

CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes for the October 25, 2010 meeting

District Council representatives in attendance: Chas Redmond, (Southwest District and CNC Chair); Chris Leman, (Lake Union District Council and CNC Budget Committee Chair); Sharon Sobers, (Central District); Matt McBride (Delridge District); Janis Maloney, (East District); Jody Grage, (Ballard District); Dan Wasell, (North District); Nicole Franklin, (Magnolia/Queen Anne District and CNC Secretary); Nancy Bolin, (Northeast District); Dick Burkhardt, (Southeast District and CNC Transportation Committee Co-chair); Laine Ross, (Downtown District and CNC Matching Fund Committee Chair); Paul Stoms, (East District)

Guests: Pamela Banks, Tim Durkan, DON

Agenda and September Minutes

Were approved.

Audit Response Work Plan Update and Schedule, Chas Redmond – Chair of CNC

Chas and Stella Chao, director of DON, drafted a letter to Council members O'Brien, Harrell, Conlin and Esther Handy. The Work Plan still exists and has been reduced to a short version in order to provide more depth regarding district councils and the CNC. The hopes are that the recipients receive the information in a simple way and not in a bureaucratic way. Chas informed the group that the link to the survey on strengthening Seattle's neighborhoods is up and available. Chas informs that they have been moving forward with the audit response with the degree of progress possible, given the overshadowing issue of the budget. We want to make clear that Councilmember O'Brien understands that recommendations will need resources. Delridge District undertook visioning exercise throughout this year that other districts might wish to follow. Note that Suzie Burke of the Lake Union District Council sent the CNC a letter urging it to shorten and balance the 2010-2012 District Council/DON Work Plan for Audit Response.

E-mail Chas or Julia Salinas with questions on the survey.

NMF Large Project Fund Review and Discussion for 2011 Process, Laine Ross

The award ceremony took place on October 16. It was successful, with 40 attendees and was attended by Deputy Mayor Smith and Council members O'Brien and Bagshaw. Laine reports that every awarded category was represented at the ceremony.

Laine also reports that they will soon be launching Friends of Neighborhood Matching Fund, which will utilize all forms of social media like Facebook and Twitter.

Laine reports that the NMF Committee has been working on making the NMF Large Project process more robust and to get the District Councils more aligned with the CRT process. Recall that District Councils were asked to weigh-in. The NMF Committee will be putting together a report due the first week of November. One big concern is the 22% cut to the NMF and cuts to the District Coordinator program in the proposed budget. Three policy changes are on the table 1) a joint open house process; 2) scoring: weighing the scores 60 – 40 in favor of CRT; and 3) a city-wide project review as opposed to by district. The CRT recommends we support these changes. The Neighborhood Matching Fund staff is split and CNC as of February was opposed to these changes. Laine noted that some of these policy changes are staff driven --- so we are grappling with appeasing stakeholders, recipients and District Councils.

The NMF Committee will come up with a report for Stella soon. They are hoping that CNC can give some guidance and clarification.

C: I have a problem with the CRT folks getting a 60/40 out of this. The District Councils spend a lot of time on this and minimize the efforts they put into this. I would like to give CRT less and not more.

R: Remember that the CRT panel reviews all districts, which occurs in a highly concentrated time period. Neither side should minimize the other, which makes the 50/50 scoring seem reasonable.

Motion: For the Executive Committee to move forward and create a 2011 Large Project review cycle that mirrors 2010 cycle – with an understanding that the weight of the CRT and District Councils will remain at 50/50 and they will not consider a joint open house for 2011 and will develop a foundation that considers the overall business plan and future considerations.

Motion was seconded and discussion ensued. A vote was taken and the motion passed with one representative abstaining.

Officer Nominating Committee Report, Matt McBride

Members - Sharon Sober; Matt McBride, Irene Wall

Matt reports that the Committee took a deeper look into the bylaws and realized that only the District Council Chairs or District Council CNC representatives can run for positions. Three ways to nominate: 1) let committee know you would like to be nominated; 2) written nomination can be submitted until the day of and if nominating someone else the person has to accept; 3) oral nominations can be accepted from the floor.

Matt would like to visit all of the District Councils. Thus far he has visited Magnolia/QA District Council.

C: Chris Leman urged Sharon to consider running for Chair of the Youth and Schools Committee. Laine stated she would be willing to be Matching Fund Chair for another year.

Delridge Visioning & Leadership Exercise Preview, Matt McBride

The Delridge District has been outreaching to groups in the neighborhood and been doing vision work. What they came up with was eight specific objectives. They added an hour prior to the regular District Council meeting for a Strategic Meeting. This allowed people interested in various neighborhood issues to talk about those issues without attending the full District Council meeting. From there, they did some branding for the neighborhood. Matt will talk more about the work being done in the Delridge District next month.

Q: How do you keep people on the eight tasks?

A: Tangents are ok provided they are good and meaningful areas of discussion that we want to address at some point.

Q: Have you been having good attendance?

A: We are slowly gaining traction and more people keep coming. We have been increasing the number of people that come to the meeting and staying for the District Council meeting.

Announcement: Gathering of Neighbors, November 6, 2010 at Chief Sealth High School 11:00 -4:00 pm. Will include leadership forums where community members can exchange ideas. Keynote address by former Mayor Rice.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee, Dick Burkhart, Co-Chair

Two issues. First, electric trolleys. Recall last year the CNC wrote a letter to King County Council in favor of trolleys over diesel buses. The Council will be studying the issue this spring. The good news is that the issues that the CNC and Transportation Committee wanted Council to address are being addressed. For example, the CNC suggested the Council should consider the effect of the rising costs of energy. Also, the CNC urged Council to consider the lifecycle of trolley v. diesel buses when considering costs. Specifically, while the buses cost less, the trolleys last longer. Also, the Council will be studying the environmental impacts. Another issue they will address is the future of the electric trolley. The new generation of electric trolleys will be allowed to

go off wire and allow flexibility to get around obstacles and offer greater advantage in changing routes than the current trolley

The decision on trolley v. diesel buses will be deferred for decision until next spring. Prior to then and throughout the process, the CNC Transportation Committee will be weighing in on this decision.

Second issue, the progress of the King County Regional Transit Task Force. They have made good progress. The funding of the transit system is the big issue. Dick pointed out that the good news is that there is no mention of 40-40-20 formula that has been in existence and which disadvantages Seattle. Now the Task Force is addressing productivity, which will fare well for Seattle. Issues with removal of stops in front of important locations in the Central District. Lack of East/West service. Transportation Committee will follow up with issues in Central.

Budget Committee, Chris Leman, Chair

The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be Monday, November 1, 2010.

Budget letter presented by Chris. Councilmember Godden has been attending the meetings and the Budget Office has been good at providing requested information and posting budget information on the website.

As a segue way into the discussion, Chris obtained information that seemed to indicate that there would a reorganization --- to reduce the number of District Councils to less than 13. However, this was only a misunderstanding. DON, the Budget Office and the Mayor are not considering reducing the number of District Councils. Chris pointed out that the communication that he had on this issue showed we have a good relationship with the Budget Office.

Comments on the letter:

C: Great to ask that we not cut pieces of the budget that we feel strongly about, but we should come up with constructive ideas in view of the revenue shortfall. Perhaps we should suggest that additional sources of revenue be sought to offset some of these cuts.

C: Chris suggested two additional sentences to add to the letter to make it more aggressive in tone.

C. District Coordinators are vital; office space is non-essential.

C. Magnolia/Queen Anne, Lake Union and East Districts lack services. Service Centers and District Coordinators are essential for these areas.

C: I do not believe we should suggest additional revenue sources because that is a political position and would prefer to keep the letter as is in stating our position regarding the importance of the service centers and District Coordinator positions proposed for cuts.

Motion: A motion was made to pass the letter without a specific call for increasing revenue with the understanding that Chas would circulate a copy of the letter to the body and revisions would be made.

Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. Memorial for Officer Tim Brenton in Leschi, with a 30-minute ceremony.

Meeting adjourned.