

North Beacon Hill Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

7:00 PM, Beacon Hill Library Community Room

Introductions and Department of Neighborhoods Update.

Chair Melissa introduced the Council meeting. Board members in attendance included: Melissa Jonas, Chris Bailey, Miguel Maestas, Amy Kaminishi, Roger Pence, Erik Stanford, Stephan Daspit, Lee Nathan, Ted Grimes, Roseanne Lorenzana, Mira Latoszek, and Judith Edwards.

Yun Pitre discussed a Waste Management grant project available for the area. Information is available on the Waste Management web site. Total of \$25k is available and projects can be up to \$5k each. Projects just need to be about community building, not necessarily waste-related.

UPTUN

The City Council Transportation Committee met to discuss the Director's Rule concerning communication cabinets placed in public right of way areas such as planting strips. The potential installations that may be allowed would include smaller cabinets and would be landscaped and maintained. Service up to 1 gig will be available to Beacon Hill residents.

Seattle Public Schools Boundary Changes

The process for changing the school boundaries is expected to start again soon. The proposed boundaries are on the SPS web site. The Kimball School area is potentially being expanded and Kimball students are still proposed to go to Washington Middle School rather than Mercer as a result of Mercer converting to an immersion school.

Jefferson Park Jubilee

The Jefferson Park Jubilee is Saturday September 13. It is also the opening celebration of the Beacon Food Forest. There will be an outdoor movie at the end.

Beacon Hill Meaningful Movies

The Beacon Hill Meaningful Movies continue on the 3rd Friday of each month. "Sea Change" is the next movie. Movies are free. Movies are also playing on October 17, November 21 and December 19.

NBHC Agenda Planning Board Meeting

The NBHC Board is holding an agenda planning meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month prior to the meeting month. The agenda planning meeting is September 24 for the October NBHC meeting.

Friends of Lewis Park

Dee Dunbar discussed the Lewis Park trail construction kick-off event. The event will be on October 11 from 10am to 3pm.

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Cheasty Greenspace Project / Beacon Bike Park

Doug Critchfield from Parks (doug.critchfield@seattle.gov), Susan Zeman of the Friends of Cheasty Greenspace at Mountain View (FOCMV) (susanzeman8@gmail.com), and Kathy Colombo of Friends of Cheasty (FOC) (friendsofcheasty@gmail.com) presented respective updates on the Cheasty Greenspace project (www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/cheasty/g_s_bike_trail.htm).

Doug Critchfield discussed the overall project and the process required for the design of the project. Design requires City Council review. Doug described the project advisory team (PAT). PAT is a 12-member team of community members. The 13th member from Parks was eliminated. Parks received 43 applications. Parks is looking for balanced representation of all points of view. Meetings start Thursday October 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Rainier Community Center and they will be open to the public.

Susan Zeman of FOCMV discussed the Beacon Bike Park design project. FOCMV has hired a geotechnical engineer to perform an analysis. Restoration by volunteers within the Beacon Bike Park area is ongoing. Plants for fall planting have been ordered. Workparties are upcoming in October. Green Seattle Planting Day is November 8. November 15 is another work party for planting. Landscape architect will be working on trail design soon, so comments are welcome on design.

Kathy Columbo of FOC described the FOC organization and their position on the project. FOC is a longstanding group of the neighbors of Cheasty Greenspace. They are planning to collect wildlife and forest data in areas of the greenspace that hasn't been document. They are working to preserve the greenspace and to allow pedestrian access along the perimeter of the greenspace. They are polling the neighborhood to solicit ideas on restoration work within the greenspace. They urge everyone to review City Council legislation, particularly Section 5. FOC will be holding Parks accountable that what is being done complies with City-wide greenspace policy.

Questions: FOCMV was asked who the geotechnical engineer is that they hired. They indicated they have hired Stantec. Parks was asked what they are doing about the person digging in Cheasty. Doug Critchfield indicated Parks is looking for the person to offer services. Parks cleaned up the area, re-graded, and installed erosion control.

DPD Comp Plan

Kristian Kofoed of DPD (Kristian.kofoed@seattle.gov) presented an update of the 10-year City Comp Plan update process. The Comp Plan update is required by the State Growth Management Act. The City is expecting 70,000 new households (120,000 new people) in next 20 years. The purpose of the plan is to determine the best way to leverage the growth and distribute across the City. Currently working on EIS. In November/December 2014 the City expects to complete a draft plan and draft EIS. Info at 2035.seattle.gov.

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Questions: Has a decision been made whether the update will be based on the urban village model, transit oriented development or another factor? No decision has been made – these are the alternatives. At the end of the process, best things from all alternatives can be combined into a preferred alternative. Shouldn't this process have occurred before the city selected to focus growth in the Mt. Baker town center. Isn't this one of the alternatives that the update is supposed to study whether to focus growth around light rail stations? The current Comp Plan update is studying focusing new growth around stations over the next 20 years. The rezoning around the Mt. Baker station was addressed in a previous environmental study. There was followup discussion of the difference and relationship between the Comp Plan and the neighborhood plan. Does the city monitor growth estimates and transit impact estimates and where is the best place to find the estimates? DPD just completed a Development Capacity report that shows some of those numbers and an appendix in the current Comprehensive plan shows the growth estimates for each urban village and commercial/industrial center. How well do the real growth numbers compare to their estimates, does the city monitor that? They are and the estimates from the last major update 10 years ago were about 75% accurate.

There is a town hall meeting on gentrification and growth on September 10.

El Centro Development

Kate de la Garza (kated@beacondevgroup.com) described the design review process for the project, particularly related to the central plaza. During design review, DPD requested that El Centro extend the paving pattern of the central plaza to the Festival Street right of way. SDOT is against the idea of extending the pattern into the right of way.

A motion was made to support the project in principle as a concept, contingent on being presented with actual design drawings to review. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with one opposing and several abstentions.

Smart Electrical Meters

Jordan van Vost discussed smart utility meters. The Safe Utility Meters Alliance NW (safemeters.org) is the organization addressing this. Seattle City Light holding a meeting about smart meters on September 15 at 2:30.

El Centro meeting calendar

Miguel Maestas presented the upcoming calendar for meetings associated with the El Centro project.

Beacon Arts

Betty Jean Williamson discussed the activities of Beacon Arts (formerly Rockit). Beacon Arts is seeking members to act on their steering committee.

Beacon Merchants

The Beacon Merchants Association will be holding a networking lunch in October.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The NBHC Board of Directors met following the regular meeting.

The Board discussed the motion to support El Centro's plan to extend the paving pattern of the central plaza into the Festival Street right of way. A motion was made to write a letter to the Beacon Development Group to support the concept of extending the plaza surface into the SDOT right of way. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with 8 yes, 1 no, and 3 abstentions.

The Board discussed the procedure for setting and revising agendas and the agenda-setting meetings held two weeks prior to the regular NBHC meeting, on September 24. The Board discussed the goals of the agenda meetings. Stephen suggested the idea of forming a committee to address administrative issues, including setting agendas, possibly leading the agenda-setting meeting. Volunteers for committee will email Stephan to join.

The Board adjourned.