

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
April 23, 2014 7:00 PM.
Greenwood Senior Center - 525 North 85th Street
Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Attendance:

Voting members:

Jacqueline Sorgen, 36th District Democrats
Eugene Wasserman, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association
Marcia Norman, Friends of Green Lake
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council
Jim Jensen, Broadview Community Council
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council
Tom Meyer, Licton Springs Community Council
Anne Bowden, Phinney Neighborhood Association,

Other members:

Peter House, 43rd District Democrats.

Staff:

Thomas Whitemore, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Guests:

Eric Friedli, Deputy Superintendent, Parks Department
Art Brochet, Communications Lead, Seattle Department of Transportation
Aly Pennucci, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Development

Community:

Faye Garneau, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Eugene Wasserman.
2. Introductions/Short Announcements
3. Review and approve NWDC minutes from March 26, 2014 (see Attachment) – Minutes approved with several corrections to the attendance lists.
4. Metropolitan Park District Proposal –Eric Friedli, Deputy Superintendent, Parks Department explained the proposal to develop the Park District and took questions from the Council – Parks has extensive backlog in repairs (\$267

million) and has experienced budget cuts. The district proposal would provide a new funding source by setting up a separate agency with taxing authority. The governing board would be the City Council. A ballot measure will likely go to the voters in August.

Concerns of the NWDC:

How can citizens have input on what the money is spent for? How will the community have a voice in funding decisions? Ans: There will be an oversight committee.

How will governance work for the Park District? Extended discussion.

Funding will include taxes levied by the District and the City Council will continue to put general funds into Parks. Can we find info on parks funding on the City website? Ans: yes.

5. Northgate Pedestrian Bridge Project – Art Brochet, Communications Lead, Seattle Department of Transportation came to talk about the project. He submitted a handout. The bridge will cross I-5 between 103rd and 100th on the east side. This project is about healthy communities. The bridge would cost \$25 million. The City and Sound Transit will each put up \$5 million for the bridge if they can find the money (via federal grants) by July 2015.

Council questions and concerns:

Is \$25 million enough money?

Should the Community College chip in? And King County?

There are many senior residences in that area.

Does this plan coordinate with the Licton Springs community plan?

6. Pedestrian Zone Project- Aly Pennucci, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Development spoke about the pedestrian zones concepts and took questions. She left a handout. We have until the end of the month to make comments (via the survey) on the project. Ms. Pennucci said that some groups support the concept and others do not. Parking is an issue of disagreement. The NWDC will not take a position on this.

Council concerns:

All of the planning appears to be uncoordinated with other neighborhood planning processes in the city.

How is the data from the survey going to be used? Ans: The Department will analyze the data and make professional judgments on improvements to the current plans. The survey responses will be published.

7. Staff Report –Thomas Whittemore, Neighborhood District Coordinator, Department of Neighborhoods

- Next month we will discuss school based projects as part of the Safe Routes to School project.
- We may change our meeting location to the Greenwood Library.
- We will not have a meeting (for the two north end district councils) with the mayor in June. Eugene will take this up with the mayor's office.

- Council concern: the Greenways groups (and others) should be better coordinated with existing planning processes. In June we will have a discussion/presentation of all the SDOT projects in the north end.
- Concern: Will the current city negotiations with Comcast result in lower prices?

8. Chairs Report, Eugene Wasserman

- We need to nominate officers for next year. Ellen Hewitt volunteered to “manage” a nominations process. Eugene can serve as chair for one more year.
- Outreach/communications issue on the recent management of the Holman Road project.

9. Other discussions: None.

10. Next NWDC meeting – May 28, 2014

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Peter House, Secretary