

NORTH HIGHLINE UNINCORPORATED AREA COUNCIL

1243 Southwest 112th Street

Minutes of October 21

Present – Judy Duff, President; Steve Davis, Vice-President; ; Marlil Lovell, Treasurer; Michael Griffith; Kent Horton; Ron Johnson; Ruth-Ann Matthias; Marliza Melzer; Gerald Robison, Mark Warren

Absent – Scott LaVielle, Corresponding Secretary – excused; Tim Daly - excused

OPENING CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

President Duff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- • Councilmember Duff made a grammatical correction to the October 7 minutes adding "she" on page 5, fourth bullet, third line. The correction was accepted. Councilmember Lovell made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 7 meeting; Councilmember Davis seconded the motion.
 - -The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilmember Duff recommended to amend the agenda by switching the appointment of the new NHUAC councilmember with the presentation on the King County Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Duff also proposed to add a request to consider federal road issues under new business. Councilmember Johnson recommended to add the issue of the NHUAC website under new business as well.
 - -Councilmember Lovell made the motion to amend the agenda to reflect Councilmember Duff and Johnson's suggestions. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion.

Approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Corresponding Secretary's Report –

- ○ • Councilmember Duff recognized King County Councilmember Nickels who was present as well as Nancy Weaver, Staff to King County Council. Councilmember Duff also extended condolences to Bong St. Domingo who was still recovering from his car accident.
 - Due to the absence of Corresponding Secretary LaVielle, Vice-President Davis read into the record a letter received from Cathy Taylor. The letter addressed the issue of amending the NHUAC by-laws to specifically allow the chair to vote and discuss. The letter stated that since the chair is an elected representative, he/she has an obligation to represent their constituents. Constituents should know the views of their representatives so that they are able to make informed decisions in future elections. The NHUAC's purpose is to represent the residents of the area and therefore the chair should vote.

Public Announcements-

- • Councilmember Horton announced that a meeting regarding the Third Runway will be held Wednesday, November 3, at the Foster Performing Arts Center in Tukwila. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. and the Corps of Engineer and Department of Ecology will be present to answer ecology questions

relevant to the third runway.

- Councilmember Melzer reported that the Union Gospel Mission has commenced an after-school program which will take place at Hilltop Elementary. There is a preliminary plan to extend the program to Beverly Park at Glendale Elementary as well as White Center Elementary.

- Councilmember Duff reported that a King County budget meeting will be held October 26 in Bothell and October 28 at the King County Courthouse.

-A candidates' meeting is scheduled for October 26 at the Highline Senior Center at 7:00 p.m.

-The Office of Civil Rights Employment is holding a meeting regarding civil rights employment, October 28, at the Boys and Girls Club from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Councilmember Duff noted Councilmember Griffith's article in the *Highline Times* chronicling the adventures of Boulevard Park Library's "Jane Bear" program. Jane Bear is loaned to people travelling as long as they take pictures explaining her adventures.

- Nancy Jo Purdue, *Highline Times* editor, reported that the *Highline Times* teamed with the Burien Merchants Association to sponsor the Safe Halloween event for kids. The event will take place October 29 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Over 100 merchants will be providing children with Halloween treats, and the community is invited.

- Mac Yielding thanked the NHUAC chair, Councilmember Davis, and all the community members who came to the community meeting regarding the methamphetamine house on 5th Avenue.

- Tom Jahns inquired as to the status of the proposed sub-area plan for the unincorporated area.

-Councilmember Duff responded that the information available at the time was that business members from White Center and Top Hat are trying to organize a meeting with Councilmembers Nickels and Pelz. It also was included as one of the NHUAC's budget requests to King County.

- Otto reported that he received a flyer from Seattle City Light regarding the proposed differentiation of rates between City of Seattle customers and those outside the City limits. He strongly opposed this action and called Seattle City Councilmember Margaret Paegler's office and was told two additional public meetings are still scheduled.

- Avis Van Loom stated that she received a video on earthquake safety and felt it was very worthwhile and Councilmember LaVielle told her he would review it for possible use by the fire department.

Committee Reports-

- Councilmember Davis reported for the elections committee that it was on the evening's agenda to make an appointment to fill the open council seat. Michael Prime, Candis Ratzburg, and Stephanie Rogers were the applicants and each would have 3-5 minutes to address the council and answer questions. The entire council would then discuss the options in executive session and then vote by secret ballot during the regular meeting.

- Councilmember Robison reported for the land use committee. King County has proposed an ordinance relating to structure damage due to disasters. The ordinance would expedite building permits and the abatement process following natural disasters.

- Councilmember Horton reported as a representative participating on the Highline School District Bond Committee. The charge of the committee is to determine the cost of making the necessary improvements to the schools. One focus is weighing the option of replacing schools versus remodeling schools. Airport mitigation has been considered related to both the second runway and proposed third runway. Schools could possibly be closed due to the third runway and that is being taken into consideration. However, the schools are in desperate need of repair and a solution must be found even if it means relocation. A possible solution is consolidating into fewer and larger buildings. The findings of the committee will then be analyzed and a proposal of if and what type of bonds should be proposed.
 - Councilmember Duff reported that she delivered the King County Comprehensive Plan and Governance studies to the councilmembers. The NHUAC will be providing input. Councilmember Griffith already testified at one of the King County Budget hearings. A NHUAC committee was formed with Councilmember Warren as the chair to review the Comprehensive Plan.
- Councilmember Duff attended a presentation of the Puget Sound Fresh Program and encouraged the community's continuing support.
- Councilmember Lovell reported for the incorporation committee that a brochure would be mailed to councilmembers regarding liability insurance for the NHUAC. A quote should also be available for the next NHUAC meeting.

Treasurer's Report-

- • Councilmember Lovell reported that as of October 6 the NHUAC balance was \$5,894.95.

COUNCIL PRESENTATION - STATUS OF IDENTIFIED METH HOUSES IN THE NORTH HIGHLINE AREA

- • Councilmember Duff reported that a meeting was held October 11 with King County Councilmember Pelz, the Health Department, Code Enforcement, Sheriff's Department, and approximately 50 community members. Both Councilmember Duff and Davis were present as well. Councilmember Pelz's office is checking into other properties owned by the landlord of the methamphetamine house on 5th Avenue South. The Health Department is investigating the septic system, and code enforcement is also monitoring the clean-up of the house. Code Enforcement has a notice in effect that decontamination must be completed by December 15; otherwise, penalties will accrue and abatement could be considered.
- Regarding the posted methamphetamine house on 24th Avenue South, a no-occupancy order was posted in addition to a decontamination order. Currently, noncompliance with the Health Department and Code Enforcement orders not to trespass result in civil penalties, but law enforcement is trying to enforce it as a criminal trespass, as well.
- Stephanie Rogers is a neighbor of the posted meth house on 5th Avenue South and reported that the landlord completed a 40-hour cleanup course. He was given permission to cleanup the trash outside of the building and tow the abandoned cars, but is prohibited from bringing anyone with him or entering the house. The landlord was seen with someone entering the house, but the King County Sheriff's officers on duty were unsure of the current situation and whether an arrest was allowed. The Health Department verified he could be arrested and fined, and he could be arrested in the future for such violations.
- Councilmember Duff indicated that she would like to see more stringent regulations regarding the

finances. Currently, all fines are considered as liens against the house and are only put into effect once the house is sold. Over time, the value of the fines depreciate and Councilmember Duff suggested that this system be reevaluated.

COUNCIL PRESENTATION – KING COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE QUARTERLY REPORT, MAJOR BILL DICKINSON

- Major Bill Dickinson distributed the second quarterly report. The report measures how many calls were received, how many resulted in crime reports, response times and so forth. The goal is to respond to critical emergencies which are life threatening situations within 5 minutes and priority-one calls which are urgent within 10 minutes. The statistics reported that the current response time for critical calls is 5 minutes, 17 seconds and 7 minutes for priority one calls. There are improvements to be made, but Major Dickinson also cautioned that the quarterly reports do not provide as accurate of a representation as the annual reports which have more substantial data to track more general trends.

COUNCIL PRESENTATION – PROPOSED KING COUNTY BUDGET, KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER GREG NICKELS

- Councilmember Nickels presented information regarding the status of the King County budget and the NHUAC’s budget requests. The allocation of the \$2.6 billion budget is already decided such as \$1.4 billion to transportation and \$766 million towards capital improvements. \$450 million is available to be allocated as the King County Council sees fit and a large portion of that is dedicated to police services. However, this is the proposed budget based on the assumption that Initiative 695 does not pass. If I-695 is approved, King County will have to cut about \$106 million from transit/Metro, \$10 million from public health and approximately \$7.5 million from criminal justice. Those agencies are funded from the Washington State motor vehicle tax which I-695 would impact. Assuming I-695 does not pass, the proposed NHUAC budget requests could be addressed in the King County budget as follows:
 - 1. The NHUAC requested not to have an operating budget over \$10,000 which can be accomplished.
 - 2. It was requested to continue revitalization in the area and fund the subarea plan. Those are not addressed in the executive’s budget currently and whether it is funded will depend on looking at the different priorities and if that is possible.
 - 3. Under the parks’ category, \$299,999 was allocated for the design, phase-one improvement process for Lake Hicks. \$65,000 was also dedicated from land resources to reduce flooding, as well.
 - 4. \$9,000 was designated to replace the removed playground equipment from Arbor Lake Park.
 - 5. The request to maintain after-school programs was addressed with \$80,000 to the Park Lake Boys and Girls Club.
 - 6. The request to improve North Shorewood Park was not addressed.
 - 7. Under the roads’ requests, projects in the Transportation Needs Report are being considered. \$131,000 was dedicated to pedestrian safety on the east side of 10th Avenue and construction will occur in 2002. \$645,000 is dedicated to pedestrian safety on the east side of 12th Avenue and will be completed in 2000.
 - 8. There is no change in funding for the local storefronts.

9. There is currently nothing in the budget for an increase in the narcotics department or an added prosecutor for narcotics abatement, but there also is no change in the funding for the sheriff's staffing.
 10. The request to fund a study regarding equitable distribution of human services was not addressed by the executive.
 11. Funding was maintained for the Highline Senior Center.
 12. The request to maintain and expand youth activities was not addressed.
 13. There is a current program to assist low-income residents and seniors with home maintenance.
 14. A ride-free zone in the White Center, Top Hat, and Boulevard Park areas was not addressed.
 15. As far as maintaining access buses and their routing, there is actually a fare increase from 50 to 75 cents and monthly passes were increased from \$8.75 to \$18.00
 16. Expanding the south free-ride zone from the City of Seattle limit to the Burien Park and Ride was not addressed.
 17. Funding to develop a White Center Pond and Lakewood Greenbelt/Trail is still being considered.
 18. No additional surface water staff persons were funded for the North Highline area.
 19. Funding for the central basin plan is still being negotiated with the City of Burien.
 20. Nothing has been proposed for waste water or public sewer grants.
 21. The suggestion to streamline the building permit process has regressed. It is not in the budget currently, but the problem does need to be addressed.
- Councilmember Duff inquired as to what might be cut from the NHUAC budget priorities list if I-695 passes? Councilmember Nickels speculated that transit routes would probably be cut for the area. Evening service might be reduced as well as route availability. As for criminal justice and health services in the North Highline area, it could mean the response time of emergency services might be increased. It also might reduce the Sheriff's Department's specialized units. As for the storefronts, the Sheriff's Department has indicated that it is a priority to maintain community policing efforts. However, it is not possible to absolutely predict how the storefronts would be affected if cuts were necessary.
 - Councilmember Duff requested further information regarding the increase in access bus fares. She expressed concerns whether seniors and the disabled could afford the increase. Councilmember Nickels responded that even with the increase, the cost of access service is a nominal portion of the actual cost. Some of the rides could cost nearly \$30 and riders would be paying only 75 cents with the proposed increase. The county would like to promote increased use of the accessible mainline service and maintain the access service for those who are unable to use the mainline services. For those riders who would be unable to afford the cost increase, there are also reduced-cost tickets available.
 - Councilmember Duff also inquired about the \$52,000 cut to the Food Lifeline budget as well as a

\$54,000 cut to the sexual assault resource center. Councilmember Nickels would further pursue these concerns as he did not have detailed information available at that time.

- Councilmember Nickels also outlined that the budgetary process would be conducted in the same format as in prior years except if I-695 passes in which case a new budget would have to be created reflecting the budget cuts. King County Councilmember Jane Hague is chairing the budget committee this year and four committees are specializing in different areas: Transportation, Healthy Families and Safe Communities, Law and Justice, and Responsible Government.

COUNCIL ACTION – COUNCILMEMBER APPOINTMENT

- Councilmember Davis stated that the applicants would have 3-5 minutes to make their candidacy statement and answer questions. The council would then discuss the issue in executive session and return to vote.
 1. Michael Prime felt one of his most valuable qualities was the ability to consider all consequences before making decisions. He has been a resident of the North Highline area since 1994 and is a member of the Boulevard Park Community Council, volunteered on the Union Gospel Mission Advisory Council and was elected to serve as chairman of the UGM South Advisory Council. He served as chapter president and youth director for the Parents without Partners organization and advocated to maintain programs at the national level. He has been involved in the Resilient Communities International Activities Association dealing with Y2K. He is a system analyst for Boeing and feels his talents and community experiences would be beneficial to the community and is willing to dedicate the necessary time.
 2. Candis Ratzburg was involved with the NHUAC before its official conception as well as participated in the PTA for 15 years. She has volunteered with the Star 2000 program which helps teens make better choices and has served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Teen Health Clinic. She has been a resident of the area for 19.5 years and grew up in the SeaTac area. Her family has owned a business in the area since 1959. She does not feel she is a politically-correct individual, and that the NHUAC has expanded beyond the original intent of the by-laws. She feels that the NHUAC meetings are too long. She stated that she has to get up at 4:00 a.m. and if the meetings run too long, she will leave at 10:00 p.m. regardless. She also stated that the agendas are too heavy, and council addresses too many issues. She thinks she could represent business views.
 3. Stephanie Rodgers has been living in the area for over 10 years and has strong ties to the community since her grandmother has lived here since 1949. Therefore, she has grown up in the area and has witnessed many changes. She is very concerned about the quality of life in the area such as growth and the challenges which the area will face. She has regularly attended meetings and has enjoyed the strong personalities and is impressed with everyone's concern for improving the area. She would be willing to work hard as an at-large representative and represent the constituents. Throughout her involvement with closing the meth house on 5th Avenue South, she has encountered many concerns within the community and has received feedback on current issues.
- The council exited into executive session for discussion and then returned to vote by secret ballot. In order to be appointed, a candidate would need six votes. Councilmember Horton collected and counted the ballots while Councilmembers Davis and Warren witnessed the transaction.

-Results of the first vote were: Stephanie Rodgers, 5 votes: Candis Ratzburg, 4 votes: Michael Prime, 1 vote.

-Results of the second vote were: Stephanie Rodgers, 6 votes: Candis Ratzburg, 4 votes.

-Stephanie Rodgers was appointed and seated.

KING COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – PAUL TAKAMINE, KING COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- Paul Takamine, King County Transportation Planning, explained the first substantive update to the King County Comprehensive Plan since it was adopted in 1994. Every year, minor changes are allowed, but the law allows only one major review every four years. The regional vision issue is a significant part of this comprehensive plan. King County oversees such things as transit, Harborview Hospital, regional parks, waste water and so on. The goal is to strengthen the overall county and develop more livable communities. Eight unincorporated areas still exist and the comprehensive plan is trying to prioritize which areas would be appropriate for growth. Other concerns such as the environment are also addressed and in particular the Endangered Salmon Act. Transportation is also a focus and redefining how the budget is spent. In the past, money was distributed evenly, called the "peanut butter approach", but that resulted in temporarily halting the progression of problems, but did not solve them. Therefore, for the future, the County would like to abandon the piecemeal approach and dedicate the resources to resolve problems.

-The next three months will be dedicated to public comment regarding the draft. Public hearings will be held October 28 in Black Diamond, November 8 in Carnation, November 15 in Kent, and November 18 in Vashon. The comprehensive plan will then be given to the King County Council March 1 for review and they will have their own public review process.

Council Questions & Comments

- Regarding whether the plan addressed more equitably distributing low-income housing throughout the County, King County is generally investigating the issue at the moment.
- Councilmember Duff expressed a desire to include groundwater and air quality as factors regarding quality of life. As for zoning issues, it seems that if growth is being stressed, it is also important to include open spaces in the plan. Regarding potential annexation areas, the plan seems to indicate that King County will identify those areas to be annexed and the cities will develop a timeline and decide amongst themselves who will annex the areas. It seems the areas and citizens should have more input in that process. Mr. Takamine explained that the original comprehensive plan was written before the formation of the unincorporated councils and that could have affected the tone of the document. However, it is a valid issue to be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A memo was received from the Maple Valley Unincorporated Council requesting that King County take into consideration all transportation issues when considering growth. The letter requested fellow UAC's to write letters of support as well.

-Councilmember Robison made the motion to discuss the issue and Councilmember Melzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Upon further discussion, it was explained that whenever growth is proposed, such as new developments in the area, a traffic development plan must be performed to determine the impact on roads and other transportation issues. If the development is within County jurisdiction, the County retains the right to deny the permits if the transportation impacts are deemed unreasonable. However, if

the impacts are within a separate city, the county may not base any decisions on the findings. In order for that information to be officially considered, a voluntary reciprocal agreement is needed. The county is attempting to establish concurrency agreements with neighboring cities. The intent of this letter is already being addressed, but supporting it would also do no harm.

-Councilmember Robison called for the question of whether to join with other UAC's to support this idea. Councilmember Melzer seconded the motion.

The call for the question was unanimously accepted.

The motion was then accepted.

For: Davis, Duff, Griffith, Horton, Johnson, Lovell, Matthias, Melzer, Robison, Warren

Opposed: None

- Councilmember Johnson addressed the issue of the NHUAC website. As of a week prior to the meeting, the website had not been updated for over a month due to technical problems related to the web page. It was suggested that the NHUAC contact the internet provider and obtain a domain name that would make it easier to update the site. In order to do this, an application must be filed and approved and there is a fee of \$70 for the first two years and then \$20 for every following year.

-Councilmember Johnson made the motion to register a domain name for the NHUAC home page and the domain name be www.northhighlineuac.gov. Councilmember Melzer seconded the motion.

The motion was accepted.

For: Davis, Duff, Griffith, Horton, Johnson, Lovell, Matthias, Melzer, Robison, Warren

Opposed: None

- Councilmember Melzer stated that she received an email from Dick Thurneau stating that he did not feel his comments were accurately reflected in the June 17 notes. Councilmember Melzer inquired as to the process if a constituent wants corrections made to the minutes.

-Councilmember Duff explained that the procedure for approval of the minutes is for the councilmembers to receive a draft copy and then review them, make changes as necessary, and approve them. If a citizen has concerns, they would approach the council at a regular meeting under public comment and it could be reviewed again.

- Councilmember Lovell commented that absent councilmembers in the October 7 notes were not designated as "excused" nor "unexcused".

-Councilmember Duff corrected the notes that both Councilmembers Horton and Lovell were excused.

- Councilmember Robison made the motion to adjourn. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna N. Duff

CC: Greg Nickels

Dwight Pelz

Brian Derdowski

Bong St. Domingo

Nancy Weaver

