

**City Neighborhood Council**  
[www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil)

Monday, July 30, 2007

6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

West Precinct Conference Room  
810 Virginia Street

Chair: Chris Leman (Lake Union), [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net), (206) 322-5463

Vice Chair: Pat Murakami (Southeast), [president@mountbaker.org](mailto:president@mountbaker.org)

Secretary: Judith Edwards (Greater Duwamish), [judedw@comcast.net](mailto:judedw@comcast.net)

**Draft Agenda**

**ITEM:**

- 6:30 Welcome, introductions, review/approval of agenda, approval of June 25 minutes
- 6:35 Continued roundtable among district councils on successes and challenges in organizing
- 7:15 Darby DuComb, director of the Dept. of Neighborhoods' Customer Service Bureau
- 7:45 CNC's committees

Neighborhood Planning Committee and possible CNC letter--Irene Wall, Chair  
Transportation Committee and NSF update--Ref Lindmark, Acting Chair  
Neighborhood Matching Fund Review Committee--Robin Sizemore, Chair  
Budget Committee--Ron Boddie, Chair

8:50 Other business

9:00 Adjourn

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Draft June 25 CNC minutes

SDOT letter and handout regarding district nominations for NSF Large Projects Team

Mayor's proposal to change the neighborhood planning process

Notes from CNC's May 19 workshop on neighborhood planning

**UPCOMING:**

These events are open to the public. CNC agendas and minutes are available at [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil), which also has CNC's 2007 work plan, and contact information for district representatives. If you can't come, your ideas are welcome now!

City Neighborhood Council meets Monday, July 30, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia Ave. Draft agenda is above. The following CNC meeting is Monday, Sept. 24.

CNC Executive Committee meets Monday, August 6, 5-6 p.m. at the Fremont Neighborhood Service Center, 908 N. 34th Street. All are welcome to attend, or if you would like to participate by conference telephone, contact Chris Leman at (206) 322-5463 or [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net).

CNC Budget Committee, chaired by Ron Boddie (Central), [rjboddie\\_2@msn.com](mailto:rjboddie_2@msn.com). Next meeting is being scheduled.

CNC's Neighborhood Planning Committee, chaired by Irene Wall (Northwest), [iwall@serv.net](mailto:iwall@serv.net). Next meeting is Tues., July 24, 6:00 p.m. at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia. Topic: recommending a CNC response to the Mayor's proposed change in the neighborhood planning program.

CNC Transportation Committee, chaired by Ref Lindmark (Northwest District), [refl@nwlink.com](mailto:refl@nwlink.com). Next meeting: Friday, August 17, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 4090 of the Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Topic: Complete the Streets (Ordinance 122386).

CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Review Committee, chaired by Robin Sizemore (Northeast), [robin.sizemore@clearwire.net](mailto:robin.sizemore@clearwire.net). Next meeting is being scheduled.

## **BACKGROUND:**

District council idea exchange. At the last meeting, there was a request for more unstructured time to improve communication and understanding. And so at the July 30 CNC meeting we will continue sharing among district councils on their challenges and opportunities in outreach and organizing, or will adopt a different format if desired. If you can't be there, please send in your suggestions.

Customer Service Bureau. Featured speaker on July 30 is Darby DuComb, the new director of the Department of Neighborhoods' Customer Service Bureau (previously the Citizen Service Bureau). DuComb welcomes your suggestions as she strengthens and expands this agency, which long predates DON. The following is from the web site (<http://www.seattle.gov/CustomerService>): "Mission: To assist citizens in accessing City services and to promote fairness, justice, and exemplary customer service throughout Seattle City government. The Customer Service Bureau does: (1) Provide information and referral to appropriate City government departments; (2) Provide a neutral forum to file a complaint or opinion about a City department; (3) Provide an alternate forum for citizens to report concerns about police conduct. We will receive and document your concerns and file it with the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) Investigation Section for their review and follow-up; (4) Conduct an impartial investigation of your allegations of unfairness by a City department and recommend appropriate action and/or changes in policy to City departments or the Mayor; (5) Mediate conflicts between an individual and a City department to find a mutual resolution; (6) Research and explain City ordinances, policies, and procedures; and (7) Assist individuals in obtaining city services in a fair and

efficient manner. The Customer Service Bureau does not: (1) Handle complaints about elected officials or their staff. This includes the Mayor, City Council members, the City Attorney, and Municipal Court Judges; (2) Handle complaints outside City government (e.g., King County, Washington State, or the Federal Government); (3) Handle complaints about private businesses or nonprofit agencies; or (4) Have the authority to require City departments to take action or change policy. However, the Bureau can recommend changes in City department policy or rules and point out apparent inequities in service delivery."

Neighborhood planning changes. The July 30 CNC meeting will consider a response to the Mayor's proposed changes in neighborhood planning. On July 5, the Deputy Mayor presented the attached proposals to the City Council's Committee on Economic Development and Neighborhoods (view at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=economicDevNeighborhoods>, beginning at 1:25:00 into the meeting). The Mayor wishes to impose "standardization" on the 38 neighborhood plans, and no longer to contract with grassroots neighborhood planning groups, but rather for changes in the plans to be done by Department of Planning and Development and Department of Neighborhoods staff. Although members of the Planning Commission were privately consulted in the development of these proposals, there was no consultation with the neighborhood plan stewardship committees, the district councils, the City Neighborhood Council, or its neighborhood planning committee. And rather than going out to those groups now, the Department of Neighborhoods is convening a Community Sounding Board (whether it can choose its own procedures or leadership remains to be seen) consisting of: Cindi Barker, Ron Boddie, Steve Cohn, Gregory Davis, Judith Edwards, Steven Fischer, Tony Fuoco, Vafa Ghaz, Jody Grage, Darryl James, Alan Kurimura, Bea Kumasaka, Mona Lee, Phil Mocek, Rob Mohn, Jim O'Halloran, Martin Powell, George Staggers, Catherine Stanford, Rene Staton, Jean Sundborg, Jessica Vets, Mark Wainwright, Patty Whisler, and William Zosel.

The first meeting of the Community Sounding Board is Monday, July 23, 6-8 p.m. in the Beacon Hill Library, 2821 Beacon Avenue S. You will hear what changes the Mayor wants to make in the neighborhood plans, and it is possible there will be opportunity for public comment. Everyone (including sounding board members) is welcome to attend the next day's meeting of the City Neighborhood Council's neighborhood planning committee, Tuesday, July 24, 6:00 p.m. at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia, at which a recommended CNC letter on this topic will be discussed. For background, see the attached reports from CNC's May 19 workshop on neighborhood planning, a video of which is available at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5010730>, or a link can be found on the CNC/district councils web site at <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>. Also, the Seattle P-I had seven articles on neighborhood planning on July 5 and 6: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322672\\_proposal06.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322672_proposal06.html) [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322517\\_neighborhoodplans05.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322517_neighborhoodplans05.html) [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322521\\_madpark05.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322521_madpark05.html)

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322520\\_beaconhill05.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322520_beaconhill05.html)  
[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322711\\_southeast06.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322711_southeast06.html)  
[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322686\\_jimdiers06.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322686_jimdiers06.html)  
[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322695\\_roosevelt06.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/322695_roosevelt06.html)

Neighborhood Street Fund/Cumulative Reserve Fund. If your district has not already done so, it is urgent to nominate one person to serve as your levy-funded NSF Large Project Review Team representative, (you may also nominate others to be considered for the four at-large positions). Attached is information from SDOT regarding these 17 openings for citizen volunteers to serve on this committee that will rate the applications that citizens submitted in May. The group will meet on Sept. 6 and Oct. 11, 18, and 25 (all at 6:30 p.m.), and its members are expected to drop in to at least two of the six open houses that will be held on Sept. 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20 (all 5 to 8 p.m.). If you are interested in serving, please contact your district council (contact information is at [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil)). On July 30, the City Neighborhood Council will take action on any names that it has received as of that date. If your district council takes action after July 30, please provide the names at your earliest convenience.

In the attached July 11 letter, the Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group wrote to the Mayor opposing SDOT's removal of the the levy-funded NSF from the established district council review and ratings process, its disqualification of projects costing less than \$100,000, and its departure from the annual cycle by attempting to pre-commit the next three years of funding based on what was applied for as of this May. These positions are equally those of the the City Neighborhood Council as reflected in its March 27 letter (available at [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil)). Now that the "large" project applications are listed on the City web site at [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/btgnscrf](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/btgnscrf), the district councils can offer their comments and ratings, just as they did for the "small" project applications. SDOT has cited the Neighborhood Matching Fund as a model, and CNC's March 27 letter points out that although "CNC believes that it is best to keep at the district council level the full responsibility for recommending a rating for each project," the NMF model "would still leave the district councils with half the potential rating points for each project." SDOT and the Large Project Review Team (along with the Mayor and City Council) will benefit from knowing your district's priorities regarding NSF projects that citizens have nominated within your borders.

October workshop on community-building. District councils are invited to co-sponsor an October workshop on community-building, modeled after the January 27 event which featured public officials and citizen speakers, and breakout sessions so that everyone was heard. The January workshop was organized by a committee of district council representatives and their neighborhood service coordinators. Video of the event is at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5010713>. Several district councils have signed on, and it would be most welcome if your district council

would be co-sponsor, designate a volunteer to serve on the planning committee, and arrange for your district coordinator to allocate \$100-200 from your district's outreach fund. Soon please contact Judith Edwards (Greater Duwamish District Council, and CNC Secretary) at [judedw@comcast.net](mailto:judedw@comcast.net) or 329-8801.

Chris Leman, CNC Chair