

PHINNY RIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Jan. 7, 2014

Called to order 7:32 p.m. Susan Wagner

In attendance:

Board Members:, Annie Davis, Craig Fryhle, Carolyn Lee, Mark Phillips, Alice Poggi, Mary Lou Reslock, Ron Siegle, Susan Wagner, Irene Wall

Others in attendance: Erica Jorgenson, Brian Gerich, 43rd Dist. Rep. Brady Walkinshaw

Discussed possible Neighborhood Matching Fund grant for the planned pocket park across from the Greenwood Library. Plans are in the works to hold a joint strategy meeting with Greenwood & Phinney Ridge Community Councils to discuss ideas for the park and any other issues that may be of interest to both community councils. Current tenants of the building that will be torn down for the park have been given relocation funds.

Discussed the multi-family building code updates in progress. Citizens group and DPD are meeting. The city will hold a neighborhood meeting to address complaints that new building codes are resulting in taller buildings in residential neighborhoods than desired. The meeting is Jan. 14, at Lowell Elementary on Capitol Hill from 6:30-8:00 pm. More information here: <http://seattlespeaksup.wordpress.com>.

Discussed status of environmental cleanup at 70th & Greenwood - Former Orowheat store and previously a supplier of PERC (a toxic chemical used in dry cleaning). Unclear if cleanup is done, but an additional fence has been added. Some board members discussed the possibility SDOT is concerned that there is still contamination under the street.

Discussed planned multi-family building at 68th & Phinney. Brian reports it will be 45 units with 15 parking spaces. Brian says neighbors concerned about the lack of parking went to a design guidance hearing but were told it is not the forum for parking complaints.

Discussed the illegal tree removal on the property at 63rd and Linden where a 4-story mixed used development is going up. Developers committed to saving a certain number of trees, but cut them down. DPD made them replant new trees.

Learned that 59th and Phinney play area redevelopment has begun and fences are up. Renovation expected to take several months.

Discussed possible Neighborhood Matching Fund grant for Phinney HUB locations, Alice provided update on HUB effort. December meeting cancelled and is rescheduled for later in Jan. Committee is seeking volunteers. See Ruth McDonald at Phinney Neighborhood Association. Neighborhood volunteers are coordinating sites. PNA is one hub. Ron will inquire if zoo is a hub. Ted is working on grant application.

Irene proposed we write a letter to the new city council, mayor and Kevin at Seattle Department of Transportation to oppose the cycle track planned for Greenwood/Phinney because it would slow traffic and reduce parking for businesses.

Visit by 43rd Rep. Brady Walkinshaw. He gave us his background and said he is assigned to the transportation and judiciary committees. Higher education is a priority for him and he expects I-594 about gun safety (limiting types of firearms, requires background checks) to be on ballot and hotly contested. He also says the Washington Voting Rights Act means redistricting could be ordered for underrepresented minorities in voting districts. He expects King County will increase the motor vehicle excise tax to help fund transit. He encourages people to contact him via Brady.walkinshaw@leg.wa.gov

Areas of concern that those in attendance expressed to Rep. Walkinshaw: increasing density with transit and traffic policies not keeping up; desire for bus stop at 50th and Aurora; development issues including the loss of well-built older buildings of character for newer buildings that do not fit the neighborhood character, have few parking spaces and are sometimes poorly built; the increasing number of bike lanes on busy streets that slow traffic; concern over funding for the University of Washington, suggestion to license bicycles, reports that school construction monies that are supposed to be used for sustainable practices are not being properly overseen and some are being spent on environmentally unfriendly building practices

Adjourned at 8:45