

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
October 23, 2013, 7:00 PM.
Greenwood Senior Center - 525 North 85th Street
Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Attendance:

Voting members:

Steve Deters, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association.
Eugene Wasserman, Broadview Community Council.
Ron Hornung, Green Lake Community Council.
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council.
Randy Harkness, Haller Lake Community Club.
Tom Meyer, Licton Springs Community Council
Ann Bowden, Phinney Neighborhood Association.
Jacqueline Sorgen, 36th District Democrats.

Other members:

Gloria Butts, Bitter Lake P-Patch.
Joan Caldon, Greenwood Boys & Girls Club
Faye Garneau, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association.
Peter House, 43rd District Democrats.

Staff:

Rob Mattson, City Of Seattle Department Of Neighborhoods.

Guests:

Brendan Brophy, Seattle City Attorney's Office
Jolene Burgess
Tim Burgess, Seattle City Council
Albert Chen
Jennifer Shaw, Seattle Community Police Commission
Louis Watanabe

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Eugene Wasserman.
2. Minutes were approved as printed.
3. Introductions with quick updates.
4. Tim Burgess, Seattle City Council, addressed the NWDC on city issues.

Topics:

- Seattle is one of 3 cities in state who (under state law) must approve a budget by Oct 1
- City budget is just over \$4 billion per year

- About \$1 billion of the budget goes for general operations: 56% to public safety
- We care most about public safety and protection of our most vulnerable populations
- New police precinct in the NW district, open house soon
- We are pursuing universal pre-school for all kids in Seattle as a large leveraged investment in our community

Concerns of the NWDC members, affiliates and guests:

- Who is in charge of pre-school work at the city? Answer: Education Committee handles this.
- Will we add more police officers in the new budget? Answer: Yes, a net increase of 25 for next year. There are no national standards on how many officers that a city needs.
- Will the new north precinct affect the police staffing level in the city?
- Will there be police officers in the high schools. Answer: we already have some officers assigned to some schools. And officers often visit schools, on invitation.
- Cost over runs on the Aurora/SR99 tunnel, who will pay? Answer, the city has no commitments to cover overruns. WSDOT tells us how the project is going. Completed by 2015.
- Are there problems with pollution from the tailings from the tunnel? Answer: none known.
- What is controversial on the budget? Answer: Some of the utilities want to spend aggressively. The mayor has some controversial asks.
- Parks levies.
- What happened with the audit on the SDOT bonds? Answer: SDOT may not sell any more bonds.
- Location of the new N. Seattle Police Precinct.

5. Brendan Brophy from the Precinct Liaison Attorney in the City Attorney's Office was here to address the NW District Council. Mr. Brophy works with city agencies to address legal issues, e.g. housing, noise, harbor issues.

Topics of concern from the NWDC:

- We can find out about the role of Mr. Brophy's office on the City Attorney's website. http://www.seattle.gov/law/precinct_liaisons/
- Shares office space with the community policing team
- SDOT and traffic safety issues.
- Handles all legal issues except crimes in progress
- Opening of new marijuana stores; zoning issues around pot stores

6. Police Reform – Seattle, Jennifer Shaw, member of the Community Police Commission, addressed the Council. The Community Police Commission (CPC) was created to provide a vehicle for community input into the police reform process now underway as part of the settlement agreement with the US Department of Justice. The CPC has been working over the last few months to develop policy

recommendations in a number of areas, specifically use of force, bias-free policing, stops and detentions, and in-car video recordings. The CPC must report back to the parties to the agreement by November 15, 2013 on these policy areas. Prior to finalizing its recommendations, it is seeking community input. The commission is feeling rushed at this point. We are hoping to start the dialogue across the city.

- Check out the summary of recommendations at <http://www.seattle.gov/policeCommission/workareas.htm>
- Please take a moment to complete the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CPC123>

Topics of concern:

- Making the work of the commission accessible to folks with poor internet access and/or skills.
- What is driving the rushed nature?
- Get as much feedback as possible
- How many commissioners have ridden in a police car during a shift? Answer: 2 out of 15. More have gone on a ride-along in a police car.
- How will the two vacancies be filled?
- What is the track record of our police on such high-profile issues like stops and detentions?

7. Staff report – Rob Mattson (This was Rob’s last meeting...he is retiring.)

- Rob is retiring as of October 31, 2013. He has worked for the city for 42 years. His roots run deep in the Seattle neighborhoods.
- Replacement process: The city is looking now for a replacement for Rob...by early 2014. Thomas Whittemore will be the replacement for this council.
- King County Metro Transit will present to the NWDC in December. Management will talk about service cuts and the rationale for the cuts and the changes to routes, etc. Each member council should attend the meeting to ask specific questions about route changes.
- The NWDC has a District Council enhancement fund of about \$500. We need to decide how to spend the money. Discussion of possible purchases. Decided by vote (yeas: unanimous): We will buy a projector to be managed by the Chair for use at meetings and to loan out as appropriate to member organizations. We will have it at our meetings to assist our presenters. The remainder of our funds will go to the PNA for in-kind services such as wifi, refreshments, rent, use of the projection screen.

8. Chairs Report, Eugene Wasserman

No items to report

Next NWDC meeting – December 4th (no meeting in November)

Respectfully submitted, Peter House, Secretary