

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
October 22, 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, Chair
Jim Jensen, Broadview Community Council
Marcia Norman, Friends of Green Lake **(absent)**
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council **(absent)**
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council
Randy Harkness and Kris Lethin (sp?) Haller Lake Community Club
Tom Meyer, Lichten Springs Community Council
Amy Besunder, Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association
Alice Poggi, Phinney Ridge Community Council

Other members:

Gloria Butts, Bitterlake Pea Patch
Peter House, 43rd District Democrats, Secretary

Staff:

Thomas Whittemore, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Guests:

Celia Kennedy, Seattle Public Utilities
David Scott, Seattle Public Utilities
Rachel Garrett, Seattle Public Utilities
Alice Lancaster, Seattle Public Utilities
Karen Selander, Dept. of Neighborhoods
Kristin Anderson, NMF Advisory Committee
Janis Traven, NMF Advisory Committee
Cass Turnball, Plant Amnesty
Tim Motzer

Community:

Ron Hornung, Greenlake neighborhood
Large number of Broadview residents (Thomas Whittemore has the sign-in sheet.)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Eugene Wasserman.
2. Introductions/Short Announcements
3. Review and approve NWDC minutes from September 24, 2014 – Approved as submitted to this meeting.
4. Broadview Sewer and Drainage Project – Celia Kennedy (Project Manager) and Rachel Garrett (Project Communications Lead), David Scott, Alice Lancaster, and others from Seattle Public Utilities.

There were twenty+ Broadview residents who came to hear the SPU presentation. Celia reviewed recent history of sewer and drainage projects in Broadview. SPU is still considering options and they are currently getting community input. The SPU team presented four options with pros and cons of each. There is an \$89 million budget for this work. The project would occur over fifteen years with the highest priority projects coming within the next few years. Some spending could occur as soon as 2015.

Jim Jensen summarized the current consensus in the Broadview community. One concern is whether or not the community input has been adequate and authentic on this project. A main sticking point is the option of having a storm water holding pond which may entail property acquisition. The SPU reps promised to have more meetings in the community to be sure that SPU hears all voices on this issue.

5. Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) Advisory Committee Proposals – Kristin Anderson (NMF Advisory Committee), Janis Traven (NMF Advisory Committee), and Karen Selander (NMF Project Manager) from Dept. of Neighborhoods
Rick Klingele reported that the mayor's budget has unspent funds that he wants to move to street projects only.

Kristin, Janis, and Karen reviewed the current progress of the NMF work. Two districts cannot have a single proposal under the Large Projects Fund, and the Council had concerns about that. The Advisory Committee has met for about a year. The director of NMF makes the decision on the final proposals. The district councils give feedback to the Advisory Committee.

Feedback from the Council: The Chair pointedly expressed his opposition to this process, particularly the timing. We do not have time to take the proposal back to our constituent groups. There were concerns as to whether the Dept. of Neighborhoods cares about the District Councils' opinions. This program was created to support neighborhoods and now funds go to social services agencies and groups with fund raising skills/resources. DON could do better in helping neighborhoods develop projects.

Action: The NW District Council opposes the NMF Advisory Committee proposal unless we are given more time to go back to our councils. Eugene will write a letter to DON. This passed unanimously.

6. Tree Banking – Cass Turnball, Plant Amnesty

Cass presented ideas for creating more green spaces by using surplus City Light property. She would like the support of the Council by creating “tree banks” programs. The Council declined to act at this time on her request.

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

Reminded us of the upcoming City budgeting meeting.

8. City Neighborhood Council Report – Rick Klingele

Rick proposed putting a letter (that he distributed before the meeting) on record. He has concerns about recent developments pertaining to the CNC including bylaws proposals, proposals that would act to silence members, suppression of CNC minutes, arbitrary rules about CNC membership term limits, etc. Much of this is detailed in Rick’s letter and the background information he has put together. Thomas reported that the Ballard District Council would like to have a joint meeting with us in February to discuss our joint concerns as per the way the City is managing the CNC.

Decision: We will discuss Rick’s concerns at our next meeting and take an official position at that time.

Note: Rick submitted to the Secretary a series of documents (including a draft of the above referenced letter) in support of his proposal.

9. Chair’s Report - Eugene Wasserman

- Eugene will invite the Bicycle Master Plan team to meet with us at our next meeting.
- In January, we will hear a presentation on another drainage project that includes parts of Aurora Avenue.

10. Tim Motzer approached the Council for endorsement to be a member of the Parks Board. The Council will find out who the other candidates are and we will consider endorsements via email.

11. The mayor has proposed ways to spend the \$1.5 million in unspent funds [in the NMF]. The Council decided not to take a position on this.

12. Next NWDC meeting – We will not have a meeting in November. The December meeting will be on December 3, 2014

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Peter House, Secretary