

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
August 28, 2013, 7:00 PM.
Greenwood Senior Center - 525 North 85th Street
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Voting members:

Steve Deters, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association.
Eugene Wasserman, Broadview Community Council.
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council.
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council.
Tom Meyer , Licton Springs Community Council.
Irene Wall, Phinney Ridge Community Council.
Jacqueline Sorgen, 36th District Democrats.
Marci Norman, Friends of Greenlake.

Non-voting members:

Gloria Butts, Bitter Lake P-Patch.
Peter House, 43rd District Democrats.
Rob Mattson, City Of Seattle Department Of Neighborhoods

Others in attendance:

Brian Dougherty, Seattle Dept. of Transportation
Ron Hornung, Green Lake.
Ron Lewis.
Robin Randels.
Rory O'Sullivan, Yes on Prop 1
Faye Garneau, Districts Now
Marjorie Rhodes, Choices Not Districts
Herman Ross, Choices Not Districts
Richard Min

1. Meeting called to order by chair, Eugene Wasserman at 7:00 pm with a round of introductions and short reports from the organizations.
2. June 2013 minutes approved with one correction: Item 3 should read: "The SDOT *plan* [not *proposal*] for BAT lanes..."
3. Chair's report - Eugene Wasserman

- Eugene moved the chair's report to the top of the agenda in an effort to be more efficient and to keep our meetings to 1.5 hours. If you have questions for speakers please send them to Rob before our meeting.
- We went over the schedule/speakers for the rest of the calendar year.
 - ⇒ Sept – We will discuss the bicycle master plan
 - ⇒ Oct – Councilman Tim Burgess will come
 - ⇒ Dec – We will hear about Metro schedule cuts and strategies to lobby the legislature
 - ⇒ We will have a mapping boundary discussion to be clear what parts of the city are represented by NWDC members
- On Sept 8 the new BAT lanes on Aurora begin running through our district
- Broadview CC had a meeting on Link Light Rail discussing placement of stations

4. Update on City Neighborhood Council – Irene Wall

Irene submitted a written report. Highlights: Micro-housing projects; election forum for the council; formed a new communications committee.

5. NWDC web page update – Ellen Hewitt

Ellen highlighted enhancements to the web page: Agendas on the first page; tell Eugene/Rob/Ellen if you have suggestions for the web page. Several members complimented Ellen on a job well done.

6. Staff Report – Rob Mattson

- We identified priority 2013 NPSF projects in June; our two will be funded: Wheelchair ramps at Fremont Avenue North and N. 79th and Fremont Avenue North at N. 81st; and a curb bulb to address traffic safety concerns near McDonald Elementary School (at Latona and N. 55th); total was \$95,000 (\$60,000 plus \$35,000 which is “more than our fair share.”
- There is no word yet if one or more of our NW District priority NSF projects have been funded by the Bridging the Gap Levy Oversight Committee.
- Aurora Ave NE between 83th and 85th: there are trees that will be removed to make the sidewalk ADA compliant.
- There is an opportunity for Grants to community projects made possible by Waste Management
- Annual Small and Simple grant funds applications will be out soon; contact Rob if interested.
- \$1,200 grants opportunity under 2014 Neighborhood and Community Arts (NCA) Program

6. Presentations and discussion of the City of Seattle Proposed Charter Amendment #19 concerning the creation of districts to elect seven of nine City Council Members.

[NB: The NWDC does not make endorsements in elections.]

Speaker in favor - Faye Garneau, "Districts Now"

Speaker in opposition - Marjorie Rhodes, "Choices Not Districts"

Issues raised by the NWDC: Is accountability/accessibility of the council members better or worse under districts? How does the proposed map work with current council members? Are the current members spread out across the city? Who created the map? (answer: Dick Morrill of the UW Geography Dept) Who is funding the campaign? How will this affect the City Council's committee structure/process?

7. Presentation and discussion of Green Lake Way Traffic Safety Improvements, Brian Dougherty – SDOT

Brief synopsis of concerns of the NWDC: Funding status (answer: it is funded now); Timing of the implementation (answer: autumn 2013); Do the NWDC representatives agree with the plan? What is the problem being addressed here by SDOT (answer: traffic confusion, signal timing); How does SDOT decide what projects to prioritize? Who else will get a presentation on this from SDOT?

8. Presentation and discussion of Yes on Fair Elections in Seattle - Rory O'Sullivan presenting in favor

Brief synopsis of NWDC concerns: How much will it cost? How does a candidate qualify for public funding? (ans: 600 ten-dollar contributions) Capped matching funds. Preventing fraud. Why would a good fund-raiser want to use public financing? How would this affect a very wealthy candidate? (ans: we cannot limit the money that is spent on campaigns under Citizens United)

9. Adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Draft respectfully submitted by Peter House, NWDC Secretary