

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
April 22, 2015 7:00 PM
Greenwood Senior Center - 525 North 85th Street
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Voting members:

Jacqueline Sorgen, 36th District Democrats
Eugene Wasserman, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association, Chair
Jim Jensen, Broadview Community Council
Marcia Norman, Friends of Green Lake
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council
Adam Goch, Greenwood Community Council
Kris Lethin, Haller Lake Community Club
Tom Meyer, Licton Springs Community Council **(absent)**
Amy Besunder, Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association **(absent)**
Alice Poggi, Phinney Ridge Community Council

Other members:

Gloria Butts, Bitterlake Pea Patch **(absent)**
Peter House, 43rd District Democrats, Secretary

Staff:

Thomas Whittemore, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Guests:

Amanda Hohlfeld, Mayor's Office
Hannah McIntosh (Levy Project Manager)
Brian Dougherty, Seattle Department of Transportation
Rachel Garrett, Seattle Public Utilities
Bruce Ball, SPU

Community:

Ron Hornung, Greenlake neighborhood
Faye Garneau, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Eugene Wasserman, Chair.
2. Introductions/Short Announcements
3. Review and approve NWDC minutes from March 25, 2015 – Approved.

4. Draft Transportation Levy to Move Seattle – Hannah McIntosh (Levy Project Manager) Report on the Mayor’s proposed transportation levy. This levy would replace Bridging the Gap levy which is expiring. The old levy was about 25% of SDOT’s budget. In the next few weeks, legislation is going to the City Council in May. The cost to a typical property owner is now \$155 per year and it would go to \$275 per year under the new proposal.

Concerns and questions from the Council: The main concerns were with the process for getting citizen input to the plan priorities. The planning schedule seems to be too fast and set by SDOT; we have not had the opportunity to give input. Why is the Greenwood corridor not included in the draft plan? We are a high needs area but there is little in the proposal that would help with transportation and safety issues in the NW District. Not enough emphasis on moving goods and services. How would the levy increase sidewalks? The levy proposal should be specific on the placement of new sidewalks. The problems with the 130th Street corridor are not addressed in the proposal.

5. Safe Routes to School, Greenwood Update – Brian Dougherty, Senior Transportation Planner, Seattle Department of Transportation
Brian reported on what has been done over the last year in the NW District (see the handout).

Concerns and questions by the Council: Traffic calming in the 1st Avenue corridor. Is there any federal government funding in any of this work, and how much do we have to follow their regulations. Is the broader community (not just school folks) included in planning on the Greenwood projects.

Mr Dougherty has supported improvements in the NW District and the Council thanked him for that.

6. Broadview Sewer and Drainage Improvement Project Update – Celia Kennedy
SPU Broadview Projects Team, Seattle Public Utilities reporting on the Broadview Sewer and Drainage Improvement Project (with Bruce Ball.)

The goal is to reduce sewer back-ups and storm water flooding.

Concerns of the Council: More explanation of removing sump pumps. There was general support and the neighborhoods are looking forward to more details.

7. City Neighborhood Council Update – Kris Lethin, CNC Representative
Short report and updates. On June 27, 9 am to noon, there will be a meeting on including neighborhood needs in the Comprehensive Plan.

8. Staff Report –Thomas Whittemore, Neighborhood District Coordinator,
Department of Neighborhoods
Short report and updates. There are increasing concerns with public disclosures concerning District Council communications. The city has invested in its leadership training program, PACE (Peoples’ Academy for Community Engagement).

9. Chair's Report - Eugene Wasserman

Eugene's term is coming up in June. Eugene reiterated his concerns with the renewal Transportation Levy planning process. New light rail station approved for 132nd street. Eugene will write a letter to the mayor praising Brian Dougherty's work.

10. Next NWDC meeting – Our next meeting will be March 27, 2015.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Peter House, Secretary