

Phinney Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2014

Susan Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:30. Present were Board Members Susan Wagner, Corey Satton, Carolyn Lee, Ron Siegle, Alice Poggi, but a quorum was not achieved. There were guests from the Greenwood neighborhood and Phinney neighborhood: Henry Branos, Ron Lewis, Melissa Putman, Mike Veitenhaus, Richard Fleming, Gaayle Garmen, Bridgett Granpe, Tabitha Kiesel, Marilyn Smith.

Phinney Folks

Alice Poggi spoke on the Phinney Folks which Mike Viendehans formed after the design review meeting on the 68th and Greenwood project. People were concerned that multifamily zoning allowed for the type of buildings proposed next to single family housing. A few people involved with Phinney Folks have written letters about their concerns of neighborhood issues -- lack of parking, height and transitions, setbacks. The City Council's responses have emphasized increasing density, reducing parking and reducing the cost of housing in "Urban Villages."

The city's Comprehensive Plan designates urban villages. Some of the original regulations have been loosened in the past couple of years, presumably to advance the Council's vision for Seattle's future. There is an abrupt line between single family residences and multi-family housing. Greenwood Ave is Neighborhood Commercial /N C 40 foot height zoning and Phinney Ave is Lowrise 3 /L 30 foot height zoning. They often occupy the same block as the single family residences. A map found on the Department of Planning and Development site was circulated that shows the zoning in the entire area. Ron Lewis, who was involved in the planning of the Urban Villages on Phinney and Greenwood, said that much of the Urban Village philosophy was inspired by a book, *The Car and the City*, Professor Alan Durning where the car becomes less necessary in an urban village because the services are easily accessible. Ron thinks the idea of Urban Villages is good but the process is bad, working top down instead meaning the City tells the citizens how development of their neighborhoods will be instead of bottom up where the neighborhoods tell the City how they want their neighborhood to be.

Two guests who live on the border of Green Lake and Phinney said that The Green Lake area has seen 300% growth over the projected Comprehensive Plan but housing costs have not in fact lowered. And the neighborhoods are experiencing the consequences for the growth. PRCC wants to learn from their experience and protect our neighborhood's character and businesses.

There was much discussion about how to join the interests of Phinney Folks and PRCC. Alice will be a link between PRCC and Phinney Folks. Phinney Folks is encouraged to draft a position paper and send to PRCC to adopt. Seattle Speaks Up has already submitted a petition to the City Council to modify multi-family regulations. Livable Ballard is putting a petition together as well.

The two City Council persons that could run to represent our district next year are Nick Licata and Mike O'Brien. It is expected Licata will run city wide and O'Brien will run to represent this district. Our Council representative will be our main contact for expressing concerns in our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Bldg Updates

68th and Greenwood: The neighbors worked with the developer, Isola and they have agreed to decrease units, increase parking, and provide more generous setbacks to the single family housing. This project is a great example of cooperation between a developer and neighbors.

56th and Phinney: A preliminary meeting has been held with neighbors but this property does not have the same good communication between the developer who is also Isola and the neighbors. The expected development will see subdividing the property for the purpose of building multi-family residences.

6010 Phinney: No information. . The property historically has been and is currently dry cleaners so the property will need extensive environmental cleaning.

Metropolitan Park District Proposal Updates

The Seattle Parks Department will put forth a proposal to form a metropolitan park district plan to stabilize future funding. The public will vote in August 2014. The City Council will be exploring Parks funding and potential votes at several upcoming meetings. The meeting dates and times can be found here: http://www.seattle.gov/council/com_assign.htm#parksfunding

81st and Greenwood: It was noted that a landscape class at UW has put in a development plan but development is still in very early stages. A neighborhood matching grant is being considered jointly with Greenwood Community Council.

HUB/Disaster Plan

Continuing classes are coming up in the near future. Build a Disaster Kit is Tuesday March 11, and training for an Incident Command System is being held Monday March 17, and on Saturday, May 17th a trial city wide "emergency" will take place to test our readiness.

As part of our neighborhood disaster readiness, PNA is gathering a preliminary list of skills we'll need in the event of an emergency, such as nurses, plumbers, electricians, etc.

New Business

Mayor's Summit: April 5th at the Seattle Center.

http://www.seattle.gov/council/com_assign.htm#parksfunding

NW District Council Meeting: February's main topic was City Light's Strategic Plan.

A question was raised, if a homeowner utilizes solar power and reduces their need for City Light's services, will they be required to pay a "Solar Surcharge"? Ron Lewis will attend the March meeting and return with information to PRCC.

Annual Meeting in May

Our annual meeting will have a topic of Zoning and a discussion of who we should invite generated several names such as Nick Licata, Mike O'Brien, Jim Diers, and other top staff people.

A question for our group is how can we positively impact zoning/building issues to benefit our neighborhood? The annual meeting is a chance to advocate for other things.

The meeting is scheduled for May 6th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55p.m.