

CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes for the June 29, 2009 meeting

District Council representatives in attendance: Chris Leman (Lake Union District Council); Laine Ross, (Downtown District Council and CNC Vice Chair); Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish District Council and CNC Chair); Steve Sindiong (Southwest District Council and CNC Secretary); Ref Lindmark, (CNC Transportation Chair); Mike Warren (Youth and Education Committee Chair); Robert Drucker (Ballard District Council); Pete Spalding, (Delridge District Council); Dan Wasell, North District Council; Janis Maloney, East District Council); Bruce Wynn, (Queen Anne/Magnolia District Council); Andrew Taylor, (East District Council); Judith Edwards, (Greater Duwamish District); Chas Redmond, (Southwest District Council); Paul Stoms, (East District Council), Dennis Saxman, (East District Council)

Guests in attendance: Veronica Sherman King, Hazel Bhang Barnett, Patricia Lopez, Laurie Ames, DON, Dan Nolte, Councilmember Clark's Office, Mary Denzel, City Auditor's Office,

Agenda and Minutes

Agenda was approved. May minutes were approved with no changes.

City wide Review Team, Patricia Lopez, Robert Drucker (CRT Chair)

Large Project Award recommendations were distributed. Robert described the CRT review and ranking process. Nineteen projects are being recommended for \$1,359,586 in funding. Recommendations go to the full City Council on July 27. Award ceremony to be held on August 29. Recommendations were unanimously accepted.

NMF Evaluation, Hazel Bhang Barnett, DON

Memo that was presented at June 24 Council presentation was distributed. Some process improvement changes have already been implemented, more are proposed. Evaluation was done in 2008 to respond to emerging needs and gather feedback from the community (held focus group meetings). Goal is to be more community and user friendly. Seventy-one people participated. Hope to finalize and publish evaluation in August. Working on on-going methods to gather data and evaluate program. Difficult to measure intangible social capital. Will provide copies to CNC NMF Committee in early July for input before final version published.

Q. Concern over cuts to NMF staffing. Why were these cuts made?

A. Budget forced cuts to non-union staff. Seniority was also one of several factors used in making cuts.

Q. How will cuts affect ability to deliver program?

A. Will be difficult. Hope some of the program changes will help.

Q. A weakness that was cited was coordination between departments, but no recommendations listed.

A. Also working on as part of process changes. Want to make a seamless system.

Comment: NMF can help develop new leadership in community.

Q. What percentage of the NMF budget was spent on Large Project recommendations?

A. No Large Project fund monies were diverted to other funds. Money for Youth Violence Initiative was added funding.

Q. Feel that money has been diverted over the years to new programs, leaving inadequate funding for regular Matching Fund.

Q. Chris Leman stated that changes should not be implemented when CNC has not seen audit. There have been concerns about overhead costs of program. Does evaluation look at overhead? Less overhead translates into more dollars to grants.

A. No cuts to fund itself. Hope that process changes lessen impacts of staffing cuts.

District Council Audit, Mary Denzel, Auditor's Office

Copies of audit were distributed. Disconnect between what district council members feel their role is and what the City thinks the role is. Also issues around level of City staffing.

Q. What is the next step?

A. Audit will be presented to City Council on July 6. City decides what to do about recommendations.

Comment: SDOT, DPD should use District Councils as sounding boards. Currently do not do this often. Would have been nice to have included dollar amount of city support to organizations in report.

A. Was able to talk with 8 other cities. Even cities that spent lots on support had challenges.

Comment: Feeling that evaluation is negatively slanted by issues in SE District Council. District Councils are doing great work in the City. Report did not do enough to highlight the positive aspects of the Council system.

Comment: Chris Leman stated that draft seems to state that district councils are not to take stand on issues, only provide information. Legislation states that district councils are assigned to make comments on budget and other issues. Page 10 of audit quotes Resolution, which was carefully written so that district councils would not take the place of community councils/business councils in community.

A. Trying to show there is confusion over role and it needs to be clarified. City Neighborhood Council has more of an advisory role, legislation states district councils only "comment".

Comment: Chris Leman stated that one thing missing from report was value of independent district council system, where members are designated by stakeholder groups, rather than appointed by City Council/Mayor.

Roundtable Conversation

CNC Committees

Questions have arisen over structure and communication. How can processes be simplified?

Mike Warren: having difficulty getting his committee going. Information is on calendar; very few people are coming to meeting. If there are going to be committees, there needs to be commitment for representation.

By-laws say there must be two voting CNC members on committee. Others can also attend.

CNC members are already attending many meetings and serve on various community committees.

Ref Lindmark: Recruited from district councils for Transportation Committee. Have to put forth effort to get people to attend. Have also sent out e-mail invitations.

Chris Leman: There are a lot of resources available. Can put information on the website. Need to schedule meetings far in advance. Locations could be an issue. Might extend conference calling to other committees.

Pete Spalding: If no one is attending meeting, perhaps the committee is not relevant to the CNC.

Chris Leman: Bylaws state committees must meet at least four times per year.

Ref Lindmark: Hope was to get additional attendance at committee meeting, not only CNC members – would like people from outside CNC to attend. Need to be sure CNC Committees are reporting back to District Councils.

Kathy Nyland: Chairs should write a paragraph on focus and mission of each committee for District Councils

Chris Leman: Bylaws also state committees can have co-chairs and vice chairs. Co-chairs are nominated and elected by CNC, vice chairs by committee.

Note: CNC Candidate's Forum is available on Seattle Channel. Have received lots of positive feedback. Event cost just over \$500.

Committee Updates

Budget Committee

Shared draft letter on budget. Discussion of section listing possible cuts. Union contracts make wage cuts unlikely without member approval. Letter was tabled without further action at this time. Let District Councils know they should submit budget letters if they wish.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee

Will resume meeting monthly. NMF Program evaluation will be discussed. Meeting in July.

Neighborhood Planning Committee

Working on letter regarding multi-family code. The code is removing references to neighborhood planning and focusing on density. The goal of the City is to focus on lowrise density first, then higher density, and pass as a package. The City wants to have the code adopted by the end of 2009.

Transportation Committee

Regularly meet on Fridays at the Municipal Tower. SDOT rep attended last meeting and discussed traffic calming in neighborhoods. SDOT working on better communication with District Councils. Discussed Metro service cuts. Currently looking at service cuts that would have some impacts to all service types. Also discussing eliminating the downtown ride free zone. Working on letter to bring to CNC. There is a strong sense that Rapid Ride must be delivered with the service that was passed by voters. Link Light Rail set to open in July.

Youth, School & Education Committee

Will meet Thursday at Magnolia/Queen Anne NSC. Will be discussing how to assist with Youth Violence Prevention efforts.

CNC Executive Committee

Discussed Candidate's Forum, Bylaws, Code of Conduct. Next meeting July 6 at 615-1200. July agenda: Parks Levy, Housing Levy; September: Budget; October: Mayoral Candidates