

CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes for the October 26, 2009 meeting

District Council representatives in attendance: Dan Wasell, (North District); Laine Ross (Downtown District); Steve Sindiong, CNC Secretary; Chas Redmond, (Southwest District); Nicole Franklin, (Magnolia/Queen Anne District); Ref Lindmark, CNC Transportation Committee Chair; Kathy Nyland, CNC Chair; Dennis Ross, (Southwest District); Dick Burkhardt, (Southeast District); Pete Spalding, (Delridge District); Andrew Taylor, (East District); Brian Ramey, (Lake Union District); Mike Warren, CNC Youth, Education and Schools Committee Chair; Robert Drucker, (Ballard District Council); Jim del Ciello, (Southwest District Council)

Guests in attendance: Veronica Sherman King, DON; Dan Nolte, Councilmember Clark's Office; Tim Gallagher, Parks; John Creighton, Seattle Port Commission; Richard Min, Aurora Merchants; Gary Brisky, West Seattle citizen

Agenda and Minutes

Was approved with revision

September minutes were approved with one abstention

Mike McGinn/Mayoral Candidate

Q. Previous Mayor replaced many department directors. Will you also?

A. Not ready to answer this question. There are many good directors; will need further analysis. Will have one-on-one conversation with department heads, if elected.

Q. Explain your position on the tunnel? Have you changed your mind?

A. Do not think highly of tunnel. Think it is not a good choice for city...economically, environmentally, etc. Not a good use of resources. Question on position came up frequently at town hall meetings. After City Council vote, felt it was important to acknowledge how process works. Doesn't change view that it is a bad idea. Agreement does not address cost overruns and who is responsible for.

Q. What lessons have you learned on the campaign trail? Is running for office what you expected? What do you think your chances are?

A. Currently at a dead heat. Think chances are good. Campaign more intense than expected. Ultimately about voters and how to implement a future people want to see. Gained a better appreciation for how the democratic process works. Has been an unbelievable, life-altering experience.

Q. How will you prevent bus congestion/back-ups in Pioneer Square when Viaduct comes down?

A. Congestion will happen regardless of tunnel option. Spokane Street improvements will help. Need a dedicated ROW for Spokane Street to get busses in from West and South Seattle.

Q. What is ideal relationship between City Council and Mayor?

A. Need to recognize common goals and shared values. Need vigorous and open discussion about options. Can disagree but still have process for making decisions and moving forward.

Q. What is the biggest misconception about you?

A. Taking negative stands on some issues has sometimes been used to portray as non-collaborative. Have done much collaborative work in the past, including Bridging the Gap, Parks Levy, Great City and work in Greenwood.

Q. How will you work with the County/Legislature to make sure Seattle has adequate transit in the future?

A. This is a priority. Failure to protect bus service is a regional failure. Need to find way to get more service; look at ROW usage. Leadership from Mayor's Office helps. Need to challenge leaders to be accountable.

Q. Mayoral Campaign has been memorable. How will you heal divide?

A. Have always tried to focus on issues. Don't feel personal attacks have any place in politics. Should focus on issues and policies.

Q. Would you support amendment to land use code to disallow offices and commercial space in parks?

A. Probably wouldn't. Is a fine balance between public use and commercial enterprise. Restaurants, etc. make spaces more inviting. Must serve the park's purposes.

Q. You have expressed support for neighborhood planning. Current budget cuts NPAC funding. Should City staff or citizens do planning?

A. Current neighborhood planning is being done differently from original process. Current process appears to be a bit more top-down and controlled. In previous process was a collaboration between community, consultants and city staff. Current DPD-led model seems to focus on zoning. Need to address other issues: transportation, schools, public safety, etc.

Q. How do you envision future steps in the neighborhood plan process? Should focus be on station areas, transit corridors, urban villages, etc.?

A. Have a hiatus due to the economy. Gives a chance to look and see how things should be. Light rail is important to new development. Have heard some dissatisfaction over the NPAC process. Want to hear more from public how the process should be improved. Need to be ready to go forward when economy improves.

Q. What is your definition of a NIMBY?

A. People should care about their neighborhoods. Someone who has lost sight of larger goals we are trying to achieve.

Q. CNC is designed to be a two-way conduit between city government and councils/neighborhoods for exchange of information. What role would CNC/District Councils play in your administration?

A. Was a member of the NW District Council for years. Some councils are more productive than others. Would be happy to discuss what role should be. Not sure it is working right now.

Q. Chris Leman having just returned from Chicago, noticed Mayor Daley's name on everything; Greg Nickels has been similar. Would you also do this?

A. Would be pressure to put name on everything, but think city/community should take ownership/pride in accomplishments. Not about Mayor. Mayor should provide leadership, set course, but allow others to own and work toward goals.

Q. Concern over libraries closing two days a week due to budget cuts.

A. Would like libraries to be open; provide a lifeline for people.

Q. What will be first two priorities?

A. First to build a strong team. Second priority, budget issues. Be sure budget is aligned with priorities. Also to establish open process with community, norms of behavior.

Q. Any plans to improve walking/cycling in the city?

A. Regular biker. There is a bike and pedestrian master plan and urban mobility plan. Need to make choices on best ways to serve people given budget situation. Will to reallocate ROW for busses and other modes of transportation.

Q. What does Mike McGinn do for fun?

A. Gardening, playing with kids, listening to music, sea kayaking, back packing.

2010 CNC Elections

Slate of candidates:

Chair: Chas Redmond

Vice-Chair: Jim del Ciello

Secretary: Nicole Franklin

Committees:

Budget – no nominations

Neighborhood Matching Fund: Laine Ross

Neighborhood Planning – no nominations

Youth/Education – no nominations

Transportation – Ref Lindmark willing to serve again, Dick Burkhart will serve as co-chair

Chris Leman stated he would be willing to serve as chair of Budget Committee, but would like Kathy to check with a couple of others who might be interested first. He suggested that Irene Wall and Cindi Barker be phoned to see if they are interested in chairing the Planning Committee. Peter Aberg may be interested in the Youth and Education Chair position. Kathy will make follow-up phone calls. There is an opportunity to begin a new process with new mayor. Nominations open up until election.

Committee Reports

Budget: Ron Boddie has been out with a family emergency. Chris Leman reported. A Parks Department employee attended the last committee meeting and talked about Parks maintenance and budget issues. CNC budget letter this year did not address Parks maintenance issues. Seattle Center will host biennial budget conference next year on Saturday, February 13. Hope to have new mayor available to keynote. District Councils can still send letters on budget to City Council. Suggestion that if libraries shorten hours, it would be better to go to a 1-8 p.m. schedule for better public service.

Neighborhood Matching Fund: Laine Ross

Discussed CRT panel recommendations at last meeting. Discussed 2010 CRT orientation materials and recruitment process. Many 2009 members interested in serving in 2010. Discussed NMF evaluation and asked for extension for comments to November 6. DON staff has been attending District Council meetings to get feedback. Chris Leman suggested asking for extension until the end of November and approval of a letter to City Council opposing City-wide Large Projects and increase in award amount. Not all District Councils have had a chance to weigh in on evaluation or proposed changes. CNC approved motion to draft a letter requesting more time to review evaluation and recommendations until after the new administration takes office. Feeling that community-building aspect of NMF would be undermined with proposed changes.

Neighborhood Planning: NPAC meeting tomorrow.

Transportation: Ref Lindmark

SDOT doing good job of finding new ways to communicate information i.e. twitter, facebook, streaming video. Neighborhood Street Fund Oversight Committee – going to district councils to provide input/prioritization, adding projects. SDOT has released Snow Plan – policy changes related to sanding/de-icing. Snow routes have been identified. Metro will be releasing its plan soon. Metro service changes – proposed 10% cut to all routes. To be treated as suspensions, not cuts. This allows service to resume more quickly when economy improves. This decision is still under debate. Metro working on better notification system to riders during storms.

Youth/Education/Schools: Mike Warren

Need to plan for workshop next year relating to what neighborhoods can do in relation to youth violence.

Executive Committee – Conference call November 2 to set agenda and solidify election slate.

Noise Ordinance: Discussion around removal of noise in new ordinance relating to nuisance establishments.
Kathy will e-mail and outline pros and cons.