

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL Minutes - March 27, 2013

Greenwood Senior Center - 525 North 85th Street

DRAFT

Attendees:

Steve Deters, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association. (v)
Eugene Wasserman, Broadview Community Council. (v)
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council. (v)
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council. (v)
Tom Meyer, Licton Springs Community Council. (v)
Irene Wall, Phinney Ridge Community Council. (v)
Ann Bowden, Phinney Neighborhood Association. (v)
Elizabeth Statton, 36th District Democrats. (v)
Peter House, 43rd District Democrats.
Gloria Butts, Bitter Lake P-Patch.
Ron Hornung Green Lake resident.
Jeffrey Linn, McDonald School PTA.
Sue Gering, Northgate Community Center.
Pati Maxwell, Northgate Community Center.
Eric Youngblat, NE 115th Street resident.
Doug Cox, SDOT.
Rob Mattson, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Introductions/Short Announcements.

NWDC minutes from February 27, 2013.

Steve Deters moved and Tom Meyer seconded that minutes be approved as written. The motion passed.

Sidewalks 101, Doug Cox, SDOT – Pedestrian / Bike Safety Program. Topics discussed:

- Where sidewalks are needed based on the 2009 pedestrian master plan; criteria are designed to focus resources where walking conditions are difficult and where people most need to be able to walk. Use as much data as possible to prioritize projects. Criteria used:
 - Demand – where people are walking.
 - Equity – socio-economic factors.
 - Corridor function.
- SDOT programs:
 - Sidewalk development - \$1.8 M / year.
 - Neighborhood Street Fund – 3 year cycle.
 - Neighborhood Parks and Street Fund - \$90K/district.
 - Capital Improvement Program.
 - Safe Routes to School - \$1M / year.
 - Curb ramp program - \$1.3M / year – backlogged but close to being caught up.
 - Crossing Improvement Project - \$1.3 M / year.
- Sidewalks cost approximately \$200K / block.
- Majority of sidewalks are built by private development – changes to law in 2008 required more developers to build sidewalks but work is being done parcel by parcel rather than in larger lots.

- Questions, concerns, contact Doug Cox (Douglas.Cox@seattle.gov).
- Eugene Wasserman suggested that NWDC should call on the city to increase funds available for sidewalks as they build budget. Eugene will write draft a letter for NWDC review/approval.

2013 NPSF (Neighborhood Parks & Streets Fund) (previously known as "Neighborhood Projects Fund").

Annually, the City of Seattle provides \$1.25M citywide to fund small scale improvements to Seattle streets and parks. Each of Seattle's 13 districts is provided approximately \$90K from this program to fund projects in their district. Proposals come from community groups and individuals. The 2013 funding cycle attracted nine (9) proposals in the NW district. At this meeting we were charged with selecting three (3) of the nine (9) for further evaluation by Seattle DOT or Seattle Parks for cost and feasibility. The analysis of those three projects will then come back to NWDC in June of this year; at which time we will assign a priority order for our top three projects.

The nine proposals were submitted by four individuals who each had an opportunity to make a short presentation.

Proponent: Jeffrey Linn on behalf of McDonald International School PTA.

The school moved into "mothballed" building this year. These requests would make it safer for children to get to school. He was asked to prioritize the projects (see below).

- 2013-031 -- Curb extension -- NE corner of Latona Ave NE & NE 54th Street -- Linn 4th priority.
- 2013-042 -- Curb extension -- SE corner of Latona Ave NE & NE 55th Street. -- Linn 1st priority.
- 2013-044 -- Curb ramps -- West side of Latona Ave NE @ NE 51, 52, & 53 Streets.
- 2013-045 -- Curb ramps -- North side of N 53 & N 54 between Meridian Ave N and 1 Ave NE.
- 2013-046 -- Curb ramps -- All 4 corners of 1st Ave NE & NE 55th Street. -- Linn 2nd priority.
- 2013-048 -- Curb ramps -- Both 2 corners of 1st Ave NE & NE 54th Street -- Linn 3rd priority.

Proponent: Jacqueline Sorgen on behalf of residents of an adult family home. The project would allow resident(s) to more safely reach bus access; Elizabeth Statton presented at the meeting on behalf of Jacqueline.

- 2013-080 -- Curb ramps -- West side of Fremont Ave N at N 79th through N 84th street

Proponent: Eric Youngblat, resident of 115th Street. A sidewalk was installed on 115th two years ago but SDOT would not include the crosswalk at that time. A crosswalk at this location would make it safer to cross 5th Ave NE. An extra utility pole blocks the view of pedestrians and should be removed.

- 2013-071 -- Crosswalk & utility pole -- South side of NE 115th Street crossing 5th Ave NE.

Proponent: Sue Geving, Northgate Community Center. The park is new and still lacks play equipment to make it multi-generational use.

- 2013-072 -- Play equipment -- Hubbard Homestead Park (11203 5th Ave NE).

It was noted that there is overlap of the NWDC and the North DC east of I5. Eugene Wasserman stated that in the future he will not vote for projects in the disputed area as a matter of principle. The CNC is currently seeking ideas for how to address projects that are applicable to multiple districts either due to being in an overlap area, being on a border, or crossing over a border into multiple districts. The certified member organization representatives who were present (v) then voted, and **these three projects prevailed:**

- 2013-042 -- Curb extension -- SE corner of Latona Ave NE & NE 55th Street.
- 2013-080 -- Curb ramps -- West side of Fremont Ave N at N 79th through N 84th Streets.
- 2013-071 -- Crosswalk & utility pole -- South side of NE 115th Street crossing 5th Ave NE.

Chairs Report, Rick Klingele.

- Appointment to Neighborhood Matching Fund Large Project Fund CRT (Citywide Review Team) and appointment of District Level Matching Fund Review Committee.
 - As discussed in February, the group stated a preference for the District Councils to be the forums for evaluating these proposals. Steve Deters moved and Ellen Hewitt seconded a motion (which passed unanimously) that the following text be sent to the city:
"The NWDC would like to state, for the record, that it is in favor of continuing to have the NMF LPF applicant presentation review and rating process occur in the NWDC forum. We consider this essential to the long-term health of the District Council system. This statement was approved by vote of the NWDC on 27 March 2013."
 - A volunteer was needed to represent the NWDC at 8 meetings in June to evaluate NMF Large Project Fund applications. Volunteers should contact Rick Klingele / Rob Mattson.
 - At least 3 volunteers were needed to evaluate NMF LPF proposals from the NW District – Rick, Ann Bowden and Eugene Wasserman volunteered.

Report – City Neighborhood Council, Irene Wall.

- CNC discussed their visibility and making known the value of the District Council system – one possibility – attendance at street fairs? No decision was made.
- Planning an election forum that will be on the Seattle Channel.
- Budget committee is starting to draft a letter on City budget preferences.
- Looking at comprehensive plan and "transit communities" amendment proposal in particular, uncertain how it would work. Expect that "transit communities" could cause a big shift in single family zoning.

Staff Report, Rob Mattson.

- Information distributed about sidewalks and other pedestrian improvements planned to support Rapid Ride E Line implementation, including a list of proposed sidewalks and curb ramps.
- Flyer distributed about 2013 PACE leadership development course for emerging / potential community leaders.
- Distributed email list of NWDC member reps and alternates. Corrections / additions should be sent to Rob.

Next Meeting – April 24, 2013.

NOTE

For more information or to share your ideas about District Council projects and issues, contact Northwest District Council staff Rob Mattson, Rob.Mattson@seattle.gov, 206-684-4051 or NWDC Chair Rick Klingele at NWDCouncil@gmail.com.

The NWDC meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month; 7 PM at the Greenwood Senior Center, **except** in July, November & December (meets 1st Wednesday each December).

For more info visit www.NWDCouncil.org.