

North Highline Unincorporated Area Council

Minutes 12-2-2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

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

Approval of Agenda: Agenda accepted as amended to state Jenn Ramirez-Robson will represent the City of Burien, instead of Mike Martin.

Approval of Minutes: November minutes approved as corrected.

Public Announcements: per Pat, the White Center Summit takes place this Saturday, Dec. 4th at White Center Hts. Elementary School, starting at 9:30 am, and the White Center Library Guild has their annual Holiday Bazaar at the Library this Saturday. Liz Giba announced the Jubilee Days dinner & auction is Saturday evening at the WC Eagles, and she has tickets available. 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. The North Highline Fire District has a holiday-donation food drive under way; Pat Price said that the NHFDD board has agreed, finally, to have some evening meetings – the first one will be at 6 pm January 18th, after a 10 am meeting on Tuesday, January 4th. They are changing to two meetings per month.

Public Comment: Dick Thurnau pointed out that two years have elapsed since recommendations were made for how to spend \$25,000 the county had allotted for lake improvements – an aerating and beautifying fountain, a parks caretaker; a safe walking path around the lake; but nothing has been done or resolved. He said he'd sent King County Parks division director Kevin Brown e-mail asking about the status and after 3 weeks, no response, leaving him to wonder what to do to get attention for this seemingly forgotten facility.

King County Sheriff's Office, Capt. Joseph Hodgson: Stats provided: 18 residential burglaries over the past month (down slightly); commercial burglaries at 9 (slightly up); 13 auto thefts, 1 robbery, 14 assaults, (all down); 6 vehicle prowls, a new stat - so no comparison this time & he noted it tends to be a very underreported crime, and urges that anyone who is a victim of any crime be encouraged to at least make a phone call to report it, because that helps KCSO know where to allot its resources. Club Evo update - a temporary injunction is in place to keep it closed until they seek a business license. If they did seek a license – which they haven't done so far, then there would be a court hearing. The captain was asked about budget-cut; he mentioned the number of cuts far outstrips the number of actual layoffs they are currently facing (18) because of currently open positions. One big effect – the property-crime investigation unit has been severely cut back, and patrol deputies will be asked to do a lot of that follow up. Patrick Mosley asked about the storefront: the storefront will still be there, with CSO (Vary) Jackson

manning the facility. As of right now, we do not have a deputy to put there. It's "a high priority to get someone back in there - if the money were available. Heidi Johnson noted the online-crime-reporting form that's now available on the KCSO site

Report from Jenn Ramirez-Robson, the City of Burien: Explained about the trees with big white X's on them along Ambaum - from 112th to 156th, they're doing sidewalk work, and looking at spots where trees have pushed up the sidewalks and even damaged the streets and storm-drain system. She says those trees will be replaced, in the spring, with more suitable trees. The ones that are being taken out are called London Plain. On 128th, storm-drain pipes are being replaced, with work under way right now between 1st and 4th, and they will just keep moving east. It's all preparation for the overlay program to be done next spring and summer. Our city is going to look vastly different and much improved by this time next year. Look for a ramped up communication regarding road projects, including that one. She also said that Burien was caught off guard by the budget action involving Unincorporated Area Councils, especially since they consider NHUAC an invaluable partner to the work we do. She also made sure everyone had heard the news that Jerry Robison, who has served as lawyer for NHUAC, and moderated at our recent campaign forum, is about to be appointed to an opening on the Burien City Council.

King County Executive's Office, Lauren Smith: who is the liaison for unincorporated areas from KC Executive Dow Constantine's office said it is too soon to tell what the budget cuts are going to lead to, or even what they were intended to lead to. She said there is some money left in the budget, even after the cuts to funding for the councils. She says their office was surprised by the action, which was initiated by the County Council as a change to Constantine's budget proposal, and concerned, and that they have a sense of urgency about a plan of action to move forward, despite all this uncertainty. Her team is in an information-gathering phase to find out exactly what is in the budget; which isn't as easy a job as you'd think, she explains. They'll also be trying to find out what council concerns led to the cuts. She pointed out that newly elected KC Councilmember Joe McDermott, was not on the council when they decided on those cuts. We cannot design a future for the UACs without working in partnership with you. The value you give to this community is beyond measure. She will work closely with Joe McDermott's office. KC Executive Constantine agrees that having a local gathering point like the UACs is vital. But: What does the future look like? I don't know. There is nothing higher than this on my priority list. She offered to answer questions but as Barbara Dobkin observed, "We don't know what to ask, because you don't know what to tell us." Council member Ron Johnson suggested we'd keep meeting even without funding; he's been a member since 1996, noting it's an unpaid role. Smith said that's what she'd heard from other UACs so far: that they would carry on whether they had funding or not. Ron Johnson offered remarks of appreciation for the unincorporated-area liaison we've been working with, Bong, since funding for his job has been cut. Lauren added that she will call and ask Kevin Brown to respond to Dick Thurnau.

King County Council Representative, Joe McDermott: addressed the NHUAC for the first time in his new role of eight days. He also talked about his familiarity with UACs' work, and said that they fill such different roles for their communities, and consolidating them into one voice did not seem to be an idea that makes sense, so he said he's spoken to Executive Constantine about that.

Treasurer: Ron reported after paying \$ 102.66 for Council members' Name Badges, \$209.57 for Forum Expenses, and \$465.51 for Post-it Notes, our balance is now at \$7342.31. Our Insurance billing for approximately \$2200 has been received. We could extend our Officer Liability coverage for an additional year for approx. \$1500.

Correspondence: per Ron, none

Committee Reports: Public Safety: Christine reported that the Center Market Grocery, on 15th St. SW no longer has a Liquor License after November 16th.

Housing: The contract for garbage collection at Greenbridge was won by the Seattle Housing Authority, who will get the contract for this at Seola Gardens ? Ron pointed out to Joe McDermott the large percentage of low income housing in North Highline.

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 King County has just discovered some utility lines in the ground in the area where Memorial is to be placed. Per Frana, with KC Parks, the irrigation stuff will not delay the project. It was Moved, seconded & passed to extend the Artist's Contract for six months to be safe.

Work Session: The full list of proposed Priorities for the coming year will appear as a separate addendum sheet to this meeting minutes; categories that were discussed included Public Safety and Code Enforcement, Public Housing and Human Services, Public Health, Arts and Parks, Governance, Growth Management, Zoning, Natural Resources, Transportation, Pedestrian Safety, Metro, and Public Outreach.

Budget: discussed what expenses for next year they could prepay with the reserves they have now, since no one can tell us yet whether that reserve would carry over regardless of the budget cuts. Some of discussion was to pay some of the basics like insurance and White Center Jubilee Days table reservation. Bong promised to provide information within a week on the carryover issue; if we need to make decisions before year's end, Pat proposed that we have a special meeting on December 16th – Moved, Seconded & Passed.

Unfinished Business: Pat brought up the discussion of By Laws change she proposed for Election Date to be moved to 1st Thursday of May. Lots of discussion held. Pat tabled her Motion for further consideration at a later date.

Open Council Position: Candidate Liz Giba answered questions from the Council, and then from the audience. The Council adjourned to an Executive Session for discussion, then reconvened for the Election. As Patrick Mosley had to leave, the vote was 6 For, and 3 Against electing Liz as the new Council member. She will be seated at the next meeting, on either December 16th, or January 6th, due to the late time.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:03 pm Pat Price, Secretary