertise does Cascade Land Conservancy bring?

A. Have done lots of work on buying land for public ownership. Good at engaging different parties. Seen as objective third party. Have the staff and time to dedicate.

ProParks money has been given for park at Crown Hill site. That money can go toward purchase of building.

University Heights and Phinney building eligible for historic landmark designation.

Approval of May Minutes:

Correction in chair of neighborhood planning committee

Change in wording of last sentence in neighborhood planning committee section

Minutes adopted with these changes

Budget Committee:

Copies of the proposed 2008 CNC budget letter were distributed. One suggestion was to strengthen the Parks section relating to ProParks and ask for continued staffing of various programs relating to youth programs at community centers. Another suggestion was to remove the sentence relating to a new Parks Levy. Another suggestion was to add a sentence stating that if the Zoo Society builds a parking garage, the zoo will become ineligible for future ProParks funding. The Chair referred to the section of the CNC by-laws that requires decisions to be reached by consensus. It was agreed to drop the reference to the Parks Levy and not to add the sentence on the zoo. An effort will be made to develop a separate letter that addresses parks issues. There was discussion on how to address the issue of equity in the allocation of housing and social services facilities. It was agreed to add the following sentence: "Funding should ensure that subsidized housing and related services are not unduly concentrated in any particular part of the city." **The draft letter with suggested changes was adopted with 7 yeas and two abstentions.**

Neighborhood Planning Committee:

Mayoral initiative on neighborhood planning is expected; committee will be sending a draft letter for comment via e-mail before July meeting.

Transportation Committee:

Ref Lindmark, chair, is out of town. Citizen oversight committee on the levy, which Ref co-chairs, discussed the NSF/CRF process. Each district council needs to designate a representative to serve on the Large Projects review team.

Report on District Council Chairs Meeting with Stella Chao:

Waiting to see minutes from meeting. Meeting was productive; good for District Chairs to get together to support each other and share thoughts/ideas. Generated lots of ideas, but more questions than answers. Suggestion of forming a Yahoo group, but many felt they already had too many e-mail messages to deal with. Feel need for more informal chance to talk. Idea of round robin at start of CNC meetings, or to feature one or two district councils each time.