

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
February 26, 2014 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
Marcia Norman, Friends of Green Lake
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council
Randy Harkness, Haller Lake Community Club.
Tom Meyer, Licton Springs Community Council
Ron Lewis subbing for Irene Wall, Phinney Ridge Community Council

Other members:

Peter House, 43rd District Democrats.

Staff:

Thomas Whittemore, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Guests:

Jeff Bishop (City Light's Chief Financial Officer)
Patrice Carroll, Senior Planner, Dept. of Planning and Development
Gordon Clowers, Senior Planner, DPD

Community:

Ron Hornung
Kelly McKinney
Richard Min
Rob Fellows
...and three other unknown attendees

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Eugene Wasserman.
2. Introductions with quick updates.
Eugene reported that he is no longer President of the Broadview Community Council. He now represents the Aurora Merchants Association replacing Steve Deters on the NWDC.
3. January 2014 minutes were approved as printed with minor corrections.

4. 2013 – 2018 City Light's Strategic Plan – Jeff Bishop (City Light's Chief Financial Officer)

Topics:

- Jeff presented slides on the plan and progress.
- City Light hopes to have plan approved in July 2014

Concerns of the NWDC members, affiliates and guests:

- Why did our recent bills go up so much? Ans: Part of this reflects increased rates.
- What is the effect on rates of home solar installations? Ans: There has been a lot of growth in this area. 1,000 out of 400,000 customers have solar power.
- How is surcharge applied? Ans: Adjustments to the base rate now but also future rates.
- How do we compare with other nearby cities? Ans: We compare very favorably.
- How much of our revenue goes toward debt? Ans: About 40%.
- Some of us would like to see monthly billing (not bi-monthly billing).
- **Send addition questions for City Light via Eugene...he is on the City Light Oversight Committee.**

5. Pedestrian Zones – Gordon Clowers, Senior Planner, Dept. of Planning and Development

Topics:

- This is a very timely issue. Decisions are being made right now.
- We are currently in the process of deciding where to place Pedestrian Zones.
- **If you have comments, take a survey on-line. Contact Aly Pennucci - aly.pennucci@seattle.gov - to get access to the on-line survey.** Concerns of the Council:
- This is a new topic to most members of the NWDC.
- How does this affect the neighborhoods? The protections are not very clear.
- What neighborhoods are excluded from this program? Ans: There are six around the city that are working the problem differently.
- What is the effect on crime levels with different parking strategies?
- Requirements for a P-Zone are not clear. Many questions about details of placement of P-Zones.
- **Decided: We will invite Aly Pennucci to visit us again next month.**
- **Decided: Eugene will write a letter asking that the City delay its final plan beyond the end of March.**

6. Comprehensive Plan Update – Patrice Carroll, Senior Planner, Dept. of Planning and Development

Topics:

- The City is re-doing its comp plan. They are in the beginning stages now.
- Important meetings are coming up soon.

- Patrice showed a recorded presentation and talked briefly about the planning process. A draft will be completed by early 2015. Council should approve a new plan by June 2015.
- The plan will determine where growth will happen.
- A key meeting is March 24 at Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Room Concerns of the Council:
- Short discussion due to lack of time, but interest in this issue is strong on the council. We are concerned that the key meetings are downtown and not very accessible to our members.
- **Decided: We will schedule regular/quarterly up-dates on the progress of the process at our regular monthly meetings.**

7. Staff report – Thomas Whittimore

- 233-5000 is the tip line on the tragic shooting a few days ago near the Fred Meyer store.
- Be on the look out for local Neighborhood Matching Funds projects; encourage them to apply.

8. City Neighborhood Council – Rick Klingele (for Irene Wall)

- Mayor’s Summit is coming up on April 5 at the Seattle Center; open to all
- The City’s budget process will be discussed May 3.
- The CNC has written to the County Council to be more progressive in their strategies for funding Metro.
- The CNC is concerned about the proliferation of billboards.

9. Chair’s Report - Eugene Wasserman

- We will limit these meetings to two presentations per month.
- We may have a joint meeting with the joint district and invite the mayor...likely the first Wednesday in a month later in the year.

10. Other discussions: None.

11. Next NWDC meeting – March 26, 2014

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Peter House, Secretary