

Phinney Ridge Community Council

April 1, 2014

The meeting opened at 7:32

Board Members present: Ted Holden, Mary Lou Reslock, Ron Siegle, Annie Davis, Corey Satten, Carolyn Lee, and Mark Phillips.

Additional attendees: Alyne Fortgang, Dan Swenson, Ron Lewis, Bill Farmer, and Rob Fellows

Those present were given an update on the recovery of Board Member and Treasurer Irene Wall.

Phinney folks and other neighborhood efforts to roll back recent multi-family zoning changes:

A letter will be presented at our annual meeting next month from Phinney Folks.

A question arose regarding Design Review. Can we get a neighborhood review before the Design Review, perhaps a pre-Design Review? Bartell's in Ballard sent a letter to neighbors seeking input on their plans and the neighbors were pleased to be included and have their voices heard. Will DPD institute this for other projects in other neighborhoods?

Ron Lewis reminded the board that the Fremont Council negotiated a park through mitigation regarding a building next to the transfer station.

There is a concern that DPD will say, "we have codes and if it's w/n codes it's okay".

It was agreed that all letters on this subject be sent to all city council members and the mayor's office.

Neighborhood Building Updates:

- 68th and Greenwood-no change
- 56th and Phinney- Developer is starting to tear out the back of the building and we think it will look like the building at 52nd and Phinney.
- 6010 Phinney-Dry Cleaner and Chef Liao businesses are still in place. We expect contamination from the cleaners to require remediation.
- West Woodland Park Play Area-Parks department said they would try to maintain the 10 foot swings which are okay for big kid swings but the baby swings need 8 foot structures. They didn't properly inform us of the changes. The renovation should be complete by summer.

Northwest District Council:

There are plans to clean up the stairway on 58th Street to 3rd Avenue NW.

Repairs along 3rd Avenue up around 140th Street are underway. Kate Martin is working on pedestrian access around Sandel Park, 3rd and 92nd. Her focus is Safe Routes to Schools.

There was a suggestion of possible joint meeting between the NW District and the N District councils.

Pedestrian Zone Overlay-A map of Pedestrian Zones is here:

http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web_informational/dpds022272.pdf

The purple shaded areas are areas slated for review.

Woodland Park Zoo:

Dan Swenson asked to clarify our relationship with WPZ. There is a neighborhood Liaison Committee run by the WPZS which was mandated by City Council on which Board Member Mark Phillips sits. The NLC's mission is to communicate relevant WPZ information to the neighborhoods and to mitigate the relationship between the zoo and neighborhood as to neighborhood impacts. PRCC is just one of the neighborhoods surrounding Woodland Park that participates on this committee. Visitors Dan Swenson and Alyne Fortgang requested PRCC to join them in opposing the zoo's plans for the elephants.

A noted concern is that the zoo operates as a hybrid public agency and receives about \$11million in tax dollars but is not subject to public disclosure laws nor are they answerable to the public.

The most recent report from the Elephant Task Force is here: <http://www.elephanttaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Elephant-Futures-Announcement-pr-3-14.pdf>

Whether or not the zoo is acting in the best interests of the elephants is seen as larger than a neighborhood concern, it is a city-wide or regional concern.

It was discussed that PRCC sponsor a meeting with both pro and anti elephant enclosure speakers for the community to hear the differing opinions. The media could be invited as well. Tentatively, this forum will occur on a Saturday in June.

The final decision to hold a meeting such as this will be decided by contacting and receiving input from the entire Board as more than half of the Board were absent. Ted will send out an email to the Board.

Metropolitan Parks District Updates and Letter to City in Support of Developing Land Banked Park Sites:

There was vigorous discussion about the city establishing Metropolitan Park District that would provide stable funding for Seattle Parks. As it is now, the Mayor proposes a budget and City Council votes on the budget. For many years Seattle parks have been underfunded and relying on levies, which usually run 6-8 years. Funding through levies is uncertain and it is argued that a Metropolitan Park District will provide certainty to the Parks department for future planning.

A comparison sheet outlining different funding models is found here:

http://www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy/files/funding_mechanism_comparism.pdf

A group in opposition to the Metropolitan Parks District called Our Parks Forever can be contacted at <mailto:ourparksforever@outlook.com> with a website is coming soon. They have an Outside City column that is linked here: <http://www.zipcon.net/~jvf4119/outsidetwo.htm>

May Meeting/Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting is set for May 6th with a start time of 6:30 Meet and Greet. Six Board Members either have terms expiring or have asked to be removed from their position. These positions will be voted on and filled at the May Meeting. The following meeting in June officers will be elected.

Three presentations will be made:

- 1) Alice will chair a discussion with Phinney Folks and Zoning issues impacting our neighborhood.
- 2) Diane will chair a discussion covering traffic, transportation, and parking issues.
- 3) Susan will chair a discussion concerning Seattle's the Comprehensive Plan.

PRCC and Greenwood Community Council joint issues:

Two issues to be discussed, Support for funding development of the Land Banked Parks and possibly an NMF Grant by both Councils to fund a concept design plan for the site at N 81st & Greenwood to ensure the neighborhoods have a design that represents their interests and needs. Ted and Rob Fellows will write letters to City council in support of funding the development of the sites and both will also meet to discuss a plan for applying for an NMF Grant. The next Small and simple Grant cycle is on June 2nd.

HUD Disaster Plan

While St. John United (SJU) hasn't formally agreed to be a Phinney HUB, Carolyn Lee and another representative from SJU will meet with the HUB group on April 15th and plans will progress from there.

The zoo wants to meet with SJU and the HUB group regarding the west entrance of the zoo as it directly faces SJU.

Neighborhood Matching Funds will be sought to pay for the Lock Boxes holding the emergency HUB items.

Response by SPD to Letter Written about Neighborhood Traffic Issues:

A letter was sent to SPD outlining concerns about increasing traffic issues in our neighborhood. SPD responded and will be increasing motorcycle patrols to catch speeders in the neighborhood.

Meeting adjourned.