

11/30/04 CNC Meeting

Attending: Ballard (Andy Macdonald and Stephen Lundgren), Delridge (Pete Spalding), East (Andrew Taylor), Lake Union (Chris Leman), Magnolia/Queen Anne (Vic Barry), North (Mike Thompson), Northwest/Neighborhood Plan Chairperson (Irene Wall), Southwest (Dennis Ross), NMF Committee Chairperson (Bob Lucas), Transportation Committee Chairperson (John Coney), and DON Staff (Bernie Matsuno)

Invited Guests: Ted Inkley, City Attorney's Office and Councilmember Conlin

- After introductions, Ted Inkley was asked to give an overview/primer of the Public Disclosure Act (PDA) and its impact on City volunteers, specifically the CNC. Inkley also provided a handout that answered many of the basic questions a CNC representative may have about the PDA. It was suggested that this piece be modified and included as an article in the DON newsletter. The highlights of Ted's presentation were:
 - PDA was written with a populist bent; if a written record is a public record, it has to be given up in response to a PDA request. There are exemptions, but they are very specific and narrowly defined. Very difficult to get *new* exemptions.
 - A PDA requires a governmental agency to promptly disclose any public record that is requested unless the records are exempt, regardless of who has made the request or the requestor's motives. Although the agency must acknowledge the request within 5 days, "prompt" response is not defined and depends on factors like the nature of the request and the agency's resources.
 - "Public records" is a very broad term. It includes any record that contains information about the government or its business, and that a government agency prepares, owns, uses, or possesses. The term also includes any record, whether it is paper, electronic, tape-recorded, or digitally stored.
 - Communications that happen via phone or in-person are not subject to the PDA. However, if there is a lawsuit, disclosure could occur if someone is deposed.

Ted was also asked to comment on the need to get City Council approval for any changes to the CNC by-laws. At a minimum, he suggested that the Council be informed of by-law changes through the Parks, Neighborhoods, and Education Committee.

- Councilmember Conlin gave a brief budget update. He indicated that the City's budget was pretty lean when it got to the Council. Instead of cutting more, the Council was compelled to restore some items. Additions to the budget will be paid with revenue generated by a 1.5% increase in the utility tax. These dollars will be used for the following in '05:
 - \$1M Human services
 - \$1M Library and bookmobile
 - \$1M Parks
 - \$1.6M Transportation

- \$500,000 - \$1M Restored to smaller departments

Councilmember Conlin also indicated that transportation dollars are sorely needed. The City, along with other public entities, will be looking to the State legislature to provide other revenue sources for local governments to address transportation needs. There might also be a Transportation Levy, as recommended by the citizen advisory group, to pay for transportation improvements.

Asked to comment on the level of citizen involvement that has taken place regarding the alternatives for the viaduct, Councilmember Conlin expressed his opinion that there hasn't been enough.

All CNC members present each asked a question of Conlin about the budget. And all thanked him and the Council for preserving the NMF.

- CNC Transportation Committee report: After some discussion, the CNC approved the committee's letter that proposed recommendations to SDOT's Transportation Strategic Plan. Three "friendly" amendments to the recommendations were suggested and approved. Note: The CNC's letter was sent out to Barbara Gray at SDOT via hard copy and electronic versions.
- NMF Committee report: Acknowledgement of the committee's minutes.
 - Volunteer Recognition event scheduled for 4/29/05, place TBD
 - Still looking for committee members to help plan the event (since this will be a CNC/NMF Committee/DON event). A planning meeting is proposed for Dec 15, 2004. Bob Lucas is the point person; interested folks should contact Bob.
- Neighborhood Planning Committee report: Irene Wall reported on the November 20 Forum, which was very successful in focusing on the recommendations to the Seattle Comp Plan. The CNC approved a letter as a follow-up to all City Council members.
 - There is an upcoming "indicators of Sustainability" series of forums being planned to which the CNC will provide input.
- Nominations Committee: presented an initial slate of officers to be voted on at the beginning of the January meeting. John Coney has been nominated for Chair, Pete Spalding for Vice Chair and Scott Meyer for Recording Officer. Nominations are open up until the vote is taken.
- CNC By-laws Changes: were discussed. Changes include:
 - Two representatives per District Council
 - Four daytime meetings per year, instead of eleven nighttime meetings
 - Meetings televised from the Bertha Landes Room in the new City Hall
 - Term Limits; e.g. 2-year terms with two terms maximum per CNC member to attract new blood, enthusiasm and ideas.

- These bylaws changes are being discussed by District Councils, and the CNC will take them up again at the Jan 05 meeting.
- Announcement: Vice Chair, Mike Thompson, announced that he will retire from the CNC at the end of this year, after representing the North District since 1997. Mike will run for City Council next year. His term on the CNC has been most appreciated by all who have served with him.