

North Highline Unincorporated Area Council

Minutes 11-4-2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

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

Absent: Doug Harrell, Patrick Mosley

Approval of Agenda: Agenda accepted as amended to state Sgt. Chinnick will represent KCSO, instead of Capt. Hodgson.

Approval of Minutes: October minutes approved as corrected.

Public Announcements: Pat announced the White Center Chamber of Commerce meeting on Tuesday, November 9th at Uncle Mike's BBQ in White Center; the WC Library Guild Meeting on Monday, November 15th, 1 pm at the library; the North Highline Fire District Commissioners' Meeting on Tuesday, November 23rd at 10 am here at the Fire Station; and the KC Library Board will conduct its monthly meeting for November at our WC Library on Tuesday, November 30th, 7 pm. The White Center – South Delridge Safety Coalition will combine its November & December meetings into one on Thursday, December 9th, at 6 pm, at DSHS Building in White Center.

Public Comment: none

Report from Mike Martin, Burien City Manager: Announced the City will adopt their Budget for next year on the 22nd of November. They have gained a 1/2 million dollars increase since last month, and will use it to hire 6 or 7 more public works people. They are ready for Snow Removal, when it should be needed. The Council members will each select 5 candidates from the 18 applicants to replace Kathy Keene. Then they will conduct an interview process at a special meeting on Nov. 8th. The vote and seating of the new council member will not take place until January. Mike introduced Parks Director Michael Lafreniere, who brought us handouts and stated that all City of Burien signage has been completed at the 6 parks obtained in the Annexation. As of yesterday, they repaired an asphalt trail at Hazel Valley park. Major work will be done in 2011 at Puget Sound Park – a new backstop, playground equipment, benches, ADA access updates and other items were ordered. At Arbor Lake they have done a lot of cleanup of brush, and will replace a broken foot bridge. They have received a lot of positive community feedback there. Staff has been meeting with schools and Hill Top and Southern Heights will both get extended recreation summer programs. Jessie asked about fencing at PS Park, and Mr. Lafreniere said that it belongs to Albertsons. Gill asked if it would help to have citizens talk to management at the store. Christine asked about the path at PS Park, and he stated it will get a gravel cleanup.

King County Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Rodney Chinnick: He apologized for Capt. Hodgson's absence, as he ended up working last night until 2 am this morning. He will share as much as possible without the statistics that the Capt. Had planned to send with him. There have been inquiries about the Retail Theft Ring operating in our area: folks were hiring people to shoplift in mass, then gathered up the loot, and did things with it such as ship it overseas, or some of it came into the WC area and was sold to merchants, put on their shelves, and then sold to all of us. Update on Club Evo - the business shut down the Friday nights themselves, as the last Friday it was open was when the shooting occurred. His detectives were on duty and outside the club breaking up a fight when someone pulled a gun and shot back into the crowd, hitting someone. The detectives were able to chase down & arrest the shooter & recover the gun. The Club continues to be open on Saturday nights, and those are a little less problematic for the police. The club is still operating without a County business license, and that issue is due to be addressed in court in 8 days, to start the long process with the KC prosecutor's office

and DDES doing what we have asked them to do. In the meantime the Gang Unit is still out on emphasis patrols, especially on Saturday nights working to minimize problems and keep us safe. Sgt. Chinnick asked the Statistical people to do some checking for him, and in a comparison of the last 4 Friday nights, since the Club closed, compared to the last 4 Fridays that it was open – there was a 41% decrease in need for Police during the hours of 8 pm Friday to 4 am Saturday. Sgt. Chinnick added that since Prop 1 failed on the recent election, there will be cuts, and don't know what they are. He expects that by our next meeting, Capt. Hodgson will have updates for us. Barbara asked what can be done about the issue of drinking at the 15th Avenue Bus Stop in White Center every night, between 4 and 5:30 pm, Monday thru Friday, when she returns home from work, and she calls 911 every evening. Sgt. will contact the Metro Transit Police about this issue, as they should have more time to devote to this issue than the few deputies we have for our area. Sgt. Chinnick says to keep calling, and get everyone to call. Someone in the audience asked about our Store Front status, he stated the Officer position will not be resolved until after the KC Budget is finalized closer to Thanksgiving. Someone asked about Prostitution issues, and who to report them to – it would be Sgt. Jon Mattsen at 206-296-3333, he runs the Neighborhood Enforcement team.

Don Althaus, Managing Engineer, King County DNRP/WLRD/SWS: Christine asked about these Acronyms after his name: he explained that he is with KC Capital Improvements of the Storm Water Division. Don has worked in the White Center area for the last 15 years on repairs, replacements, etc. of the current systems. Just recently they have started to work on improvements. Friends of Hicks Lake have been asking about the status of work in the area. Regarding the Pond (Cell #1) at 102nd Ave SW & SW 14th – it had to be done in the midst of rainy time to be ready to show something for the Grant Application. The two Cells to the north of this are examples of what Cell #1 will eventually become. The grant of \$475,000 has been done in partnership with Seattle. The Seola Creek, or ravine, is on the Seattle side of Roxbury, but all drainage comes south through White Center. This is the 2nd time a request for the grant has been entered. In 2011, it will be enlarged, the Evasive plants will be removed, and Native plants brought in. At White Center Heights Park, KC has finally been able to purchase the problem lot adjacent to the park. The House will be torn down; they will restore the vegetation & return it to a wetland, to be used for a daytime area only. Don explained about the Hicks Lake Bio Swale, and the value of it as it converted to Native vegetation, and the Water Quality Vault. This will continue in 2 more projects at Hicks Lake. We will have to be patient with the time it will take to improve the water quality of the lake. There will an alum treatment again next year, like what was done five years ago. It will retard the growth of the toxic algae blooms. Ideas going forward, without any funding yet, include: testing of the water coming from Mallard Lake and around the basin, and what it is doing to Lake Hicks. Funding looks dismal now, but the current projects should be okay. Going forward they will be more aggressive to getting Grant funding. Ron asked about the Cells 1, 2, and 3 – Don explained they are divided by the streets. #1 & 2 are approximately 5 years since the work started. The planting projects are ½ volunteers, and ½ funded. Ron asked about the flow from Seattle pipe under Roxbury, and “is Seattle contributing toward the funding ?” Don explains that they didn't foresee (back then) to include the partnering with Seattle, but that is being done now. When asked about sidewalks, and speed bumps, Don supplied the name of Frank Overton of KC Roads to ask about a possible Speed Bump for SW 100th. He could also be asked about responsibility for maintenance & cleanup of the Stairway up to Greenbridge

BJ Cummings, Duwamish River Clean Up: She brought a video presentation including background on the river, the pollution, and what's being proposed, plus how the public can have a say. Her emphasis was on the need for everyone to comment on the cleanup proposals – all of which have one big flaw, in DRCC's view: They don't outline what will be done to stem the current flow of pollutants into the river; they only address pollution that's there now. EPA is to pick a Cleanup Plan next year. We were invited to upcoming workshops and meetings to explain the report. A survey was passed around to the council members, but there were not enough for all of the audience members. Contact is BJ @duwamishcleanup.org for more info, or to request link to the questionnaire. Fact sheets, and their assessment is available on their website.

Treasurer: Ron reported after paying \$ 15.75 for Graffiti Removal treatment, and \$ 102.66 for Council members' Name Badges, our balance is now at \$8120.05. Our Insurance billing for approximately \$2300 is due to be received soon.

Correspondence: Ron read letter from Stephen Norman, KCHA Executive Director, stating he and his staff will be following up on the questions brought up at our October 7th meeting.

Committee Reports: Public Outreach – Barbara gave a report on the Candidate Forum, and the process our committee used to put it together. The filming by King County Television has been shown over again many times, and still can be seen on KCTV's website. Barbara thanked community members Liz Giba and Gil Loring for helping with the event. Rebecca asked if we are going to do anything at the WC Summit. Pat reported on the Business Cards that Doug is working on for each of us. Pat reported on the WC Chamber tour at Arrowhead Gardens that Rebecca and she attended this evening. Also, included mention of the new Name Badges. Pat reminded everyone of the KC Library Board meeting at our library. Christine asked Pat to check on the WC Summit and get us a table at the event and email all council members. Bong encouraged us to participate.

Transportation: Ron reported on the Sidewalk project on 17th between 100th & 104th, it will be done "in house", but are waiting till Spring for the weather to cooperate.

Steve Cox Art Memorial: Heidi reported that the sandblasting of the stones is being worked on now with the inscriptions. The lettering will be left natural, instead of coloring as previously considered. There is a contract issue with KC because we will need to have sod replaced that we disturb during the installation. Christine asked Bong if we can pay for sod out of budget, and another issue is providing lighting. She explained that KC Parks has come up with issues in the contract that they never told us about before. Audience asked if we knew when the Memorial will be installed & Heidi said they do not know yet. Bong reminded us that we need to work on our Budget for next year. Further discussion was held about the contract, and Christine said that the Artist will provide fencing that Parks is now requiring. Ron brought up that we may need to extend our contract with the Artist that expires on December 18th, Christine will check with the Artist tomorrow.

Parks: Rebecca suggested that we invite the new KC Parks director for our area to a future meeting. (whoever it is that took Sam's place). This is needed to pursue getting the Flag Pole installed at Steve Cox Memorial Park.

Unfinished Business: Pat moved that we buy the 1,000 NHUAC Post-it notes, seconded, and passed, after much discussion, to get them in time for the WC Summit, and other Outreach events. Ron asked about our open council positions. Pat explained that the media has been alerted, and the Nov. 22nd deadline for applications to be received, so they could be seated at our Dec. 2nd meeting. Pat reported that KC Lucy Auster, with the Brownfields project has responded that they could attend our January meeting and provide us updates. Ron reported on the Public Disclosure topic, and a meeting he attended. We could have Kelli Williams, KC Public Records Officer, come to our meeting and explain to us about the Public Records Act to include: what records to keep, for how long, how and where to keep them, and what about electronic records. It would take approx. 45 to 60 mins. Also, the Public Meeting Act needs to be discussed. Ron recommends that we get her here sooner than later. We could send her advance questions to bring us specific answers.

New Business: Pat brought up the discussion of By Laws change she proposed for Election Date to be moved to 1st Thursday of May. Motion made, & seconded. Lots of discussion held. **Discussion on Council Priorities:** Ron explained about a method used in the past to prepare topics for the year going forward, to set as priorities. He provided several examples. Rebecca asked that Ron email some examples to us. Barbara brought up outreach to the WC businesses, especially to the new ones. Jessica brought up the topic of planning a memorial for Barbara Peters. Also, the topic of Public Safety was brought up, and Pat stated the EPA issues, and the Duwamish Cleanup could be all rolled into it. Bong mentioned that there is a lot going on in the business

district, and he suggested that we should participate in the Mixer being held regularly by the Chamber. He believes that the Annexation issue is off the table, and that issue had divided the community. Jessica asked if we could use some of our funding to have our information put up on a large advertising billboard. This could be considered as outreach. Jessica will check on how much this would cost. It was agreed that everyone bring ideas to next meeting. Ron will provide the format like used in the past. Rebecca offered to email everyone about food for the December meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:36 pm

Pat Price, Secretary