

North Highline Unincorporated Area Council

Minutes 9-2-2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Council Members Present: Pat Price, Ron Johnson, Christine Waldman, Rebecca Lopes, Barbara Dobkin, Richard Miller, Patrick Mosley, Stephen Porter, Doug Harrell, Heidi Johnson
Absent: Jessica Stoneback

Approval of Agenda: Ron moved to add to New Business, the topic of two open Council positions. Agenda accepted as revised.

Approval of Minutes: per Ron, Jessie is out of town, we will have lots of minutes to approve at next meeting

Public Announcements: Ron announced the King County Recycling event at Evergreen High School on September 11th, 9 am to 3 pm, most items are free, there are some fees for certain items – info can be found on the brochure or the King County Website; Pat announced the North Highline Fire Commissioners Meeting is moved for Sept. from the usual Tuesday to Friday, September 17th at 10 am; the White Center Library Guild will meet on Monday, September 20th at 1 pm, everyone is welcome in addition to Guild Members; Gill Loring announced the White Center – South Delridge Community Safety Coalition meeting on Thursday, September 23rd at 6 pm at the DSHS Building on 15th Avenue.

King County Councilmember Jan Drago: her representative **Linda Robson** recognized **Dick Thurnau**, Friends of Hicks Lake, for countless volunteer hours given in service of his community, and presented a certificate of acknowledgment for his service.

Public Comment: Gill stated that maybe it is time to get the Media involved about our concerns with the Club Evo problem. He added that for the most part, the White Center Business District is on the upswing, but people are afraid to be in the area after dark.

Audrey Roberts, resident of 20 years, brought up her concern about problems with a neighboring house, at 112th Avenue SW and SW 12th Avenue. People are coming and going at all times of day, there seems to be transients coming and going, a Neighborhood House van blocks her driveway so she cannot get out to go to work. She has called the supervisor at Neighborhood House, and was told a van should not be stopping there. She has a packet of information to present to our council. She has had to call the Police to come out when the residents there have threatened her & her kids. Ms. Roberts says this has been going on for along time. She added that it has been quiet there for five weeks since she started calling Jan Drago's and everyone she can to bring attention to this problem.

King County Sheriff's Office: **Capt. Joseph Hodgson**, who has recently taken Capt. Patrick Butschli's place at the West Precinct, so recently that he had not yet had business cards printed, but his e-mail contact is joseph.hodgson@kingcounty.gov. He also had not yet received an

analysis of the Crime Stats to identify any trends, but he did mention a few of the more basic numbers available to him on such short notice. In brief, incidents for July and August, respectively: Auto Theft – 17, 15; Commercial Burglary – 2, 7; and, Residential Burglary – 14, 13. There are currently two deputies assigned for coverage between Seattle and North Burien. Unless there is a special issue, Burien cars do not work in unincorporated areas. Concerns were voiced about ongoing traffic enforcement in the area around the school at 112th Ave SW and 10th Ave SW; Capt. Hodgson didn't have any easy answers. Another KCSO position change noted was Deputy Mattson is now the contact at the Precinct for drug houses and other drug-related matters, through the Special Emphasis Unit, replacing Deputy Hancock, according to Hodgson.

Sgt. Rodney Chinnick, working the Gang Unit for the area since May, agreed with Councilmember Barbara Dobkin's comment that "...with all the resources going to Club Evo ... the community is being held hostage." Club Evo was recently shut down by the Department of Revenue for unpaid taxes, but reopened last Friday, reportedly after the out-of-town owner leased the property to an employee who legally reopened the facility for the weekend. Club Evo still does not have a business or dance hall license as required by King County and Sgt. Chinnick said he was told by the Department Director of DDS that they will put the matter on the front burner as they continue to investigate. The **King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office** is working on the case too. While the investigation continues, KCSO Emphasis Patrols are being deployed consistently against the ongoing "attractive nuisance" at the club. Funded by grants, the unit is limited yet resourceful in extracting KCSO personnel to apply to Club Evo on Friday and or Saturday nights. The owners and manager will either come into compliance, or they will close, according to Sgt. Chinnick. KCSO's purview is to systematically address the criminal problems associated with the facility. Deputies have recently used pepper spray and sirens to irritate and flat-out annoy the criminals to deter them from crime, as well as preventing people from getting hurt, he said, adding that the club manager was observed using pepper spray on his own clientele last weekend to control the crowd.

Report from Mike Martin, Burien City Manager: announced that a "visioning" project for Burien will begin in earnest in January, to define its future community character and to determine the comprehensive plan for parks, streets and overall land use schemes. Budgeting for the process has been allocated for the master development plans for the next five to 15 years. Citing a recent survey conducted by the city of Burien for the North and older Burien areas, Mr. Martin said he was "trying to build a government based on the values of the people who live here." He spoke of seemingly endless possibilities for parks and recreation, an area most city governments are forced to define as a discretionary or unnecessary use of funds in a tight economy. For example, he said he wants to establish a senior center and more recreation for teens, as well as an aquatic facility in Burien. "We need a place to drown-proof our kids. That's what it amounts to," he said. "Our kids don't have a place to swim and I think that's a basic thing our kids need to grow up with." Mr. Martin also reviewed results from a recently completed Community Assessment Survey. Largely, the survey found people in "new" and "old" Burien are quite similar. Mr. Martin said when asked whether the city is headed in the right direction, an extraordinary percentage responded in the affirmative. He also reported that the survey found people like living in Burien because housing is affordable and work is nearby, which is supported by the finding that one in every five respondents live and work in Burien. "These

things are important because I am trying to build a government around the community values we have,” he said. “I’d like to bring the things to this community that I think the community wants.”

Dick Thurnau, Friends of Hicks Lake: Dick announced he is proud and pleased with the outcome of the Community BBQ at Lakewood Park, with approximately 250 in attendance. And turned away about 10 people with no food left. He added the information was very helpful from the questionnaire filled out by Adult attendees, and passed out copies of it plus photos taken at the event. He explained about the idea brought up by Frana Milan of King County Parks Dept. to have a gravel path around the lake, and will be working with the Highline School District about moving the chain link fencing back further on the school property. Dick went on to thank all the sponsoring agencies: NHUAC, WCCDA, and TAF. Technical Access Foundation brought toys and games for the children. He also acknowledged his own children who helped him with all of the food that day.

North Highline Fire District: Chief Marstrom introduced himself, he comes to North Highline from a former Fire Chief position in the Pierce County city of Lakewood, where he served for 30 year, 9 of which as fire chief. His temporary position marks the second interim stint he has accepted since he retired ten years ago. His initial assessment of the budgeting decisions to be made in the next quarter was that the “status quo will no longer apply.” He stated the task with which he is charged: to determine the options available to the fire district to consolidate with a partner – whether Seattle, Burien, Tukwila or any other viable option. “I believe the board of fire commissioners have decided to go in the right direction,” he said. “They have realized that a status quo is not going to be acceptable for very long.” He will be reporting at the next North Highline Fire District Board meeting, rescheduled for Friday, September 17 at 10 AM in the Training Room of the Fire Station. (The regular meeting time is the second to last Tuesday of the month.) NHUAC councilmember Pat Price encouraged attendees to write directly to the Board to request that board meetings, currently held in the daytime, be rescheduled to evening hours to improve public access to “open” meetings. * Such requests can also be made by asking that the change be put on the Board’s agenda via the board’s secretary, or suggested during an open public-comment period at meetings; you can reach the secretary by phone at 243-0330 or e-mail at office@northhighlinefd.org.) “Evening meetings are easier for most people to get to,” Pat Price said. An unidentified woman in the audience asks about her neighbor’s house (at 7th and 102nd SW, dead end, next to White Center Heights Elementary School) that has about 9 people living there who are rented individual rooms, all each using a space heater for heat, and only one shared bathroom, and a kitchen. Her concern is for safety hazards and that this house could go up like a pile of tinder. The Chief explains that as a single family home there is no regulatory status over it by the Fire Marshal’s office. Barbara explains to the woman how to go online to file a complaint with Code Enforcement. Liz Giba asked about the frequency of Executive Sessions that the Commissioners have, when they should only be for Personnel Matters, Negotiations, and Legal matters. She asked the Chief to be the new ears to be sure they really need to be in Executive Session. Gill Loring thanked the Chief for asking questions and trying to get things fixed that the Commissioners are not seeing – ie: the “forest thru the trees” .

Warren Cheney, Chief Financial Officer, DDES: introduces Director John Starbard, while he passes out handout with permit fees and information. Per John, want to explain changes to the fee structure, and streamlining of the process. Although he did not come prepared to speak about Club Evo, he was able to tell us that his office expects to have documents ready next week for the Prosecutor's office to serve notice to Club Evo about their Code Enforcement violations. At the King County Executive's request they have revised and simplified the forms and procedures to obtain permits. They will spend more time with the applicants up front so they will understand what is required, and what it will cost, and speed up the rest of the process. The fundamental change is from fees based on an hourly basis, to set amounts = "Fixed". Warren Cheney went on to explain this further, and gave highlights of the changes. The idea behind this is to increase customer satisfaction, and that everyone will be charged the same, reasonable, and predictable fee for similar projects. Heidi asked about Re-zoning in pockets of the neighborhood, where building can go up three stories now, only a building permit would be required. He went on to provide many examples.

Lauren Smith, King County Executive's Office and Cynthia Hernandez, King County Records Officer: Provided handouts and explained that our UAC Contract with King County says we will abide by the Open Meetings Act, and Public Records. They explained about a recent problem that the Vashon UAC has had, and that Tom Carpenter, the UAC chair at Four Creeks) recently resigned due to a similar problem. The insurance policy that our Council has covers Liability of the entire Board or Council, and each individual member. The Vashon problem is a situation where someone filed a law suit against King County and the UAC over a Zoning Issue.

Treasurer: Ron reported that since the last meeting we spent \$29.94 to renew our Website hosting for six months, and \$18.59 for Graffiti Removal materials, leaving our balance at \$8795.85. Pat asked about the bills for the August BBQ. Ron will report on that next month.

Correspondence: Ron read that we received a letter from King County Executive Dow Constantine thanking our President Christine for attending the UAC Forum. We also received an email from resident Audrey Roberts regarding the Section 8 Housing problems that she told us about this evening.

Committee Reports: Governance: per Doug, no report; Christine stated that more Council Members still need to sign up for the committee they want to serve on; Barbara asked about contacting the DOC Crew about stuff to pick up, etc. Patrick will be the contact for this, and asks that everyone call him, as he has computer problem now. **Arts & Parks:** Christine thanked everyone who helped with the BBQ. Rebecca announced that she has followed up about the Flag Pole at Steve Cox Memorial Park, and it is still in the hands of the construction company.

Outreach: Pat brought up the topic of getting handout item such as 3 x 4 Sticky Note pads with our NHUAC information, and announced the costs for this at Staples. Heidi suggests that the Committee should have a meeting to come up with some other ideas to consider and bring to the next meeting. Ron mentioned the permanent Name Tags, and Business Cards. **Transportation:** Ron announced the Leaves of the South Park Bridge have been removed, and all we need is a lot of money to build a new bridge in 3 years. Barbara announced the closure of the bridge on Airport Way to happen in 2011 for over a year. **Steve Cox Art Memorial:** Heidi announced they

will meet with the Artist next week to finalize the wording for the rocks, and then it will move to King County for final approval of the project.

Unfinished Business: Food Bank Dinner, Barbara brought up that we should have a presence if 10 of us will purchase a ticket to secure a table. Barbara will handle the reservation for our group.

New Business: Liquor License objection for the renewal of the license for the Center Oriental Market, on 15th Ave SW. Christine has scheduled a meeting for the next Thursday, September 9th, at this Fire Station, at 6:30 pm. Barbara asked if this meeting is open to the public. Christine stated that yes it is, but we are not looking for complaints, the meeting is to take action. The Fire Dept. and King County Sheriff's office have been asked to attend. Gill added that Officer Wilson of the Liquor Control Board has said that not very many calls have come in about the location, and reminded everyone to call when they see anything.

Liz Giba explained the suggestion of a Candidates Forum for the NHUAC to sponsor, as our area is often left out or forgotten about because we do not have a lot of money, or political clout. This would be an opportunity for the people of our community to meet the people who will be representing us. The Council voted to organize a Candidates' Forum for sometime in the fall, prior to the November election, and will immediately begin contacting venues and coordinating candidates. Barbara Dobkin and Pat Price will co-chair the event, and Liz Giba will be part of the committee. It was moved, seconded & passed to allow up to \$500 for expenses of this Forum. If more money is needed, a special meeting of the Council will be called.

Elections Committee, per Ron Johnson, will need to convene to address how and whether to advertise for the open positions on the Council for District 3 and District 1. District 3 is the area between 4th Ave. SW and 16th Ave. SW and District 1 covers all of the area east of Highway #509

No other Unfinished or New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Pat Price, Secretary