

CNC May Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2011

District Council representatives in attendance: Chas Redmond, (Southwest District and CNC Chair); Lynn Ferguson, (Northeast District); Philip Shack, (North District); Chris Leman, (Lake Union District and CNC Budget Committee Chair); Sharon Sobers, (Central District and Youth and Education Committee Chair); Mathew McBride (Delridge District); Ed Marquez, (Greater Duwamish District); Ref Lindmark, (CNC Transportation Committee Co-Chair); Irene Wall, (Northwest District and CNC Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair); Bruce Wynn, (Magnolia/Queen Anne District); Phillip Duggan, (North District); Don Aupperle, (Ballard District); Lynn Domingo, (Southeast District); Dennis Galvin, (Ballard District)

Others in Attendance: Pamela Banks, Veronica Sherman King, Julia Salinas, DON

Agenda and April Meeting Minutes Approval

Ref noted he was not listed under the representatives in attendance. With that correction, meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda was approved with slight change in agenda items time-line.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee – Ref Lindmark

Announcement of CTAC 3 community meetings. Committee is charged to make a recommendation on use of \$20 licensing fee and possibility of placing item regarding transportation funding on the ballot. Committee has been holding meetings and briefings over the last four months. Ref has been attending these meetings. An online survey is available via the SDOT survey, as well as a cell phone and landline survey. Survey asks questions regarding transit on the neighborhood and city-wide scale. CTAC 3 got feedback recommending maintenance and operation was important, so recommending 70-75% of funds go to this priority. Pedestrian safety and access was second priority. Bicycle facility maintenance was also noted, as well as street sweeping. Also will make recommendations around Metro. Late June/early July deadline for decision on placing a funding initiative on the fall ballot. There are many initiatives already proposed for the fall, so it is uncertain whether this will go to the ballot.

Transit Master Plan – looking at 15 corridors.

Metro budget is being reduced. Looking at service reductions using productivity as top priority, second as social equity.

Neighborhood Planning Committee – Irene Wall

Drafted a Comprehensive Plan Amendment application. It has been signed by Chas and submitted. Asked Council to review growth targets yearly. Citizens need access to these numbers before they are used for legislation.

Youth and Education Committee – Sharon Sobers

Attended a conference about Youth Soldiers regarding youth violence prevention by involving community. Will present more information at next month's meeting.

Outreach and Engagement Survey – Veronica Sherman King

Encouraged CNC members to fill out the survey either on-line or paper copy. This work is in response to City Council SLI. Have a survey for community and city departments, as well as holding focus group meetings. Would like comments from CNC members tonight on some of the survey questions. Survey will be closed June 30.

Looking for input on best use of District Coordinators and how department does outreach. It is not to inform budget cuts primarily. DON Department Director is responsible for feasibility of department consolidation; Pamela and Veronica have limited information on this. Feasibility study looks at merger of DON, Office of Housing, OFE, Arts and OSE. CNC should feel free to comment on what programs they feel should be preserved under any new model.

CNC member asked if staff felt these changes were long-term or just a “bump in the road”. Ms. Sherman King stated departments are being asked for sustainable cuts, not short-term cuts. Furloughs are not being looked to, as they are not sustainable.

Pamela Banks provided definitions for Outreach and Community Engagement. Outreach is a one-way communication to the community. Community engagement is a two-way conversation, asking for community input.

CNC members queried on what DON programs they were familiar with. Responses were:

- Historic Preservation – was very impressed with staff and board volunteers
- Major Institutions – became involved in project in Green Lake. Program not well known, but is important.
- P-patch – first knowledge of DON. Had a P-patch for many years. Also involved in Neighborhood Planning and Major Institutions.
- Familiar with and involved with all programs
- Most members agreed they had had some involvement with all of DON programs

CNC members queried on new approaches for outreach/community engagement given budget/staff reductions.

- Better integration of Major Institutions
- Uniqueness of District Coordinator role in all programs
- P-Patch does not really need much oversight; should look to eliminate staff in that area, rather than other areas
- Waterfront meeting – outreach stood in contrast to work that DON does in getting word out. Should DON be consulted for these large city-wide meetings/events?
- Attitude during original neighborhood planning is in contrast to now. Now everything feels top-down.
- DON should actively engage community volunteers
- DON does excellent job at neighborhood level, but city-wide outreach could use improvement
- Should improve websites for districts, increase use of social media. DON should seek emergency preparedness money. Crime prevention could also be added to DON role.

CNC members were queried on best use/highest priorities for district coordinators given budget/staff reductions.

- #9 – Maintain a community contact list, support neighborhood events and participate in crime prevention councils. Providing information on who to contact in the city, etc.
- Should focus equally on 1-10. Need to refocus on core mission. Entire department should focus on items 1-10, not just nine district coordinators. Could solve outreach and engagement issues by doing this.
- DON is invisible to a lot of the city. Need to get the word out.
- Core mission should be to make community groups stronger. #2 – provide technical assistance to and actively support neighborhood groups such as community councils and chambers of commerce, #3 – staff neighborhood district councils, #7 – Assist community in understanding and responding to City initiatives, policies and programs; and facilitate community research and response to technical documents issued by City departments, developers and other jurisdictions, and #9 - Maintain a community contact list, support neighborhood events and participate in crime prevention councils. #5 – should not be agent of city departments; should work for community.
- Could collapse a number of the categories into one another; many are very similar. Do not agree that DON should give equal weight to each. Should limit time on reporting, neighborhood planning, and #8 – work related to service centers. Focus should be on supporting community groups and assisting to organize new groups, as well as staffing of district councils.
- Each district may have different priorities. Communication with elected: should district coordinators have to be go-between? Groups should advocate for themselves.
- All of the functions are important
- District Coordinator in the Central District played major role after officer was killed – he had to perform 8 out of 10 of these functions.
- Role of leadership training not noted in these 10 items.
- Closure of service centers impacts the neighborhood

Approval of CNC letters regarding budget and SLI

Letters have been circulated and comments taken. CNC member noted there was a lot of passive voice in the SLI letter, should use active voice. CNC member countered that these are suggestions, we are not demanding changes. Discussion followed regarding possible changes to make the letter more forceful and to make additional changes to wording in order to clarify the message. Suggestion that letter should stress that DON should be approached for assistance with outreach by departments rather than hiring consultants.

SLI letter was unanimously approved as amended.

Due to shortage of time, approval of Budget Letter was tabled until the June meeting.