

CNC September Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2011

District Council representatives in attendance: Chas Redmond, (Southwest District and CNC Chair); Laine Ross, (Downtown District and NMF Committee Chair) Chris Leman, (Lake Union District and CNC Budget Committee Chair); Jody Grage, (Ballard District); Sharon Sobers, (Central District and Youth and Education Committee Chair); Irene Wall, (Northwest District and CNC Neighborhood Planning Chair); Dick Burkhart, (CNC Transportation Committee Co-chair); Jan Maloney, (East District); Phil Shack, (North District)

Others in Attendance: Pamela Banks, Bernie Matsuno (DON), Beth Goldberg, City Budget Office

Agenda and July Meeting Minutes Approval

Were approved with correction to Ballard District Council forum date in the meeting minutes.

Beth Goldberg/CBO/Proposed 2012 Budget

Beth distributed materials which are also available online. Proposed budget is \$4.2 billion. General fund is \$910 million; which is \$12 million smaller than what had been assumed in the endorsed budget. Although recession ended officially two years ago, recovery has been gradual and subdued. While revenues are growing, they are not growing enough to cover existing services and emergent needs. This is the fourth year the city has had to make cuts. Gap between revenues and expenditures for 2012 is \$25 million. Shortfall is reduced to \$18 million, due to better than anticipated 2011 fund balance. Shortfall also caused by reduced parking meter revenue, reduced federal and state funding levels, higher than anticipated inflation, retirement costs and other costs. Projected shortfalls for 2013 and 2014 are 32.8 million and 39.2 million respectively.

155 FTEs are proposed to be eliminated, with 82.4 being filled positions and 13.4 FTEs being reduced hours. Nineteen of the eliminated positions are senior level positions. Effort is to reform, reorganize and reinvent how city does business. Public Safety/fire/police maintained. Library hours and collections funds will not be cut. Lifeguards will be funded, swimming and wading pools will remain open 2011 hours. Human Services funding will not be cut. Modest increases are being made in community grants and low-income housing assistance.

City will save \$5.3 million in jail fees through new contract with King County. County agrees to provide additional space, if needed and will charge City by jail population coming from city. Also, various city grants will be consolidated into a grants unit at the Department of Neighborhoods and Housing and Office of Economic Development will be combined into one department, as well as merging the offices of the Civil Service Commission and the Public Safety Civil Service Commission.

A new Community Center staffing model is being proposed. Data was collected to determine what hours and programs were most utilized at which centers. Hours will be redirected to best serve the community. This approach will save \$1.2 million. Police are meeting and exceeding Neighborhood Policing Plan objectives. Budget recommends to hold positions vacant to save \$2.4 million. CNC member asked about report of overtime for Police and Fire. Beth stated it is less expensive to pay overtime for firefighters than to hire additional staff.

Loss of parking spaces due to Viaduct Construction will result in loss of \$7.5 million revenue decrease. In 2012 will look at changes to parking meter rates, time limit changes and pay by cell phone options. CNC member stated that parking limitations on First Hill are leading to the medically and financially challenged facing further difficulties and many are being "booted" and having to pay increasing fines. Beth stated the underlying premise is to increase parking turn-over in high use areas.

City will begin to more accurately measure outcomes of programs. Looking to reduce overtime in SDOT and SPU, lower healthcare costs. Budget seeks to add money to the rainy day fund and the retirement system in order to preserve city's

rating. Non-general fund budgets have stabilized. SDOT continues to see weakness in its revenues, with a \$10 million gap. Looking ahead the economy remains fragile. Concerns continue over situation in the stock market and in Europe.

Q. What are costs of Seawall replacement and Modal transportation plan?

A. Don't have dollar amounts with me. Would come from a variety of funding sources.

Q. There is duplication of outreach efforts in departments. DON could give assistance to other departments on outreach. Shouldn't some of the money being used to hire consultants by other departments be better used to allow DON to do outreach?

A. Bernie Matsuno stated that a pilot project is underway now to see how this would work out and if other departments would be willing to pay for it.

Budget now is in the hands of the City Council and public hearings will begin. Final budget will be ready by Thanksgiving.

DON SLIs/Bernie Matsuno

NPIS moving to FAS does not result in a loss of service to the community and no positions were cut. This does not affect the District Coordinators who remain in the Department of Neighborhoods. FAS will now be responsible for the facilities. District Coordinators are now housed in three service centers; although there are still six Neighborhood Service Centers. Two senior management positions are being abrogated.

Response to two SLIs were combined into one document. Neighborhood District Coordinators had proposed leadership training be included as one of their workplan priorities, which are included in the SLI. In response to a CNC question regarding the grants unit manager, Bernie responded she might have to reclassify a position in order to get a manager for the unit. Will be looking for input from community on how new funding model might work.

CNC member expressed concern over the changes and felt the department might be moving away from its core mission and becoming more of a "paper pushing" department. Bernie stated that staff would still be doing outreach and working with groups, but would have to become more efficient and cut down on multiple meetings with a group. It might also be a good time to tap into expertise of previous project participants to act as mentors. CNC members supported this idea. Would also be a good idea to connect district council members with project awardees in a meaningful way.

CNC member requested attachment B that was mentioned at the City Council hearing but was not provided to the CNC. CNC member also asked about expansion of POL program and if it was done by consultants. Bernie and Pamela explained that there are two DON staff involved in the program. The POLs themselves are trusted community advocates who are paid by the city through a contract with Seattle Neighborhood Group. \$100,000 is proposed to pay for their use in 2012. Neighborhood Planning is to be wrapped up in June of 2012. Remaining funding could be used for other outreach.

CNC member expressed concern at level of outreach to underrepresented populations and felt outreach to other population members was suffering and that CNC had not been consulted over the change. Bernie stated that in this round of neighborhood plan updates, the department wished to reach those who had not been involved in the first round and that \$100,000 was not an excessive amount.

Nominating Committee

Matt McBride volunteered via letter to serve as chair of the committee. Chris Leman and Irene Wall also volunteered to serve. CNC approved committee selection. Slate of nominees will be presented to the CNC at the October meeting, which will then be voted on at the November meeting.

Candidates Forum

CNC would like to hold forum in October. Looking for a date that does not conflict with a District Council meeting, a City Council hearing, or Mayor's Town Hall. Chris Leman suggested a format that contains a panel with questions asked by community members, questions asked by candidates of each other and time for each candidate to make a short statement. In the past, the forums have been filmed and aired by the Seattle Channel. The Boards and Commissions room was suggested as a location. Logistics for the Bertha Knight Landes Room are more complicated and the room might be larger than necessary. Chas will ask Wendy to look into availability of the room for various dates. CNC approved a committee of Chris, Chas, Sharon and Phil to work on the forum.

Budget Committee/Chris Leman

Chris reminded CNC that the Budget Committee meets tomorrow night and will begin analyzing the budget.

Transportation Committee/Dick Burkhart

Tim Eyman Initiative could have major negative repercussions on transportation projects in Seattle if passed.

District Council Best Practices/Jody Grage

Need to do a better job of connecting and sharing ideas/issues. Could do 13 phone calls to districts to collect information. Could create a form to use that would ask for good projects done, problems, etc. District Councils are isolated from one another.

Chris Leman stated that this has been done in the past. Jody will create a form to share with the group via e-mail for input. Chas stated that Mat McBride has been interested in doing a project of this type. Janis Maloney expressed that the East District Council needs help and is down to very few members. Pamela stated that she and Tim Durkan would develop a workplan to try to address this issue. Although there are many active groups in that district, they don't see the value of forming a district council that does not address their issues. Jody stated she would contact Mat.