

PHINNEY RIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES *draft*

November 4, 2014 7 pm @ Phinney Neighborhood Center

www.phinneyridgecc.org

Present: Diane Duthweiler,, Duncan Griffin, Carolyn Lee, Alice Poggi, Nancy for Ron Siegle, Irene Wall. Mary Lou Reslock, Ted Inkley, Susan Wagner

Absent: Angela Marshall, Mark Phillips, Jan Satterthwaite, Craig Fryhle, John Bito, Terry Cook

Visitors: Dave Crippen, Ron Lewis, Neal Shay, Henry Brendis, Marilyn Smith, Chris Brown, Ginny Watkins, Tabitha Kiesel, Brigitte Groupe, Jo Reid, Peg Manuel

GUEST SPEAKER Tom Whittemore, Dept of Neighborhoods Northwest District Coordinator

tom.whittemore@seattle.gov

1. The City Council will be addressing a Neighborhood Conservation District Study in spring 2015. If adopted, there will be a staff person working with other neighborhoods, which ultimately could include Phinney. Staff contact: lish.whitson@seattle.gov

2. How to spend Neighborhood Matching Fund excess is being discussed.... There are three levels of grants available for groups to access for various projects . The explanations can be reviewed at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf.

3. A list of all neighborhood grant resources was distributed for our future reference.

4. Leadership Seminar is available “Democracy Needs You”. Five advocacy tools that will shape your world. December 3, 2014, 6:30 8:30 pm . There is no cost. Sign up with Wendy.Watson@seattle.gov

5. There are some changes proposed at Dept of Neighborhoods Matching Fund that was presented at the NW District Council’s Oct meeting. They were developed by NMF Advisory Committee (volunteers from neighborhoods groups who have been active in reviewing grant requests). Their recommendations were questioned extensively and not well received. The Director will respond to concerns raised .

6. Next year the City Council will have seven districts each having a representative plus two at- large members. We are in District 6, shown on the map at seattle.gov/cityclerk/municipal-code-and-city-charter/district-elections-map . District Council is a group of community council and other community groups. But boundaries for City Council Districts boundaries are different than the District Council so the question is raised on how Department of Neighborhoods and other departments should be organized for citizen accountability. Tom W/Dept of Neighborhoods may be organizing a forum in Feb to define common issues to our communities. There was discussion that Ballard District Council and NW District Council get together. It was proposed by Ted that this be an May annual meeting topic. Ted will attend nearby District Council Meetings to begin the communication of issues with other community groups.

5. There is currently an opening on the NW Design Review Board. Some experience with building or development is necessary to get on the board. The city staff contact person is lisa.rutzick@seattle.gov

OLD BUSINESS

1. Meeting minutes were sent out by email with the draft agenda and revisions incorporated then resent with final agenda.

2. **Treasurer report-** Bank account has been moved to Umqua to with Carolyn and Terry as co-signatures. Umqua is providing a no fee account for PRCC as a community group.

3. Land Use Special Committee reports

* 70th & Grnwd (Orowheat site)- is currently for sale. There is a single family lot behind the neighborhood commercial lot along Greenwood Ave N. The EPA has not signed off on the clean up and it is unclear how long that process that will be. The process of decontamination was discussed.

* 68th & Greenwood- This site is an example of the zoning boundary and property lines not corresponding. If the 10 feet setback is from the zoning line which was in the neighbors back yard then the building essentially can go clear to the adjacent property line in essence removing any setback. If the setback begins from the property line, then there is a true setback which softens the transition from single family heights to multifamily heights. This conflict occurs frequently where half the block is zoned multifamily along Phinney or Greenwood and the parallel street is single family. The developers, Isola, at this location were willing to accept the property line to begin the setback and is happy to make the space an landscape amenity for prospective residents.

* 58th and Phinney - This is another site where the property and zoning lines may not correspond. It was discussed whether there needs to be a zoning amendment and/or the planner for each project be contacted. The council interested in contacting the developer and/or the assigned DPD planner about compatibility with the character of Phinney Ridge.

Postscript: Zoned Neighborhood Commercial 2 – 40 ft height, 28 units proposed, unknown parking spaces below grade

* 67th and Greenwood site (art gallery) is being rented. *Postscript: site was sold last winter, permit no longer listed on DPD but the site plan is. Inactive status.*

* The property line and zoning line differences might be an issue for City Council to address

* Bike Plan will be distributed by email.

4. **NW District Council-** Refer to Tom W items. Next meeting is Wednesday Dec 4, 7 pm

5. **City Neighborhood Committee-** Tom W. reported that The Seattle Sustainable Neighborhoods Assessment Project (Peter Steinbruecks report on development stats and the Comprehensive Plan) is still being reviewed by Department of Planning and Development and other departments prior to public distribution.

6. **Election Forum** Susan reported that the forum was very useful. Diane handled the last minute publicity. It was suggested that a forum be held prior to the ballots being mailed out.

7. Zoo Wildlights 2014 - The zoo welcomes Board members to give feedback particularly on opening night, Tuesday Nov 25 between 5:50-8:30. Notify Alice if you would like to attend.

8. Upcoming meetings and Board vacancies

- * NW Design Review Board posting- see PRCC website for posting Information
- * Metropolitan Park District Oversight Committee: Application deadline has been extended

9. Website revisions- no changes this month

NEW BUSINESS

1. City Council Districts- see discussion No. 4, guest speaker

2. Pedestrian Overlay Zone- Dedication of the zone along south Phinney Ave would retain retail requirements on the street level where it is zoned Neighborhood Commercial and preserves services that residents ridge use. If there is no overlay zone, retail can be pre-empted for residential uses. SPD will present the plan at the **next community council meeting Dec 2. It will held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 5515 Phinney Ave North.** Irene recommends that the council consider advocating for this designation.

4. Other

* There was concern about the corner of Phinney and Greenwood at 67th in light of the truck ramming the building over the weekend. A neighbor will contact the building owner to see if he would like PRCC to support a traffic assessment. *Postscript: upon visiting the site it was noted that there is no flashing lights nor night illumination on the barricade which could help prompt a (impaired)driver that the street turns a corner. Tom W said that this may be eligible for a small street project grant.*

* There is a **meeting at Loyal Heights Community Center on Property Crime Increase, Nov 18th, 1:30-3:00 pm.** *Postscript Councilmember Tim Burgess and Officer Elizabeth Scott (Crime Prevention Coordinator) from the SPD North Precinct will be in attendance, as well as local residents, business owners, school representatives, and likely the media. There will be a public question period.*

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting is Tuesday December 2, 7 pm at St John's Lutheran Church (NEW LOCATION)