

## **PHINNY RIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Feb. 4, 2014**

**Called to order 7:34 p.m. Susan Wagner**

**In attendance:**

**Board Members:, Diane Duthweiler, Carolyn Lee, Alice Poggi, Mary Lou Reslock, Corey Satten, Ron Siegle, Susan Wagner**

Others in attendance: Robin Denburg, Charles Bond, Rob Fellows, Bill Farmer & 2 others

### **Efforts to Revise Multifamily Zoning**

Mike Veitenhans presented on the effort underway in many neighborhoods to revise the multifamily building code. He said he and about 70 other neighbors were surprised to learn the Isola development underway at 68<sup>th</sup> & Greenwood includes 45 units and 12-15 parking spaces. The neighbors were not aware that parking regulations had changed to allow fewer spaces per unit and they are concerned it is too few spaces. He said other areas of concern with the zoning laws include heights of buildings, commercial, 4-story building along Phinney Ave., transitions from one building zone to the next (very high facing Phinney Ave-same block behind is single family.)

He says another area of concern is that taller buildings might impose on neighborhood property owners' solar panels.

He has 53 people on a Google group that he says are interested in helping see the building codes changed and that parking is their primary concern. He says there is a design review meeting with the project developer Isola next week. Seattle Speaks Up, Livable Ballard, Capitol Hill CC, Phinney/Greenwood and Capitol Hill participants are among the grassroots groups working on multifamily zoning issues.

There was discussion about the amenities that need to come with density to make it work. Mike asked for participation from PRCC.

Robin Denburg asks about PRCC's communication with city council. Diane Duthweiler responded that we meet with some members occasionally, but not regularly.

Greenwood Community Council Chair Rob Fellows says height is a big issue and he is concerned about large buildings saying an 98-bedroom a-podment could be built in Greenwood and classified as two, six-bedroom units which would make them exempt from parking and many other requirements. He says under the new building codes, design and SEPA (environmental) reviews have been changed so there is less opportunity for the public to speak out. He says the new codes do not require any parking in urban villages. Corey Satten notes that the urban villages were supposed to include more transit which has not happened and suggests zoning issues for consideration as a topic for the annual meeting.

Rob Fellows said he'd like the community councils to work together.

### **Parks Updates**

Ron Siegle reports that the Zoo has some additional storage on grounds now for Wildlights supplies and equipment. The Zoo made its goal of 75,000 visitors to the holiday event and feels it was a financial success. Corey Satten said Wildlights was less intrusive on his street this year.

Ron attended the latest **Park Legacy Citizens' Advisory Committee** meeting and said there is a parks maintenance backlog and the committee is working to find citizen priorities, financing & spending package. He reviewed a survey that showed a majority chose "fix it first" as a priority. \$ 54M, 40M and 26M packages being considered. Current levy \$24M – approx. \$76 for a house of \$400,000. Current parks levies expire every 6 years making funding uncertain. One of the reasons a metropolitan parks district is being considered.

Mary Lou raises question about accountability of a metropolitan park district.

Rob Fellows says issues of how to dissolve it can be murky.

Bill Farmer, Legacy Committee member, says the committee will provide recommendations to Seattle City Council in March. He reports the land-banked pocket park by Greenwood Library will be funded initially from the budget line item "New Waterfront Park".

Numerous people expressed desire to have people put pressure on city to develop the 14 parks land-banked, as they are already purchased.

### **81<sup>st</sup> & Phinney Park**

Rob Fellows updates on PRCC Greenwood CC joint effort to get Neighborhood Matching Fund grant for design efforts. Ted Holden is leading the grant effort.

Bill Farmer says next deadline for small and simple grant is in June.

### **Annual Meeting in May/PRCC Board Elections**

Diane Duthweiler suggests we take topics tonight and conduct a board vote by email in the next couple of weeks. Diane volunteered to coordinate speaker invitations.

Topics for consideration:

#### **Zoning & Parking**

#### **Transit/Biking/Pedestrian/Traffic**

Robin Denburg suggests having a sub topic of a larger issue to keep things actionable.

### **Disaster Planning HUD Effort**

Alice Poggi updated reports that Ted Holden is working on a Small and Simple grant to help the HUD project. St. Johns Church would be the neighborhood's desired south emergency hub. Alice will put out an email so PRCC can consider/volunteer their matches against the grant.

### **55<sup>th</sup> & Phinney**

Fenced off and being used as an apparent storage, supply station for an off-site project. Developer is Isola.

### **New Business:**

Attendee asked who is responsible for graffiti on pedestrian overpasses over Aurora. Unknown if it's the Zoo or City.

**Adjourned at 8:58 p.m.**