

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
September 24, 2014 7:00 PM.
Greenwood Senior Center - 525 North 85th Street
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Voting members:

Jan Gray, 36th District Democrats
Eugene Wasserman, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association, Chair
Jim Jensen, Broadview Community Council
Marcia Norman, Friends of Green Lake
Ellen Hewitt, Green Lake Community Council
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council
Randy Harkness and Kris Lethin, Haller Lake Community Club
Tom Meyer, Lichten Springs Community Council
Lee Harper, Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association (**absent**)
Alice Poggi, Phinney Ridge Community Council

Other members:

Peter House, 43rd District Democrats, Secretary

Staff:

Thomas Whittemore, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Guests:

Scott Kubly, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
Bill LaBorde, Chief of Staff, SDOT

Community:

Charles Bond, Greenwood resident, *The Urbanist*
Gloria Butts, Broadview community
Abigail Doerr, *Yes for Seattle Transit* campaign
Faye Garneau, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Eugene Wasserman.
2. Introductions/Short Announcements
3. Review and approve NWDC minutes from June 25, 2014 – Approved as submitted to this meeting.

4. SDOT Director introduction - Scott Kubly, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Scott was appointed this summer by the mayor; new to Seattle; here from Chicago. Self introduction: Recently ran a bike sharing company; traffic engineering in Chicago DOT; in DC working on mass transit.

Areas of discussion from Scott:

- Snow removal
- Rapid growth in Seattle; attractiveness of Seattle as a place to live
- Fragile transportation system; small problems get magnified due to the design of the city, our transportation system, the opening bridges, etc.
- Improving incident responses with better communications
- Providing transportation choices
- Transportation safety

Issues from the districts

- ✓ Parking in neighborhoods
- ✓ Cuts to bus services
- ✓ Keeping the neighborhoods “car-friendly” along with bike improvements
- ✓ Cross walk locations
- ✓ Scary neighborhood streets where traffic has increased
- ✓ Elementary schools without sidewalks
- ✓ Poor communications about SDOT plans; we just do not what is going on; we need more transparency
- ✓ Pedestrian-friendly crossings of Aurora
- ✓ Low walkability scores in some neighborhoods
- ✓ *De facto* arterials due to folks looking for alternate routes
- ✓ Coordination of SDOT projects/planning with sewer and drainage planning
- ✓ Explain to us the purpose/goals/planning of the new Transit Department within SDOT
- ✓ Bicycle planning
- ✓ Lack of transparency on the part of SDOT
- ✓ Coordination of the transit and bicycle plans; plans done without the involvement of the people in the neighborhoods or folks on the industrial side
- ✓ In our district we have lots of kids, senior citizens, and folks in wheelchairs.

Decision: We would like to hear from the city staff working on the multi-modal approach to transportation, integrating the various plans. Thomas will follow up to see who might be invited and when.

Decision: We will invite the mayor to one of our future meetings.

5. Seattle Transportation Benefit District Proposition 1

Pro: Abigail Doerr of *Yes for Seattle Transit* campaign; this is a Seattle-only transit measure following the recent failure of the county-wide initiative; transportation demand is on the rise while ; without a new tax, the Metro budget could be declining in Ms. Doerr's opinion; Prop 1 would be funded by a 0.1% sales tax increase plus an MVET.

Con: Faye Garneau; we cannot afford the new taxes; we have different needs in the city; it will raise the costs of goods and services in the city and that will hurt businesses; Seattle-only funding will cause problems for the rest of the county; this confuses the planning; we need to preserve the tradition of having "one county."

Concerns of the NWDC:

Buses to be cut: 304, 5, and 355 would be cut; 28X would be gone; 28 would be changed.

How the proposition will put pressure on the county to raise taxes.

What prevents the county from shifting funds ("supplanting") for Seattle transit to county needs thereby undoing the new funds raised by Prop 1.

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

- Review of the Northwest District Map with all the projects marked off.
- See the City Budget that Thomas distributed.
- Peter Steinbrueck has submitted to the city a draft report of his team's Seattle Sustainable Neighborhoods Assessment Project (SSNAP). Thomas will look into getting the report to the Council.

7. City Neighborhood Council Report – Rick Klingele

CNC has been on break this summer; Please fill out the Neighborhood Matching Funds survey.

8. Chair's Report - Eugene Wasserman

None this month.

9. Next NWDC meeting – October 22, 2014

Agenda item: Broadview Sewer and Drainage Improvement Project

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Peter House, Secretary