

**City Neighborhood Council  
Minutes  
Monday, October 31, 2005**

Attending: John Coney, Chair, Pete Spalding, Vice Chair, Bob Lucas, Matching Fund Committee Chair, Chris Leman, Budget Committee Chair, Ref Lindmark, Transportation Committee Chair, East District, Central District, North District, SW District, SE District, NE District, NW District, Ballard District, CIRP Representative

Department Of Neighborhoods: Bernie Matsuno

Guests: Mayor Greg Nickels, Marco Lowe, Director Community Outreach, Mayor's Office, Ron Boddie, Central Area District Council Chair

**Mayor Nickels**

The Mayor addressed the group and reiterated his four priorities

**Transportation**

Light Rail project now 45% complete, most work underground.  
Alaska Way Viaduct: \$2.4 billion for financing.

**Budget**

Two thirds of jobs lost have been regained. Budget includes money for 25 new police officers, 15 new firefighters, two new animal control officers. Street resurfacing, sidewalks, keeping, rather than selling open space. Economy still uncertain. 2008, reduction in B&O Tax, \$15 million per year loss. Pro Parks levy ending. Maintenance shouldn't depend on special levy dollars. Human needs addressed. Hygiene Center – \$1 million, located at Morrison Hotel.

**Neighborhoods**

**South Park Issues**

Services, youth outreach, Latino population

**Downtown**

Looking to improve image, move families downtown. Re-energizing parks, controversial tree-thinning. No net loss of trees in city.

**Family and Education Levy**

Preschool for low/moderate income 4-year-olds  
Programs to help all children succeed

**Growth**

**Pay per development**

Growth targeted for downtown neighborhoods. Developers to pay for green building, affordable housing, childcare, historic preservation. New fees : Transportation and Parks fees

**Business**

Expanded B&O exemptions for small businesses

**Questions from CNC Members**

**Chris Leman, CNC Budget Committee Chair:** Money for improvements/repair to arterials.

**Mayor:** Money for these improvements is dwindling. \$25 million per year gap in needed funding. Sidewalks and bicycle facilities also needed. Tried to get new funding options for transportation needs at Legislature. Will get some funding from gas tax. Need to come up with new revenue sources. \$6 million for street resurfacing, but not long-term fix.

**Pete Spalding:** Loss of affordable housing stock. What can be done to alleviate this situation?

**Mayor:** Need to find way to build housing at lower cost. Lowest-level income receives funding from housing levy. Mid-income workers have less help. Moving further out adds to transportation woes. Teachers, firefighters, etc. need first-time home-buyer assistance. New program will be announced for teachers in a couple of weeks. Trying to create living-wage jobs in the city and protect wages and health care for lower-wage workers. Property tax reductions for builders in targeted areas.

**Nightclub violations:** Task force found multiple violations. How can this be addressed?

**Mayor:** Will be making announcement later this week. Want an active night-life, but want a safe, respectful environment as well.

**Community Police:** Neighborhoods want this back.

**Mayor:** More resources and discretion being given to Precinct Commanders. More officers being put on patrol. New officers will all be patrol officers. Average of five per precinct. Aggressively filling vacancies.

**Neighborhood Specific Design Guidelines:** Have not been adopted. Development not steered in direction guidelines would like.

**Mayor:** Asked for copy to be sent to him and he will bring up to committee.

**Dennis Ross: Emergency Transportation Plan for West Seattle** Need means of escape in event Viaduct is down, and First Ave is being used for emergency vehicle. Lack of hospitals in West Seattle.

**Mayor:** Need to develop plans. Need to replace Viaduct. Replacement closures will also effect West Seattle. Express bus service via Spokane Viaduct. Need to look at overall transit enhancement in West Seattle. Report due early next year. Timeline to open Spokane Viaduct, before replacement of Viaduct.

### **Future of Mass Transit for Northwest part of the City**

**Mayor:** Increasing bus transit on North 99 and increase connections from West. Next generation transit will look at creating a “web” of services with connections running E/W, rather than just N/S. Looking at working closely with Metro.

### **Specific targets for Family/Education Levy Projects**

**Mayor:** Contracts will specify thresholds and mechanism for terminating services if thresholds not met. Money included in Levy for evaluations.

## **Pre-teen/Teen Activity Creation**

**Mayor:** After-school programs will be available at every middle school funded with Education Levy dollars. Opening and refurbishing community centers with new teen areas. Community Center hours expansion. Looking at more late-night programs.

**Bob Lucas:** Any possibility of additional funding for Matching Fund?

**Mayor:** If economy continues to improve, yes.

**Andrew Taylor:** Cal Anderson Park great success.

**Mayor:** Parks and SPD charged with making it so.

**Andrew Taylor:** DPD holding up design review process. Community Center needed in community. Miller Playfield needs new playing surface.

**Mayor:** New libraries and Community Centers currently underway need to be completed before any more expansion plans will be made. Parks will be redoing one playfield per year. Miller will definitely be on the list.

**Ron Boddie:** How well do SDOT/WSDOT and city all work together?

**Mayor:** There is a regional transportation plan. Trying to make sure City benefits from regional transportation projects and Port projects.

**Ref Lindmark:** Encourage developers to work closely with neighborhoods on projects, so projects are developed with neighborhoods, not done to neighborhoods.

**John Coney:** Two-lane Mercer/Regrading of Aurora—where is project?

**Mayor:** Council approved the concept. It is moving forward. Necessary to complete this before replacement of Viaduct.

**Pete Spalding:** Benefits to City from Annexation of White Center?

**Mayor:** Help from City would benefit both annexed area and city. Jobs and opportunities would be created. Additional tax base would allow SW precinct to increase manpower.

**John Coney:** Key arena now smallest professional basketball venue. Sonics lease ends in 2010.

**Mayor:** Need to decide if facility is still viable. Facility is 40-years old. Looking at plans with and without Sonics. Would like them to remain in Seattle. Adds to tourist/entertainment dollars. Need to figure out a plan by 2010.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Need to educate citizens on need to be prepared. Asking for help from District Councils and Community Councils on this need and to educate citizens on 72-hour survival plans.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

July and September meeting minutes adopted with corrections.

### **Ron Boddie, Central District Chair: District Council Diversity**

We must become culturally competent. Resolutions creating CNC, District Councils and DON require that volunteers be ever vigilant and critically think about issues confronting community. As leaders, we are charged to do this work.

Concerned over lack of attention to certain issues in the community. Created Diversity Committee which evolved into Diversity Initiative. Central area issues of gentrification/education/children/elderly. AIA discussions were attended by residents and not business people. Many business owners are E African residents. Must be culturally competent when working with groups from other cultures.

“Have all peoples of all colors and all cultures equally at the table, engaged in this partnership and collaboration of civic engagement.” Must be leaders in bringing this about. Institutionalized racism must also be addressed. Race and Social Justice training good, but need to follow up. District Councils not addressing issues relevant to people of color in communities. Need to take extra steps necessary to get different people to the table.

Need to make meetings an “event” “infotainment” provide refreshment so folks don’t need to stop off to eat after work/before meeting. Meet people “where they are.” There is a lack of coordination in use of resources.

### Questions/Comments

DON good resource to connect with community in relation to larger projects affecting neighborhoods.

Include other District Councils in Diversity Conference.

“Gathering of Neighbors” event in Delridge District. Received funding for event. Translators hired for event. Eighty organizations attending/keynote speaker. Culturally diverse entertainment. Similar event could be held in Central.

### **Dr. Rottle University of Washington**

#### **Project to identify and preserve open space in Seattle**

Feb 3 & 4 Planning Charette

Would like District Council Representatives to be on teams.

Asking Council for \$10,000 grant for outreach, etc.

Asked for motion to support project to Council for funding.

Public can nominate open space either at Charette or to representatives

### **CNC Chair Nominations**

The nominating committee (Irene Wall, Dennis Ross and Andrew Taylor) present below ballot recommendations for elections of 2006 Officers and Committee Chairs. Per the bylaws, the committee prepared a short summary of the candidate's interests and qualifications for the roles they are being nominated to serve in. Below are the candidates' replies to our questions.

#### Officers

Pete Spalding Chair

Chris Leman, Vice-Chair

Pat Murakami Secretary

#### Committee Chairs

Bob Lucas, Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee Chair

Irene Wall, Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair (if no one else comes forward)

(your name here) Budget Committee Chair

Andy MacDonald Transportation Committee Chair

[Dennis Ross may have nominees for these positions]

#### Candidates' Statements

Nominated for Secretary: Pat Murakami

206.722.7209

president@mountbaker.org

1. What do you believe are your strongest qualifications for the role of CNC Secretary?

My strongest qualification is my concern for the well being of the citizens of Seattle, particularly those that are underrepresented due to their socio-economic situation. I have been an involved volunteer in Seattle since I moved here to attend the University of Washington. My volunteer work has involved non-profits, schools, children's sports and community organizations. I am currently

President of the Mt. Baker Community Club, on the Executive Committee of the SE Crime Prevention Council and serve on several Southend advisory committees. I have an MBA and the small business I own provides me with the opportunity to work with a variety of businesses in Seattle and to be exposed to their concerns.

2. What goals would you focus on for 2006?

I would like to focus on greater city-wide involvement in the CNC to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of our organization. I would work to encourage every district to have a representative and alternate attend every meeting so there would be more consistent communication between the districts and the CNC.

3. What thoughts do you have about the relationship of the District Councils to the CNC and its activities?

Although I haven't been a representative to the CNC long enough to be thoroughly knowledgeable about this issue, my hope would be that the CNC is driven by the concerns and needs of the District Councils and not the other way around. The most beneficial role the CNC could play would be one to enhance the District Councils, help them to grow and become more influential in advocating for their respective neighborhoods.

4. Should the CNC make efforts to increase its influence in city government, and if so, how?

Yes. The city government exists to serve its citizens. The citizens should be the ones influencing the direction of the city government. This can best be accomplished by active District Councils with a high level of involvement from the neighborhoods in those Councils. The more citizens that are involved in the process the more city government will listen to and be concerned about the voice of the CNC. We need to learn from the effective, involved Districts and share that information with other Districts that have room for growth or whose citizens are less engaged in the process.

5. Should the CNC take any actions to make our meeting more collegial and if so, do you have any suggestions to accomplish this?

If we all come into CNC meetings with the expectation that we can learn from each other and appreciate another person's point of

view, then our meetings should be congenial. Once again, I haven't been involved long enough to know all the intricacies of the CNC, but I would suggest a written vote at a meeting asking "Do you consider the CNC a collegial, cooperative organization?" If even 25% of the votes are in the negative then we need to invest some time in team building exercises or in exploring other ways we can alleviate feelings of animosity.

We also have to appreciate the fact that we won't always agree. We all have different opinions and we all have different needs we represent from our respective Districts. If we all agreed all of the time then there would be no need for the meetings in the first place.

Nominated for Vice-Chair: Chris Leman  
cleman@oo.net, 720-4792

1. What do you believe are your strongest qualifications for the role?

Having served as the Lake Union District Council's representative and as chair of CNC's neighborhood planning committee and then of its budget committee, I know CNC's history and procedures. CNC will also benefit from my contacts among many neighborhoods and City agencies, and my commitment to ensuring CNC's effectiveness and inclusiveness.

2. What goals would you focus on for 2006?

My major goals are to: (1) achieve regular participation by all the district councils in meetings of the City Neighborhood Council; and (2) ensure that CNC is well served by strong, active committees.

3. What thoughts do you have about the relationship of the District Councils to the CNC and its activities?

CNC exists as a forum and voice for the district councils. All CNC procedures, activities, appointments, committees, and the web site, should contribute to timely notice to and continuous involvement of the district councils in CNC decisions. CNC should do everything it can promote the vitality of the district councils, such as by ensuring their accessibility to their constituency, the residents and businesses of Seattle.

4. Should the CNC make efforts to increase its influence in city government, and if so, how?

CNC's influence will be greatest if its positions are the clear consensus from CNC meetings that are well-attended by the district

councils, and if CNC's committees produce quality work for timely consideration by the full CNC.

5. Should the CNC take any actions to make our meetings more collegial and if so, do you have any suggestions to accomplish this?

Collegiality is best achieved if CNC officers set an example of openness and fairness, and if CNC observes its own by-law Section 6.1 that requires consensus-building to be the primary decision process, and that settling an issue by a simple majority vote is a last resort. This by-law provision protects the rights of the minority to be heard and considered.

Nominated for Chair: Pete Spalding  
579-4373, bayouwonder@comcast.net

1. What do you believe are your strongest qualifications for the role of CNC Chair?

I believe that my having served as chair of numerous groups over the years will lend that experience of running meetings and keeping folks on topic will serve me well. Having served as chair of the Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council, Co-Chair of the Delridge Neighborhoods District Council and other city wide groups has given me a broad vision of the issues that our neighborhoods are facing today.

2. What goals would you focus on for 2006 during your chair ship?

I would concentrate on changing the focus a bit. I feel that a lot of time, effort and energy is being spent by the committees of the CNC, but when it comes to reporting this work to the CNC it is almost an after thought. I would move to restructure our meetings so that after our primary guest has opened the meeting we would then switch to committee reports. Then if there are no other issues to consider we could then think about bringing in a second guest for that meeting, but our primary focus after the first guest of the meeting should be our committee reports.

3. What thoughts do you have about the relationship of the District Councils to the CNC and its activities?

I do not think that most of our District Councils have a true understanding of what the CNC does or is supposed to do under the resolution that established it. I think we should seek more input from the districts. We should also strive to figure out why at least three of our districts do not send representatives on a regular basis. We

need to have this input and then act on it to become a more influential body within city government.

4. Should the CNC make efforts to increase its influence in city government, and if so, how?

Of course we should. One of the ways that we do this is to continue the programs that we have begun in the last couple of years. For example, the Neighborhood Planning forums that your group has held have been wonderful. I think we need to figure out a way to get the word out more about these programs. If we could figure out a way to tap into the central council staff's communication network that could be a first step. We also need to be in our council members thought process more and make sure that they understand that we should be serving as a conduit of information to and from our respective neighborhoods.

5. Should the CNC be taking actions to make our meetings more collegial? Is so, do you have any suggestions?

Yes, I think that we need to come up with some unique ways to form more partnerships with the members of the city council. Their predecessors chose to establish our body and I think that we need to give the present council members reasons to seek us out for information and advice moving forward. I think that we need to become more of a proactive body rather than a reactive body. We need to come up with our points and courses of action and bring them forward. As an example, the budget committee has been holding a great group of meetings this year, but have we come forward with our own budget proposals? Or have we just said here is what we would like to see happen. If we came forward with a well thought out series of proposals and then got council backing then we could seem more of a force in our neighborhoods rather than, for example, fighting to maintain the NMF. We could bring forth our own proposal for how to increase the NMF and what we as members of the CNC would expect the outcomes of that proposal to look like.

### **State of Neighborhoods Event/Questionnaire**

Mailed to DC Chairs

Summit on January 19, with CNC, District Reps, City Council, Mayor's Office and City Departments to discuss issues of concern to neighborhoods.

Some concern over deadline of November 10, before some DCs meet. Deadline changed to "after next DC meeting".

Congratulations to Chris Leman on successful Candidate's Forum

### **Budget Letter/Budget Committee**

Chris distributed budget documents

Thursday, November 3 – final public hearing on proposed budget.

Discussion of language to increase Matching Fund budget and increase book buying budget and library hours. Discussion of including support for \$10,000 for open space study. Motion to support withdrawn. Amendments to letter accepted unanimously.

### **Transportation Committee – Ref Lindmark**

Seek representatives for committee next year. Looking for alternatives to transportation on First Hill due to loss of Light Rail station.

### **NMF Committee – Bob Lucas**

Request to move committee meetings to quarterly, rather than monthly, in 2006, with special meetings called, if necessary, request list of all awards made in 2005, and request early staffing of CRT.

### **Neighborhood Planning Committee**

#### **CIRP**

Lake City Library opening went well

Ballard Library door malfunctioning – needs to be fixed ASAP

Kudos to CIRP from CNC – provides great model of citizen participation with government

#### **New/Old Business**

Announcement of Gathering of Neighbors event in West Seattle

Meeting Adjourned

