CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Draft Minutes for the March 30, 2010 meeting

District Council representatives in attendance: Janis Maloney, (East District); Robert Drucker, (Ballard District); Nicole Franklin, (Magnolia/Queen Anne District and CNC Secretary); Jim Del Ciello, (Southwest District and CNC Vice-chair); Chas Redmond, (Southwest District and CNC Chair); Chris Leman, (Lake Union District and CNC Budget Committee Chair); Irene Wall, (Northwest District and Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair); Laine Ross, (Downtown District Council and Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee Chair), Donn Devore, (Delridge District); Dan Wasell, (North District Council); Lisa Dixon, (Downtown District Council); Dennis Saxman, (East District); Mat McBride, John Reardon, (Delridge District); Nancy Bolin, (Northeast District); Dick Burkhart, (Southeast District and Transportation Committee Co-chair)

Guests in attendance: Veronica Sherman King, DON; Stella Chao, DON; SuJ'n Chon, DON; Esther Handy, Mike O'Brien's Office; Richard Conlin, Seattle City Council President

Agenda and February Minutes
Were approved.

Richard Conlin, Seattle City Council President
Updated the body on the Council's priorities for the year. The Council adopted a list of 17 priorities with each member being responsible for 1-2 priorities. As a whole, the Council put economic recovery at the top of the priority list. The goal of the Council is to provide support for businesses and to be proactive in the development of business and economic opportunities to grow green businesses. OEM has been reorganized to be more pro-active, rather than being reactive. The City secured $46 million in federal funds to facilitate in having businesses invest in the economy and $16 million in economic development bonds. President Conlin stated that even though the budget is a significant problem, the Council would find the right solution to keep public safety, human services, parks and libraries adequately funded. On schools and education, the Families and Education levy is up for renewal in 2011 and the Council would like to engage the School District in advance. Another priority of the Council is to improve the way Seattle manages its relations statewide and regionally. The Council met with state legislators in Olympia to let them know Seattle wants to be a part of a team and will continue to meet with other officials around the state. President Conlin has been working on further development of the local food program. He worked on the local food action initiative, which will do things like increase P-Patches and encourage people to grow their own food. Looking at transfer of development rights in order to protect agricultural land in the County. On the issue of climate change, the Council wants to identify the processes towards becoming a carbon neutral city and will begin the process of exploring that this year.

Q: Where is the Council on the issue of homelessness and with respect to the 10-year plan to end homelessness?
A: The Council has made continuing human services a major priority in the budget. The 10-year plan to end homelessness is in the 5th year and has made progress. While the project has not met its goals, the current economic situation plays a role.

Q: With the goal of a carbon neutral city, does that impact the City's position on the viaduct/tunnel and 520 bridge?
A: Believes projects are moving us in a positive direction. We will have a bridge where transit has priority. Also, reducing traffic will be good for the environment and there will be tolls.

Q: Can Seattle change the conversation in the future with the State about things like transit?
A: Yes. The relationship with the eastside has been improved. The eastside is dedicated to transit now, which has increased over the past 10 years.

Q: In the past Council has not advocated for bloated transportation projects. You are now supporting eight lanes on the 520 bridge. The process involved in manufacturing and running electric cars still effects global

warming. The worst contributor to global warming is transit. Unless we change, we will continue contributing to global warming and harming poorer countries.
A: We disagree. Believes that 35% more electricity would be required to accommodate the expected increase in electric cars. Also, there will be fewer drivers on the road. Believes that under the current transportation projects, we will not be adding more carbon into the environment.

Q: With respect to the local food program, I am fearful that the City doesn't have the requisite experience --- where will you go to get that?
A: We cannot do entirely local; only encourage it. Structured changes are important to climate change. In creating a food policy, Council is utilizing experts to help guide the policy.

Q: It can be very expensive to permit a wind turbine and cost thousands of dollars in city permits. If we want to employ ways to create alternate energy ourselves, can the City help us out with tax breaks or co-ops?
A: We are pushing City Light to have a decentralized solar and wind strategy to devise a community energy program. OSE working on creating an energy co-op.

Q: Seattle keeps growing and our discussion is about how to grow green and carbon neutral, but what size do we want Seattle to be? Do we want the City to be 1 million or 2 million in population in 50 years? How big should Seattle be? What are we willing to give up? Should it always be about growth? What level of population is sustainable?
A: Project that Seattle will grow to about 75,000-80,000 over the next 30 years. We are working on big picture improvements, but drilling down details for growth is important too. We are working on what we can do, as there are certain things that we cannot control.

Q: Can we sustain the growth? We should think about regional growth management – not draw everyone into Seattle.
A: The 520 bridge provides urban centers a connection between the east and west and is a transportation system that works in those areas.

Q: Seattle City Light has a lot of infighting and institutional opposition that I would like to see addressed. SDOT takes too long and is not efficient with respect to public infrastructure projects.
A: Admittedly, the City has some management issues. In some ways, the previous mayor was not able to deal with or give great attention to those issues.

Q: What is the City Council going to do to demand accountability in the neighborhood planning process?
A: The City has been accountable. While the former neighborhood planning process was good, Mayor Nickels wanted it done differently. While the City is now engaged in the neighborhood planning process on behalf of the communities, we are committed to figuring out how to make it work out well for the neighborhoods. We have seen good plans thus far and will evaluate on a piece-by-piece basis.

C: I do not think that the neighborhood planning process is community driven. With respect to North Rainier, they seem to be doing it without community validation.
R: The North Rainier plan has not been approved. Council approved a land use portion of the plan, which had to be done due to timeliness. We will continue to work with those on committee. Appeal on this plan has been dropped. The other two plans are still in the appeal process.

Q: Are all of the meetings going to be at City Hall or will any be in the neighborhood planning areas?
A: At least one meeting.

C: SDOT does not respond to the community. We still have a problem with north-south transportation.
R: That is why we are focused on transit.

NMF/Large Project Fund Review Process

SuJ'n Chon circulated a document regarding the CRT as well as a handout titled NMF 2010 Citywide Review Team Position Overview.

A comment was made that the NMF 2010 Citywide Review Team Position Overview should be corrected to reflect that all members of the CRT are appointed by the CNC. Currently, the document states, "At-large members are selected by NMF staff and/or CNC."

CRT members appointed
Motion was moved, seconded and approved to appoint the listed members of the CRT with the understanding that the Downtown and Northeast District representatives have not yet been confirmed by their districts.

Stella Chao, Director, Dept. of Neighborhoods

Stella attended the meeting to engage in a conversation about the Large Project Funds (LPF) review process, which DON had proposed be done differently this year. Specifically, DON has proposed to combine the district councils and the CRT together for an open house to review the applications. DON's position was that the combined open house would offer consistency as each district does engage in its own rating process. Also, the combined open house would help with budget concerns, as DON does not have budget to staff each district council's individual application review meetings.

A thoughtful discussion ensued with CNC members and Stella Chao making the following remarks:

C: Delridge is not in favor of the proposed changes. We want to be able to review application at our own meetings and engage in the process. The proposed change lacks intimacy.
R: Just to clear up any confusion, the issue of allocating funds for a citywide project is not on the table this year. We need time to vet this issue as we did get enough significant opposition from the district councils to hold off on implementing this change at this time.

C: Isn't it incumbent on the district coordinator to encourage the district councils to be fair in the review process?
R: It's not their jurisdiction. They support, but do not act on behalf of the matching fund.

C: The Ballard District Council is in favor of some of the changes, but not of the combined open house structure and likes the opportunity to connect people to the district councils.
R: The groups will still be able to meet with the applicants; it is just that the actual rating occurs at the open house.

C. Concern that although some district council members could hear about the project at meetings, they might not be able to come to the open house for the rating portion of the process.

C: If concern is about consistency, there are other ways to ensure that the district councils are being consistent in evaluating applications.
R: We are not looking for the exact same process among districts, but some basic guidelines. We are seeing a lot of variety among district councils.

C: Northwest District feels having presentations/rating at district council meetings supports the goal of inclusivity at district councils.

C: Lake Union is against the proposed changes and did write a letter to Mayor McGinn. The proposed changes weaken the district council's role in the process.

Stella then proposed that if the district councils are willing to forgo staffing at their application review meetings and are willing to adhere to some basic guidelines, they could continue to have their own meetings.

The following motion was then moved, seconded and approved:

Resolved, the CNC accepts DON's commitment that the 2010 district council ratings of the Neighborhood Matching Fund applications will continue at district levels with meetings held within the districts for application presentations and rating, but without NMF staffing support at the meetings; and safeguards will be approved by the CNC to ensure high quality district decision-making based on dialogue with the district councils.

Following that, Chas promised to electronically distribute guidelines and best practices so that the CNC members can have an opportunity to comment on and/or vet.

Meeting adjourned.