

CNC May Meeting Minutes

May 21, 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); Tony Provine, (Northeast District); Mathew McBride (Delridge District); Susan Casey, (Magnolia/QA District); Irene Wall, (Northwest District and Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair); Ed Marquez, (Greater Duwamish District); Andrew Taylor, (East District); Tony Fragada, (Southwest District Council), Ref Lindmark, CNC Transportation Committee Co-chair; Jody Grage, (Ballard District)

Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approval

Agenda and minutes were approved as presented

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Planning Committee—Irene Wall

Committee met last week focusing on 1) Living Building Pilot Program and 2) Regulatory Reform Ordinance. There has been an appeal of the Living Building ordinance SEPA DNS which may affect timing of public hearing. CNC sent a letter last month raising concerns about the precedent being set by modifying the Living Building criteria seemingly to accommodate a single developer. We have not received a response yet to that letter. Regarding the Regulatory Reform code changes, several changes are still of concern including allowing single purpose residential developments in Neighborhood Commercial zoned areas before DPD finishes analysis and rezoning to establish Pedestrian zone overlays where warranted. This study began in 2005 and was halted in 2007 before any action was taken. Maps of current P zones and the 50 other NC zones initially studied are available on the DPD web site. Also of concern is that changes to parking requirements are being made for major institutions without consultation with the advisory councils for the institutions. Lowering SEPA review thresholds is also a major issue and there appear s to be some changes being proposed so not sure what will end up in final bill. Council will be meeting around this issue on Wednesday morning. Committee came up with a list of points to bring up with Council around concerns. In general we feel that the cookie cutter approach is not good; neighborhoods are all different and need to be looked at on the neighborhood level, not city-wide. Also of concern was lack of community input into development of the code changes; advisory committee heavily weighted by developers, although Ref Lindmark does serve on the committee. He stated the group was diverse and had differing opinions on many issues.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee – Chas reporting for Laine

District Council representatives should be selected for NMF Large Project rankings. Should have at least three people each. Some Large Project applicants expressed concern that they did not have enough interaction with staff at workshops.

Budget Committee – Chris Leman

Working on drafting a summer budget letter. Committee will meet again on June 7. City Council has been holding budget information sessions, but attendance has been low. Legislation still exists to create public/private partnerships; however creation of a review panel to evaluate this type of opportunity is problematic. Multi-family tax exemptions to developers were also discussed at the sessions.

Transportation Committee – Ref Lindmark

Committee discussed elimination of the ride free area and reviewed the Orca card program. Last day for ride free area is September 29. Metro has been running simulations to see how paying as riders board is going to delay the system. This

caused serious delays in the tunnel. May pull some routes out of the tunnel. Working with social service agencies downtown to alleviate impacts to low-income. May create a circulator bus to provide transportation throughout downtown and possibly to Harbor View.

Studies have been done on ORCA use. Currently about 60% of boardings use ORCA. Have found that those along MLK prefer to use cash and get transfers. Need to provide incentives to those folks to use ORCA. Chas suggested they should use the space on the card to provide translated information. He also asked about bonuses on card; such as \$30 for \$25 put on card. This is being looked at. CNC member suggested reverting to pass, rather than ORCA. Have been adding ability to add to card in stores; but these are not well publicized. Signage at machines is also not good; does not indicate you can add money to card at machine. Difficult to reach a live person for information.

ORCA was originally created in response to Federal request with money for light rail that a system be created to allow transfer between light rail and buses. ORCA also allows money to be disbursed more accurately to various systems.

CNC member brought up the damage caused by heavy vehicles to roads in the city. Chas stated concrete is being added to bus lanes to help mitigate damage caused by buses.

Budget Letter Discussion

Continue to support Neighborhood Service Centers, District Coordinators and Neighborhood Matching Fund. CNC member suggested bulleted items at the start of the letter highlighting main points before getting into lengthier requests. Should focus on items with specific suggestions. CNC member stated he did not believe “asks” should be included, since we know the city is looking at cuts. Would be better to negotiate for preservation of existing services/programs. Monies being used for Mayor’s Town Hall meetings would be better spent on civic fairs, etc. Monies should be included along with service centers and coordinators. Budget chair stated he would like to move away from formatting issues and get to the substance of the letter. CNC member stated could send multiple letters addressing various issues. CNC members suggested various topics that could be linked together. CNC member stated letter should emulate the Budget Office Style. Should add a line about one-for-one replacement of low-income housing units when redevelopment occurs, or some other way city can save money to help end homelessness.

CNC decided to get feedback from district councils and discuss the letter further at the June CNC meeting.

Youth and Education

Chas asked if the CNC should move forward on this or put it before individual district councils. Districts might be more flexible and could move forward more quickly than full CNC. CNC member suggested district councils be asked to provide information and needs on what is happening in their districts before the next full CNC meeting. CNC member stated she did not understand where this fit into CNC’s work. CNC member stated in previous years this committee had sponsored some good events/meetings around youth issues. Joint Parks/Schools agreement, community use of schools and surplus of school buildings are issues the CNC has been involved in. CNC member stated there is lack of city staff report; doubt could get support for a major event/initiative. Would be better to let individual districts determine what would be useful for them.

CNC Roles/Responsibilities

Chas, Laine, Ed and Phil have been meeting with Kathy Nyland and Bernie Matsuno to go through the initial resolution creating the CNC to determine what roles/responsibilities still hold for CNC. Council may be putting forward a new resolution. Chas asked CNC members to read through the resolution and identify what they feel needs to remain and what can be removed. Chas and the group came up with a draft. CNC member questioned the lack of transparency and inclusion in the meetings. Chas stated this is not on a fast track. Issues of lack of funding to carry out the assigned duties in the resolution was discussed. CNC member stated now is the time the entire CNC has a chance to give input...only the obvious changes, such as changing “Office of Neighborhoods” to “Department of Neighborhoods” were agreed upon. CNC member stated his feelings in the meetings was not that they were looking to axe the CNC, but to improve it. CNC member stated the meeting was by invitation and it was not a formal CNC Executive Committee

meeting. CNC member asked if items would also be inserted. Chas stated this is a possibility. CNC member stated he still had concerns about the process and possible outcome for the CNC. CNC member asked about the possible effects on district councils. Chas stated it would have no effect on them. CNC member stated concerns about the draft going to CM Conlin before CNC members get to see it.