

NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
September 25, 2013, 7:00 PM.
Greenwood Senior Center - 525 North 85th Street
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Voting members:

Steve Deters, Aurora Avenue Merchants Association.
Eugene Wasserman, Broadview Community Council.
Ron Hornung, Green Lake Community Council.
Rick Klingele, Greenwood Community Council.
Randy Harkness, Haller Lake Community Club.
Ann Bowden, Phinney Neighborhood Association.
Irene Wall, Phinney Ridge Community Council.
Jacqueline Sorgen, 36th District Democrats.
Marcia Norman, Friends of Green Lake

Other members:

Peter House, 43rd District Democrats.
Gloria Butts, Bitter Lake P-Patch.

Staff:

Rob Mattson, City Of Seattle Department Of Neighborhoods.

Guests:

Kevin O'Neill, City of Seattle
Dongho Chang, City of Seattle
Sally Bagshaw, Seattle City Council
Jonathon Dong, City Of Seattle Department Of Transportation.
Norman Pool
Jennifer P.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair, Eugene Wasserman.
2. City Councilperson Sally Bagshaw asked for each person in attendance to name a city issue they are passionate about. Among others, these issues were mentioned:
 - Accountability
 - Homeless youth
 - Parks
 - Social justice
 - Sidewalks
 - Representing renters' issues
 - Safety on Aurora Avenue
 - Traffic safety

- Long delayed sewer project in Broadview west of Linden
- SDOT projects
- Water quality in Green Lake

3. The minutes approved as printed.

4. Councilperson Sally Bagshaw gave an update on Parks issues and planning: Topics discussed: Declining funding but Parks has \$130,000,000 from the General Fund; we have been able to keep all the community centers open; 88 projects funded by the last levy are underway; \$270,000,000 maintenance backlog, but we are addressing that; we have developed a Parks Legacy Plan; next levy will be August 2014 if the working group thinks that is appropriate; now is the time for anyone or for groups to step forward with ideas for the plan; go to the Parks website to submit an idea.

Concerns of the NWDC: How the plan process works; accountability for how the funds have been spent so far; reporting on progress of the projects funded by the current 2008 levy; acquisition of parks land; getting advance notification of what will be on the next parks levy and what the budget will be; parks financing particularly around maintenance; role of private money in financing parks and the “strings attached.”

Summary of concerns: We would like to see a list of existing parks projects and the calendar; one-pager on the process; list of what is in the Parks Dept. land bank; information on the N. 81st at Greenwood land acquisition; some members want copies of the Legacy Plan summary.

Ms. Bagshaw will likely not be the next chair of the Parks Committee. She left us a guide and tool kit on the Neighborhood Greenways movement.

5. Staff Report – Rob Mattson

- 2013 NPSF and Bridging the Gap NSF proposals: NW District got funding for its top two NSF projects: 1) Viewlands Elementary sidewalk and traffic safety project will be funded separately from the City’s School Zone Camera Fund (\$505,000); and 2) Greenwood Avenue sidewalks & transit improvements (\$1,070,000). These projects will be designed in 2014 and built in 2015. The NWDC has concerns about transparency of the process.
- 2013 District Council Outreach Fund needs to be spent by the end of October: we have a balance of \$462.
- Location of Seattle Police Department’s new North Precinct station at N. 130th and Aurora; there will be an open house to talk about the plan on Saturday October 26 at Bitter Lake Community Center; SPD had an internal process that determined the location and planning.

6. City Neighborhood Council – Irene Wall

Meetings are coming up soon and she will have more to report next month.

7. Chair’s Report – Eugene Wasserman

No report

8. Bike Master Plan Update– Kevin O’Neill, City of Seattle, Dept. of Transportation
Dongho Chang also in attendance.

Topics addressed by Mr. O’Neill: Handout on the master plan; connecting neighborhoods; how Greenways fit into the plan; “cycle tracks” defined; how to integrate bikes into the rest of the traffic systems;

Concerns of the NWDC: confusion about what is in the plan and what will actually be done and in what order; being clear about the difference between a plan or a proposal; what is the process by which plans and proposals get turned into actual changes; how decisions are made to set priorities for placing dedicated bike facilities, and considering multi-use of corridors (cars, transit, parking) like Phinney-Greenwood; how much data is behind the plan and how is the data used to inform the plan; lack of trust on the NWDC concerning how “the lines got on the map.”

Summary: SDOT should meet with the community councils to present the plan and get input.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Peter House, Secretary