

## **CNC September Meeting Minutes**

January 31, 2011

The agenda and the December meeting minutes were approved.

### **Presentation and Comments on Departing NDC staff**

Roundtable 'thank you's' and 'good lucks' were expressed to Ted Divina, Leroy Chin, and Beth Pflug who are onto other endeavors. Some members shared great stories of their work with Ted, Leroy and Beth. They will all be missed by the CNC and the city government as a whole. Flowers were presented to Beth as well as cards to each of them. The room gave a standing round of applause as an overall expression of gratitude. Beth and Ted all thanked the CNC for its work and value to the city. Leroy informed us the group that he is still going to be around.

### **Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith**

Has been working in the position for a year and is pleased to present to the CNC. Said that the interim director of DON, Bernie Matsuno, will be staying on board for now.

Darryl feels really good about the district coordinator team process. He stated that they want to hear feedback from the CNC. He thanks the CNC for its work.

Daryl believes that he and administration see an important role for district councils. He also feels there is a big role for the administration to play to get more community involvement. The mayor's office wants to have a good relationship with the district councils. So let's communicate.

Q: I have been involved with parks and particularly Magnuson Park. It has been a while since we have had Christopher Williams, who is acting head of Parks Department, in charge. What is process to find a new Parks Director?

A: We are not actively looking.

Q: I am the chair of NPC and I have been chatting with DPD regarding scheduling on the comprehensive plan update. I've heard that the Mayor's office has its own plans for comp plan update process. When will we know?

A: That is not my specific area. I will get back to you about that.

Q: In the statement of legislative intent for DON --- you cite that you want more outreach and for community and civic engagement. You must have given some thought on community engagement? What are you doing to work on this?

A: I don't know what happened before. There are a number of areas where we are trying to improve. We have been meeting regularly with different departments and talk about what everyone is working on. Also we will have everyone go through public outreach training. We want to work on our neighborhood outreach effort. We are working very closely with District Coordinators ; we want a closer partnership. This is hugely important to us.

Q: In terms of outreach, a big problem area has been SDOT. They don't keep people informed when they are doing projects.

A: We recognize this as a problem. We know there is a communication breakdown. We have taken a woman named Barbara Gray from SDOT to help be a liaison between Mayor's office and SDOT to improve communication.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: I cook as a hobby. I enjoy food, wine, and travel when I can. I feel like I have the greatest gig in the world and am grateful for the gift of this job.

Q: It is wonderful to hear that the City is looking at supporting the neighborhoods. The Delridge neighborhood wants to get better engagement and partnership with city government. We have been working hard and are ready to move forward. What are some next steps?

A: We want to continue the transparency in the process. And we want better partnerships and directors. We are also trying to sift through emails and find people who want to help and we are committed to finding a way to connect them with the appropriate way to do that. We are committed to training about 60 people per year as organizers so that they can get involved more in the process.

Q: I am concerned about hangar 30 in Magnuson Park. It might not be fair to do a lottery to determine who can use it. Can you consider a rational assessment of which groups can continue to use the hangar – rather than a lottery?

A: The Mayor and I are aware of this issue. I will get back to you.

C: I sense a bunker mentality on the part of the Mayor to reach out and use the district councils and communities. You mention the training, but nothing inclusive. Training can be done on the web and if we use the web we can train more than 80 people. Also, it is my understanding that the interim director for DON was not vetted well. I feel this is a missed opportunity and he is not making full use of district councils.

R: We were out 40 times last year in the public and will be out 50 or more times this year to talk to the community. What I have said to the outreach team is to listen and answer back. I disagree that we are a bunker. We are out hearing directly from the public. As far as development of initiative we went directly to the community and had 3,000 people involved at a town hall. Some other initiatives are internally developed. We want to use volunteer service and have taken properties from the public. The intention is not to be isolated on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor; we are having a dialogue. The Mayor did not get here from business support, but rather he got here from the people.

C: Remember that Daryl has indicated a willingness to work with us and has been open.

Q: I was intrigued by your comment in 'building social capital.' Is there an opportunity in infusing staff into public outreach and save money rather than use a consultant, i.e. outreaches to business to save energy in the SE District? What about using the DON? Why hire a consultant? Is there a tally of the number of staff that do outreach?

A: There are possibly around 20-25 people that do outreach. Out of those, there are only a few where outreach is their only duty. I don't know the specific contract you are referring to. However, sometimes

we want technical expertise – like when targeting immigrant business. The POLs (public outreach liaisons) are great and we used them for our youth and family outreach meetings.

C: If we going to spend time cultivating trust between city staff and citizens, don't hire consultants.

R: I will go out on a limb and say when we put something out there - there was a need for it.

C: Due to change in parking meters (now have to pay to park until 8:00 p.m.) There should be some means for on street parking that absolves people from having to park to get downtown.

R: I will make a note of that to discuss that.

### **CNC 2011 Draft Work Plan, Chas Redmond, Chair**

Chas took the tentative plans from NMF and incorporated them into the draft. I will send this electronically so that members can modify. Please take a look to see if there is anything the city needs to know from the district perspective. Also when we find out when the comp plan update calls for involvement – and will start filling in some blanks in our work plan. We also did not add to audit responses to Mike O'Brien office. We should also get some dates where we can respond to the interim plan. Will spend the rest of this week completing this.

Q: What is the LOI?

A: Letter of intent for the large project fund.

We added a new item. Notice on June 15 we have a new appeals process and will have some handouts on that.

Q: I would like to see planning for the budget meeting in the fall.

A: I agree. I will leave that to Chris Leman to add.

C: Every two years for last 15 years, CNC has held a candidate forum. The last one was 2 years ago. It should be on the work plan. We did it in June last time, but before then it was after the primaries. I would like to see one in June and September.

R: I promise to get this out and add modifications.

Q: I did not see something on the audit response.

A: Yes, we got the information to Mike O'Brien's office at the end of last year. Now they need to identify, which items they want us to pursue. We don't have that guidance yet.

Q: Do you want input now?

A: I want us to walk through where we are and what we are missing. Add additions from your districts.

Q: We should have department head here at every meeting so that we can address them.

A: Yes, that is a good idea.

Q: The Mayor's office gets a lot of information that the district council might find useful. The DCs should get information from the individual in the public from the Mayor's office. This would be helpful.

A: Sol from mayor's office said that would be difficult to do in practice.

Q: To Sol: Is there a way NDCs can report out what they are hearing from different groups. We become aware from neighborhood blogs and would like to be more involved.

A: I think it is difficult to institutionalize that type of thing.

C: The dialogue has been going on for years. I think information sharing is important; outreach is important too.

C: It is good to hear about this outreach group. We should hear more about it. I was disappointed to hear Daryl coming to defense to certain departments – that want to do everything themselves. Previous mayors really insisted that SPU and SDOT work with neighborhoods and communities. I am worried because I don't see Mayor doing that, but rather defending certain departments.

C: I am hoping the NEDC can raise its visibility to the fact that it exists, have open meetings, and want public feedback.

C: What we need to do is make more citizens aware of the neighborhood council system. Sol, every month every one of us gets a bill from SPU to describe the district council system and a meeting notification. I think we need that.

### **Open Discussion on Interim Plan Impacts**

Pamela's announced that all should feel free to email me about the new coordinator distribution and issues surrounding this interim change. It will calm down in time.

Laine hopes that all DCs will continue to talk about the interim impact every month.

Chas distributed the original legislation creating DON. It is important to look back at that.

Chris Leman stated that the Mayor did a town hall co-sponsored with district councils. I think that is good. Will that continue?

Sol responded that that is not in the plan at present.

Mat tried to get the Mayor to come to a Delridge event and he said that he has to divide his time accordingly. He has no intent to be regularly co-hosting meetings with the district councils.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Transportation Committee – Ref Lindmark, Dick Burkhardt, Co-Chairs**

The Transportation Committee wrote a letter to Sen Haugen; Rep. Clibborn. and Gov. Gregoire to request they continue to fund the Regional Mobility Grant. Ref spoke on the letter and said that the letter is the CNC adding its voice to other voices. We want to urge both houses to keep the funding. I think it would be good for us to add our voice.

C: The Ballard District Council does not think that Rapid Ride will be helpful. The 17 will be cut a lot and express buses will no longer exist. Ballard sees this as a loss.

C: I don't know quite what to say, I would like a consensus on the letter.

C: Suggest to cross out the word "other" in the third paragraph. Also, suggest an addition to the second sentence after 'we' – add "are advisory body consisting of"

It would be best if this was done by February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Motion: Motion to support letter with amendments that were offered by Chris Leman (as above) with the deadline for approval or disapproval being February 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion voted on and approved.

**Announcements:**

I like meeting here (at City Hall).

We did not get a chance to acknowledge Stella Chou. Wanted to acknowledge her tenure with the City.