

**North Highline Unincorporated Area Council  
Minutes 5-6-2010**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

**Council Members Present:** Pat Price, Heidi Johnson, Ron Johnson, Christine Waldman, Russ Pritchard, Douglas Harrell, Rebecca Lopes, Patrick Moseley

**Council Members Absent:** Teresa Vert, Jessica Stoneback

**Approval of Agenda:** Heidi moved we add under New Business to discuss the shortage of Police staffing for our community, has the Council taken any action to contact KC Sheriff's Office, or Dow Constantine ? Ron moved we add topic of South Park Bridge to Agenda, under New Business. Ron moved we add Mike Martin to the Agenda, after the Sheriff's report. Pat moved we accept the agenda as amended, second, and approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** none to approve at this time.

**Public Announcements:** Per Ron, KC Recycling Event is at Evergreen High School on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>; residents should be receiving a mailer with information. Per Pat, Greater White Center-South Delridge Community Safety Coalition will meet at DSHS Building in White Center on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – tentative Agenda is KC Deputy Joe Gangliardi to speak on Gang Activity, encourage all to attend. Per Gill Loring, Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> is the Spring Clean event & he could use help at North Shorewood Park.

**KCSO Report by Jeff Hancock** – Sorry, no handouts, as he was busy arresting 4 people. But, there is good news: No aggravated felony assaults, no hand gun assaults, no stabbings, 4 Armed Robberies with good news on one: Oasis 76 Station at 112<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, undercover detectives were in the area and saw it taking place, they were able to catch one suspect, and the other caught later; a robbery at Shorewood Grocery by two suspected gang members, and the one at 76 on Roxbury and 28<sup>th</sup> was an armed robbery, a 66 year old lady was pushed & knocked down, her purse taken at the Safeway on Roxbury.

There were two Commercial Burglaries, 7 vehicle prowls (usually higher), 18 vehicle thefts which is big increase – Pat asks does this mean prowls have just escalated to thefts. Barbara asks about vehicles dumped near her home – a boat, a car, and now a truck. She has called and been told the plates on them are registered to that vehicle. She asked what happens with these vehicles and the owners. Jeff explains that the vehicle is tagged & towed, after a certain period of time, if the owner of record does not respond, the vehicle becomes the property of the Tow Yard. The only consequence for owners is IF they are caught dumping, or abandoning the vehicle – so, this is a way they are just getting rid of the vehicle. Jeff also said lots of them have been stolen. Heidi brings up increase she sees in Gang Activity, and concern about our efforts to “Save Our Deputy” at the King County Budget Hearings last year, and now it doesn't seem to have done any good – she asks Jeff to bring back our Concern to the Sheriff about all the cutbacks. Jeff responded that it would take it back, but wanted us to know the Political nature of this whole thing is so huge and complicated, but from the sheriff on down all we have is there supported,

and they are all frustrated too – especially the sheriff. Barbara thanks the Sheriff’s Dept for quick response she received from Deputy Gangliardi when a Cadillac was dumped behind her home. Gill Loring asks about funding the Sheriff’s Dept is supposed to be receiving – Jeff explains this is the “Burn Grant” money & it is not as much as they received before, plus Dept is trying to “save” it to have for summer months when they expect even more problems. “Burn Grant” is Federal funding to fight activity that is gang related. Gill also asks about Block Watch and who is taking it over for the County, since Barb Peters spearheaded it in the past. Jeff doesn’t know but suggests contacting Vary.

Jeff adds good news: about 3 months ago when Officers Meyer and Thompson came to our meeting, they left here and stumbled on a gangster as he ran his car into another, and then jumped out trying to run away. They started an investigation that led to break up of a Narcotics Ring. Gill asks about robbery of Shorewood Grocery, it was last week, Gill said there seemed to be a lot of activity near there. Jeff adds that there happened to be undercover detectives nearby when 2 of the burglaries took place, and that the guys caught at the Oasis 76 Station Robbery were involved in a lot of other crimes in the area. Jeff encouraged us to be sure to keep calling in, even though there are not as many officers out there right now – the numbers are needed.

**Mike Martin:** Working on Burien City Hall – North (old Boulevard Park storefront) will be open 2 hr/ day two days per week. Ribbon cutting next Tue. May 11 at 9:45 am. A plaque will be dedicated to Barbara Peters. They applied for a \$150K grant to improve Puget Sound Park. Hired 4 full time road crew members. Burien will do their own road work. They had been contracting with KC county for road maintenance for \$4 M per year. They believe they can do the job for \$3 M. They are going to do their own animal control. KC had been charging \$250,000 per year for very part time coverage.

**Rachel Levine of the White Center Library Guild:** They are working to keep the renovation of the BP and WC libraries on track, but the KC Library System Board supports the Administration’s decision to postpone planned capital improvements to the White Center and Boulevard Park Libraries, pending the potential annexation of the North Highline area to the City of Seattle. The improvements were included in the Bond that was passed by the voters in 2004, and we continue to pay this with our Property Taxes. Over 60% of the voters in White Center voted for Proposition I, this was better than the vote in overall King County. We don’t want to lose this asset to our community.

**Dick Thurnau – Friends of Hicks Lake:** our goal is to have clean, healthy water in this lake. Swimming was banned in 1975, so this is a very, old, long time problem. In 1991, Dick wrote his 1<sup>st</sup> letter to Greg Nichols and got his 1<sup>st</sup> taste of government bureaucracy. Dick explained the history behind why this lake has become so contaminated. Ron asked some questions, and recalled that KC presented a Master plan to our UAC back in 2000, and yet none of the actions listed in the plan have been done.

**Election Candidates:** per Ron, only two weeks until our Election on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 8 pm, here in the Fire Station. Then ballots will be tallied and we should have results by 9 pm. The newly elected members will be seated at the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm, meeting. He introduced the candidates: District 1 – Pat Price, District 2 – Stephen Porter, District 3 – Jessica Stoneback, District 4 – Christine Waldman, At Large positions – Rebecca Lopez, Richard Miller, & Barbara Dobkin.

Ron says now we all need to “get out the vote.” Gill asks about the term length of these candidates, and Ron explained all are two year terms. Then Ron asks for volunteers to work at the Election, needs about 8 non-council members to help. Gill asked about setup for Election in this room. Ron reminded all that there cannot be any campaigning in the Polling Place.

**Treasurers Report:** Per Ron, we had a “big” expenditure of \$22.81 for refreshment at the last meeting. Balance is \$9747.25. Ron said that Christine is working on a couple of big projects, if anyone else has anything, let’s “hear them”.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Ron said only correspondence received was the Recycling Event Notice

**Committee Report:**

**Parks** - discussion re: the flagpole installation. We would like to have it installed this summer. Rebecca will check on cost of installation. Problem is where ground can support the size of the pole. Christine would like to do a movie in the park at SCMP this summer. The cost would be approx. \$1300 to rent equipment. Christine says flowers should be ready to be planted in SCMP around May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Public Safety** – DOC crews have cleaned up all areas reported to them so far, per Russ. Lots of areas have been reported by Gill & Greg. Gill asks about 3 sites that he has reported before and they have never been cleaned up. Russ took the information and will try to get them taken care of. Christine reminded everyone to report Graffiti to her.

**Housing and Human resources** – per Pat, EPA has received a \$400K grant to do a Brownfield Assessment in the White Center and Boulevard Park areas. This includes sites of former gas stations & dry cleaning plants. Have consulted the King County representative, and she will eventually will come out to speak with us, but needs to do so when the project consultant is available. We have many questions for them. As they cannot attend tonight, nor our June meeting, we have invited them to meet with our committee on May 21.

**Public outreach** - Jubilee Days will be on July 17. We will have a table.

**Transportation** – Ron reports on the closing of the South Park Bridge on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and explains about the tearing down of the old bridge, but there is no funding for a new Bridge. He will bring up under New Business that we write a letter about this. Rachel Levine asks about possible Boeing involvement and why haven’t they been asked for money. He explained about the work going on with all community entities supporting King County to try for Tigerr II funding from the Feds.

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business:** Moved, Seconded and Carried to write a letter to DOT re the South Park Bridge funding, with copies to Patty Murray and Dow Constantine. Moved, Seconded and Carried to send a letter to Dow Constantine re: concerns with sheriff support and staffing levels. We will CC the Sheriff. Also, discussion that we should invite Major Graddon to our next meeting. Christine reported that we have correspondence regarding Burien’s Strawberry Festival.

Discussion held and decided to not participate in that, and just concentrate on our efforts for Jubilee Days. Rachel asked if our Council still has a position on Annexation of the remaining unincorporated area to the City of Burien. Russ points out that we need to be careful now as no city has a PAA on the table right now. Ron reminds everyone that we must be very fact-based in what we say. Greg Duff suggests that we do a mass mailing to our residents of the unincorporated area to inform them about our council and who we are. Moved, Seconded and Carried to send a letter to the KC Library voicing our concern with postponing the renovation of the WC and BP libraries. Pat brought up discussion of the July meeting – shall we have it on July 1<sup>st</sup> ? or, shall we change the date ? Ask everyone to discuss.

**Meeting Adjourned.**