

CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes for the September 28, 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; Chris Leman (Lake Union District); Irene Wall, (Northwest District); Ron Boddie, CNC Budget Committee Chair; Paul Stoms, (East District); Dick Burkhart, (Southeast District); Kathy Nyland, CNC Chair; Dennis Ross, (Southwest District); Janis Maloney, (East District); Dick Burkhart, (Southeast District); Pete Spalding, (Delridge District); Andrew Taylor, (East District)

Guests in attendance: Dan Nolte, Councilmember Clark's Office; Stella Chao, Patricia Lopez, Veronica Sherman King, DON; Tim Gallagher, Parks

Agenda and Minutes

Agenda was approved.

June and July minutes were approved with no changes.

Dwight Dively, Budget Update

Dwight would be happy to attend District Council meetings. He is scheduled to attend Ballard, North and Delridge District Council meetings.

Economic Forecast – serious fiscal situation for Seattle. In better shape than state or county. Worst recession nationally since the '30's; was worse in Seattle in '69/70. Recovery is likely to be slow. May be five years until economic activity returns to pre-recession level. Unemployment likely to continue to rise to 8-10% for foreseeable future.

City sales taxes for 4th quarter 08 and 1st quarter 09 were worst quarters since sales tax collections began in the '70s. B&O tax is also at record low since statistics have been kept. General fund forecast from 09-10 – every category to have lower revenues with the exception of utilities. There is a \$72 million gap for general subfund. Unions voted to accept 10-day furloughs to reduce layoffs. \$25 million will be used from \$36 million rainy day fund. Departments identified \$10 million in cuts.

Looking at 2011, Council will need to raise taxes or cut spending to meet an additional \$40 million in budget needs. Biggest priorities for Mayor are public safety and human services. Police officers were not cut. Human services were not cut, with the exception of staffing. Youth Violence Prevention was fully funded. Average cuts for departments, with the exception of Police and Fire was 4.4%

Library hours will be cut at 22 branches – going to a 35 hour week. Six libraries will gain additional hours.

City Light will propose rate increase of 8.8% to take effect January 1. Water and solid waste rates will also be going up. Fleets and Facilities took substantial cuts to service and staff.

Bids on contracts are coming in 15-25% below estimates. An additional \$1.4 million was able to be reallocated to bike/pedestrian master plan projects.

Budget now goes to Council. Two public hearings will be held. Council votes on final budget the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Q&A

Q. Chris Leman asked about Community Service Officers. Is money going to crime prevention coordinators, or is it giving back to general fund or police?

A. The money is stimulus funds and is going to General Fund.

Q. Chris Leman asked about use of Aid cars and reducing personnel on fire trucks to staff them.

A. The Fire Department is opposed to reducing personnel on trucks.

Q. Irene Wall asked if most of the 300+ positions being eliminated were filled or were proposed positions.

A. 116 positions were filled, most were vacant.

Q. Dennis Ross asked about the possibility of using volunteers to keep libraries open.

A. Labor laws prohibit use of volunteers to fill in for staff positions.

Q. Ref Lindmark suggested the library system should look for partnerships within the community.

Q. Irene Wall asked if the Council passed a change to B&O taxes.

A. State has a different approach. Related to Russel Financial move to Seattle. City provided new classification for Russel. Seattle charging higher rate than Tacoma was charging.

Ref Lindmark stated that the City continues to propose eliminating the head tax. Business community doesn't like this tax and feels it hurts economic activity.

Q. Chris Leman asked if cuts in crime prevention coordinators was made by Police Chief.

A. The coordinators weren't cut. They will be shifted to federal funding after April. The Police Chief makes the decision on how they will be deployed.

Pete Spalding/Parks Levy

Pete sits on the Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee. There is \$15 million in Opportunity funds. Projects to come from the community in early 2010. \$8 million will be available for first round. Proposals due February 1; with complete applications due early April. Reviews of proposed projects will be completed by September and will then go to Mayor and Council. Implementation will begin in January 2011. Funds can be used for property acquisition. Please take this information back to District Councils and Community Councils. There will be technical assistance workshops and three public hearings throughout the process.

Chas Redmond asked if funding could be used for Skate parks. The answer is yes.

Chris Leman asked how public support for proposals is being defined.

More will be known after meeting tomorrow to discuss criteria. Pete will e-mail information as soon as it is available.

Kathy Nyland asked if there was a cap on the funds. The answer is no.

Stella Chao/NMF Process Improvements

Evaluation has been in process a long time. Want to begin implementing changes suggested by the public. Submitted draft for review and comments. Please submit comments within the next month. Comments will be compiled and made part of the final version of the evaluation.

Over the years, rules and regulations have added to the complexity of the process. Trying to streamline and make the process easier and more transparent.

2009 Changes

Number of pages in Small and Simple application and number of copies requested reduced
Can now submit application via e-mail or fax
Simplifying invoicing process
Criteria have been made more relevant
Holding more workshops for community/groups
Implemented List Serve

Proposed 2010 Changes

One award ceremony per year
Streamline contracting
Reduce Small and Simple application cycles to two per year – January and July
Increase parameters/funding for Small Sparks

Would like CNC input on proposed changes as soon as possible due to need to prepare documents for January application cycle. Looking to increase award amounts to keep up with inflation. Large project funds to increase from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Not a change to total amount available for funding- could result in fewer projects being awarded. Allow city-wide projects? Increase city-wide funding to \$150,000?

Stella will be attending District Council meetings in October to discuss further.

Laine Ross stated the NMF Committee would be meeting on October 13 and would discuss the proposed changes.

Chris Leman stated it is unreasonable to ask for comments back in such a short time when the evaluation has been going on for two years and CNC was not involved during that time and was denied access to evaluation. He did not feel changes were directly related to suggestions made in evaluation. Kathy Nyland agreed, stating the CNC had been promised a copy of the evaluation in July, but was then denied. CNC has had no chance to comment before budget announced. He asked for cost of the evaluation, but that information was not available.

Individual CNC members should send comments to the NMF Committee, who will review them at the October 13 meeting and bring back to CNC in November.

Chris Leman stated that the proposed changes completely change the meaning of the fund, making it less grass roots and also funds social services.

Will be taking feedback; if community does not support, changes will not be made.

Roundtable

Nominating Committee – Kathy, Laine and Steve will serve on the committee. Chas Redmond volunteered to serve on Executive Committee next year. Slate of candidates will be presented next month. Chris Leman moved that Andrew Taylor also be on the nominating committee. Andrew accepted.

Mayoral/Council Candidate's Forums

Capitol Hill Community Council is sponsoring on Oct 17
Delridge District Council holding forum Oct 15
North Communities holding forum Oct 13

Budget Committee – Chris Leman

Will meet on Tuesday, October 6, 5 p.m. in City Hall Room 370
Will discuss budget proposal and discuss CNC budget letter

2011 biennial process begins in January 2010 – looking at scheduling event at Seattle Center Saturday, Jan. 23
Lake Union District Council prepared memo on public safety – should CNC prepare similar letter?

NMF Committee – Laine Ross

Next meeting will be October 13, 6 p.m. at Uptown Espresso in Belltown (4th and Wall St)

Neighborhood Planning Committee – Irene Wall

Currently working on NPAC and multi-family zoning

Three groups made comments on multi-family zoning at last PLUNC meeting

Multi-family zoning code changes/comments will be on Councilmember Clark's Website

Difficult to come up with good design that eliminates current problems with multi-family

Transportation Committee – Ref Lindmark

Discussed pending cuts to Metro. County Executive has proposed a 9-point strategy to avoid cuts subject to the 40/40/20 ratio. Nine percent cuts are being proposed to every route. No routes are being eliminated. Will be termed "suspensions" not "cuts". Proposal will protect Rapid Ride and Transit Now. Regional Transportation Committee to review.

Chas Redmond stated that Constantine and Hutchison have said they will eliminate the 40/40/20 ratio.

Ref stated they will need to have buy-off from the RTC. Are many ways to measure how services are deployed.

Pete Spalding stated that he understood the Transportation Committee will be reviewing the MOU on the Deep Bore Tunnel.

Chris Leman asked about recommendations related to ADA made in a Metro audit.

Most likely not looking at decreasing Access services.

Youth, Schools, Education Committee – Mike Warren

Meeting scheduled for October 1, 6 p.m. at Queen Anne/Magnolia Service Center

Thinking of doing site visit to middle school

CNC Executive Committee

The mayoral candidates, Mallahan and McGinn will be attending the October meeting – will either be held at West Precinct Meeting room or at City Hall.

Sent letter to Mayor on NMF and Budget

District Councils should review Lake Union letter and send their own letters to Council.