

Draft CNC February Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2012

District Council representatives in attendance: Chas Redmond, (Southwest District Council and CNC Chair); Phil Shack, (North District and CNC Vice-chair); Chris Leman, (Lake Union District and CNC Budget Committee Chair); Ref Lindmark, (Transportation Committee Co-Chair); Jody Grage, (Ballard District); Tony Provine, (Northeast District); Mike Warren, (Magnolia/Queen Anne District); Mathew McBride (Delridge District); Dan Wasell, (North District); Janis Maloney (East District); Irene Wall, (Northwest District and Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair); Sharon Sobers, (Central District)

Others in Attendance: Pamela Banks, DON; Michael Taylor-Judd, Delridge community member

Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approval

Agenda and January meeting minutes were approved with minor edits. Time added to agenda to include discussion of CNC letter to CM Burgess. CNC approved motion to allow re-arrangement of agenda items as needed during the meeting.

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Planning Committee–Irene Wall

Irene stated she has not received a response to the CNC letter dated December 10 on Comp Plan amendments. Discussed “Living Buildings” ordinance at last Neighborhood Planning Committee meeting on 3/21. Hearings on text amendment to the 2010 Pilot Living Buildings code amendments were suspended after two SEPA appeals were filed. Text amendment allows increases to zoned heights in three specific areas in the city with I/C zoning. Also increases the rooftop height allowances. First floor can be discounted from FAR calculations if it contains retail or entertainment uses. Earlier this week DPD withdrew its SEPA decision on the text amendment, which terminates the appeals and implies that DPD will revisit the issue in conjunction with the separate SEPA threshold decision on the Skanska development. Members of Wallingford Community Council attended the NPC committee meeting on 3/21 to voice concerns over the Skanska development in Fremont/Wallingford at 34th and Stone Way which appears to be relying on these future code amendments to secure a permit or a contract rezone to achieve similar goals. CNC has opportunity to provide input on this entire issue of code changes to encourage “living buildings” at future public hearing. What level of concessions is appropriate in order to achieve green buildings? What types of development lend themselves to these guidelines? Irene stated she would prepare a summary to share with the district councils so they could understand the issue in preparation for drafting a letter.

Transportation Committee –Ref Lindmark

Committee has begun meeting on 3rd Monday at noon. At last meeting Steve Pearce, lead planner for the Waterfront Plan, was the speaker. Transportation goal is to have streets at waterfront connected to street grid. Design has east-west connections to the waterfront throughout. Need to accommodate passenger/truck unloading zones. The only local transit being planned is a local circulator along waterfront. Trying to determine how RapidRide buses from SW Seattle will come into the downtown area. Looking at the use of flex lanes, where usage would change during the day. Three projects will be taking place along the waterfront: the seawall, the tunnel and rebuild of Alaska Way. Traffic will be moved around to accomplish the various pieces of work. Goal is to make the waterfront more of a meeting place for Seattle, not just a tourist attraction. Community member cautioned against rerouting transit down to the waterfront at the expense of other connections, such as Seattle Center. CNC member stated he had heard the vision was for a large boulevard to handle the traffic avoiding the tunnel. Vision seems to have changed to a large extent. CNC members stated desire for continued information as this process moves forward.

Budget Committee – Chris Leman

Committee has drafted a letter to CM Burgess relating to how to better involve the community in the budget process. CM Burgess is concerned that many community people cannot access hearings. He has suggested that speakers be selected randomly, rather than in order of sign-ups and assigning them specific times to speak. Suggested to have one pilot hearing next year to test this method.

CNC member stated that CM Burgess convened separate meetings with groups prior to the hearings. Impact of groups showing up en masse at hearings does have a powerful effect.

City Council is interested in trying some different methods, including opinion surveys, focus groups and possible use of Seattle Channel.

CM Burgess stated use of experts to analyze budget and propose adds/cuts could be helpful.

CNC member stated he felt there should be more public hearings on the budget and more hearings should be held out in the community. Want to retain certain number/percent of first come/first served hearings. Would like to see at least three hearings. Chris stated that the Council works daily on the budget as soon as they receive the Mayor's budget in late September. Hearings can stretch on for hours. Council would like to hear from new, diverse people, not the same people as usual.

CNC member suggested beginning to work on budget issues now and not wait until October. Due to budget timeline, should provide input in late spring/early summer. Should determine what percent in the budget can really be influenced and what is predetermined. Suggestion to have each councilmember hold individual budget hearings on the committee areas they chair. CNC member stated current process is that departments are given percents that they must cut from budget. By the time budget gets to the Council, there is not a whole lot that can be changed, although some changes are made. CNC member stated he would like to see facilitated discussions with Council at least in north, central, south areas of the city, if not in each district.

Would like to have approval of the letter, with revisions, tonight. CNC member suggested circulating the letter via e-mail for 48 hours and asking for feedback. Another CNC member asked to table a decision on the letter at this time so it could be presented to the district councils. Chas stated he would put together a revision with everyone's comments which could then be circulated through the district councils for further revisions. By the March meeting, should have sufficient feedback to approve the letter.

2012 Workplan

Chas stated this is a living document, which could be adopted and changed as necessary. It was so moved and approved unanimously.

Gathering of Neighbors Presentation

Delridge and Southwest District groups have put on six "gathering" events. The event is held annually to bring various members of the community together and make introductions and provide information and resources. This year's event will be a six hour event, with three, 2-hour sections, including a leadership section, community empowerment section, and a "gathering- making connections" section. Will be held at Chief Sealth High School. Looking for in-kind donations. Will feature local performers, food vendors, etc. Would like to see this type of event duplicated around the city.

CNC member asked about cost. Costs are around \$4,000 - \$5,000. Cost of rental can be as high as \$1,500. Another big expense is printing flyers/posters. This can cost as much as \$800 to \$1,000. You may need to rent tables and tents. You can generally get volunteer help, donations from businesses, charge for tables, etc.

This year is the first year that the event has been totally volunteer/community driven, without a sponsor. It is doable.

CNC member stated that CNC had requested funding in its budget letters for money for this type of event. Would like to see DON provide some funding and staffing. In the past, DON has provided some funding for this event.

CNC member asked about attendance. Answer was first year was small, but it built over the years. The 2010 event estimate was around 300 people. Don't really want the numbers to turn it into a community fair type event; trying to keep it fairly small.

Themes/topics can be different every year. Great opportunity to learn about a number of topics on a single day in one location. CNC members stated they would like presentations at their district council meetings on organizing this type of event.

CNC member asked about long term benefits of the event.

Event is similar to a leadership building program, where one of the overarching goals is to introduce community leaders to one another so they can work together on issues that come up in the future. Has been helpful in dealing with DESC issue in West Seattle. Connections had already been created.

Also a good morale booster for community leaders/activists to see what they can accomplish together. It is empowering for the community. Also good to show the city and even businesses that the community is empowered and active and deserves attention/respect.

CNC member asked about relationship with Sustainable West Seattle. Chas responded that Sustainable West Seattle has become stronger and gained members through the event.

Chas stated as time was running short, remaining agenda items would be tabled until the next meeting.