

# City Neighborhood Council

*Agenda: July 27, 2009*

**Chair:** Kathy Nyland (Greater Duwamish) [kennyland@comcast.net](mailto:kennyland@comcast.net)  
**Vice Chair:** Laine Ross (Downtown) [laine@ceoworkz.com](mailto:laine@ceoworkz.com)  
**Secretary:** Steve Sindiong (Southwest) [gnoidnis@comcast.net](mailto:gnoidnis@comcast.net)

## **West Precinct:**

810 Virginia St  
Seattle, WA 98101

## **DRAFT AGENDA:**

6:30 Introductions, review/approval of agenda and of June minutes

- Introductions
- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes

6:40 Karen O'Conner

- Parks Department
- Parks Levy update

6:55 Bylaw proposal, introduction

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Suggested change is the following:

3.2 Term of Office: Each elected officer shall serve for a term of one (1) year commencing on January 1 and lasting through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

7:05 Roundtable

- District Council audit
- Possible budget letter (below)
- Possible NMF letter (attached)

7:20 Committee updates

- Budget Committee—Ron Boddie, Chair

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- Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee--Laine Ross, Chair
- Neighborhood Planning Committee—Irene Wall, Chair
- Transportation Committee—Ref Lindmark, Chair
- Youth, School & Education Committee--Mike Warren, Chair
- CNC executive committee

8:10 Adjourn, though aiming for 8:00 pm!

### **Upcoming meetings:**

CNC Committees:

- Budget Committee: Tuesday, August 4, at 5 p.m. in City Hall's room 370
- Neighborhood Matching Fund Oversight Committee
- Neighborhood Planning Committee
- Transportation Committee:
- Youth, School & Education Committee, will meet again in September
- CNC Executive Committee: will meet again in September

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Budget:**

#### **CNC Budget Committee meets Tuesday, August 4, at 5 p.m. in City Hall's room 370**

All are welcome at the next meeting of the City Neighborhood Council's Budget Committee--Tuesday, August 4, 5 p.m. in room 370 (third floor) of City Hall, 601 Fifth Avenue. The draft agenda includes (1) draft mission statement for the committee (see below); (2) recent City performance audit of the district councils and its implications for neighborhood participation in budget decisions; and (3) review of CNC by-laws regarding the committee. For questions, or to suggest other items for the agenda, contact committee chair Ron Boddie at [theglobalcommunityworldtalk4um@msn.com](mailto:theglobalcommunityworldtalk4um@msn.com).

#### **Mission of the CNC Budget Committee**

Draft mission statement (for discussion by the committee and the CNC). "On behalf of the City Neighborhood Council, the CNC Budget Committee informs and engages District Councils and neighborhood organizations in the City budget process and encourages them to voice their views to the Mayor and City Council as City resolutions 27709 and 28115 empower them to do. Toward this end, the Budget Committee helps organize CNC's biennial Citizens Budget Conference, assists in development of CNC's summer and fall budget letters to the Mayor and City Council, and works to create additional opportunities for neighborhood involvement in budget decisions."

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Background. City Council resolutions 27709 and 28115 state in identical language that "The responsibility of the City Neighborhood Council shall include review and recommendations regarding City budget issues, including the general fund, capital and block grant budgets, and the Neighborhood Matching Fund." These resolutions also state that "The City Council shall consider the recommendations of the City Neighborhood Council and the comments of neighborhood organizations and District Councils in its review and actions on the City budget."

CNC by-law section 4.2(2) states that the CNC Budget Committee "shall collaborate with the City to identify and develop ways for neighborhood organizations to timely be involved with and influence the City's capital budget and portions of the operating budget that deal with physical improvements." Accordingly, the Committee has organized on behalf of the CNC the biennial Citizens Budget Conference, which is held in January of even-numbered years. Televised by the Seattle Channel and with City Councilmembers and the Mayor or Deputy Mayor as guest speakers, the Citizens Budget Conference is an unofficial kickoff for development of the biennial budget. Working with City officials, the Committee has also helped design several budget involvement processes that empower citizens.

Each summer for presentation to the City Council in late September, the Mayor prepares a proposed City budget, and then the City Council makes various amendments and adopts the budget by December. The Budget Committee assists the CNC as it develops and adopts a summer budget letter to the Mayor and a fall budget letter to the City Council. The CNC Budget Committee seeks to involve the District Councils and other volunteers in these discussions. The draft recommendations that emerge are circulated by the City Neighborhood Council to the district councils and then, based on their input, CNC amends and adopts its summer and fall budget letters. The CNC budget committee also encourages the district councils to write their own budget letters to the Mayor and City Council, especially on issues that are primarily district-related. The committee's meetings are open to the public and often include City staff or City Councilmembers as guest speakers.

### **Draft of possible recommendations to the Mayor on his forthcoming 2010 budget proposals**

*Annually each summer in time for the Mayor's formulation of a proposed City budget, the City Neighborhood Council provides to the Mayor its budget recommendations. For this year's letter, below are draft recommendations for consideration by the City Neighborhood Council at its July meeting. They are adapted from budget letters that the CNC sent in past years and the discussion at the June 29 City Neighborhood Council meeting.*

Introduction. Continuing in the budget advisory role assigned by City legislation to the City Neighborhood Council and the District Councils, CNC can offer the following suggestions for the budget. As revenues will be lower than when the City Council endorsed a 2010 tentative budget last year, cuts will be necessary. CNC suggests that the needed economies not come from direct services to the public.

Neighborhood programs. The Neighborhood Matching Fund keeps Seattle's neighborhoods livable, and by leveraging private dollars and volunteers, brings double value. It has not fully recovered from past cuts, and should not be cut further. The Neighborhood Service Centers and District Coordinators

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empower residents, businesses, and District Councils, and should be kept. Neighborhood planning outreach efforts, if done well, result in better and longer-lasting plans; if outreach funding is cut, the timetable for completing neighborhood plan revisions should be extended.

Human needs and direct public services. Recent years' cuts have hurt the most vulnerable, and further reductions should be avoided. Community center and youth programming have barely recovered from the cuts of several years ago. To leave the community centers closed to late-night users would jeopardize the development and safety of youth. Libraries are very important places for job search, enrichment of public discourse, and informal learning, and should be kept open throughout the week and the year.

Public safety and emergency preparedness. Uniformed police and fire service is of the highest priority, and will go furthest with fully funded civilian support for voluntary block watch and emergency preparedness efforts.

*The above draft recommendations are offered for CNC amendment and possible adoption in a letter to the Mayor, who is preparing his proposed budget for submission to the City Council in September.*

### **NMF:**

On hiatus.

At the June CNC, Hazel assured the CNC that we would be involved in the vetting of the NMF audit and she would route it through the NMF Committee. The hope was for the report to be finalized by August, before budget.

After numerous communications from Laine to Hazel, the report is on hold, most likely until after budget.

### **Transportation:**

Notes from CNC Transportation Committee, Friday July 17

1. Jim Curtin from SDOT presented the Aurora Ave Traffic Safety Project.-

[www.seattle.gov/transportation/aurorasafety.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/aurorasafety.htm)

a) Project followed an effort on Rainier Ave S and tied into the Aurora Ave Action Agenda (a multi neighborhood community organizing project). Aurora Ave N has had over 1500 collisions since Apr 2005 (ped, auto, etc) which is 46 per month. There are over 86,000 vehicles trips on average on Aurora. The target of the project is to reduce accidents by 25% using a number of strategies. Since it will be difficult to do much engineering changes most of the strategies are low cost and educational. They will use: signage changes, radar speed signs, reflective lane markers, pedestrian countdown signals, increase police presence, neighborhood outreach and some social marketing ideas such as Facebook. They are going to put in two pedestrian activated signal crossings (N 115th, N 130th).

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b) The project includes actions on the south end of Aurora (near QA) where they will use radar speed signs, improving on and off ramp at Canlis, new channelizations to make sure folks stay in their lanes, and new reflective lane markers.

c) The effort on Rainier Ave S has resulted in an 8% reduction in accidents and now that construction on MLK is done, they are looking for more reductions.

d) Jim said that these projects are often funded with grants, BTG, and regular operating dollars. They are looking at other large corridors such as Lake City Way for doing these multi-faceted strategies to reduce accidents, increase pedestrian safety and manage speeds.

### 2. Bridging the Gap Head Tax

The Mayor, Richard Colin and Tim Burgess have proposed repeal of the BTG Hours Tax. Ref shared Dwight Dively's letter to Councilmember Drago saying that the parking tax is raising more money than they expected and repealing the head tax would not impact the BTG workplan. We had a discussion of the pros and cons of the tax, the timing of the repeal legislation, and the response from the community so far. The Seattle Times, DSA, and some candidates for Mayor and Council have publicly supported the repeal. Feetfirst, some members of the Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group, members of the BTG Citizen oversight group and others have expressed concern about the repeal. The current plan is for the issue to be introduced on Monday 7/20 and taken up by Council during the budget process.

### 3. Metro Issues

a) We reviewed the Metro report to the Regional Transit Committee on the Ride Free Area. The gist of it is that the City of Seattle's contribution along with operational savings from not having to collect fares in the downtown cover the cost of the service. There would be some savings however there would also be a significant operational cost to removing it. The report also raised issues if other areas of the county wanted to do Ride Free Area.

b) The budget issues that could lead to service reduction are continuing. It is expected that the Executive will make some proposals as will members of the County Council. There are major efforts being explored that will minimize the cuts in the short term while long range ideas are developed. Long range ideas include new tax revenues, rethinking Ferry District, etc.

3. We had a short discussion of a Comprehensive Plan amendment that will be proposed to have the City work with Metro on the impact of the heavy buses on city streets. Chris will present to the CNC meeting on the 27th.

4. LINK service for SE Seattle. We discussed some of the issues associated with LINK and ORCA and how this will impact human service agencies, cash paying customers, etc.

### **Youth, School, and Education:**

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Mike suggested we have Mariko Lockhart from DON attend a CNC meeting. She is the new liaison for the Youth Violence Initiative.

He is still working on recruiting ideas and the committee will reconvene in September.

### **CNC Executive:**

Talked a bit more about the rules of conduct and standards. We will glance over the bylaws and collect information about missing pieces and possible suggestions.

We would like to introduce the notion of changing bylaws, passage 3.2.

According to the CNC bylaws (7.1), a proposed amendment shall be amended by a 2/3 vote at a meeting following introduction at a prior meeting. We would like to introduce this proposal at the July meeting so it can be voted on at the September meeting.

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We continued to hear great feedback about the Candidates' Forum. We will look into inviting the two Mayoral candidates (the two who make it past primary) to the October meeting. We touched upon the pros and cons of having a separate meeting to meet the candidates but felt we could achieve this at our regularly scheduled CNC meeting.

Talked about the NMF report and how we are going to vet it in such a tight timeline since DON wants it finalized before the budget process begins.