

North Highline Unincorporated Area Council

Minutes 10-6-2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Council Members Present: Pat Price, Ron Johnson, Doug Harrell, Barbara Dobkin, Richard Miller, Rebecca Lopes, Jessica Stoneback , Liz Giba and Stephen Porter.

Absent: Christine Waldman, & Patrick Mosley

Approval of Agenda: Agenda accepted

Approval of Minutes: none ready to approve at this time

Public Comment/Announcement: Elizabeth Gordon explained that the **South Delridge-White Center Community Safety Coalition** is examining challenges getting in the way of the business district's safety. She announced that the White Center Business Mixer will take place on Oct. 18th, at Uncle Mike's Superlicious Barbecue in downtown WC, 6 to 8 pm, with this as one topic to be discussed..

Mike Martin, City of Burien: it was "a real historic moment" when the council took the annexation-intent vote earlier in the week. "It's not a complicated process, it's just tedious," Martin said, regarding what happens from here on out, mentioning that the **Boundary Review Board** would have to have a hearing. He said it's not likely a vote could happen in February or April, possibly August or November of next year. He expressed appreciation for having North Highline representation to speak out at the council meetings that led up to Monday's vote. "It's been really great. ... I hate it when one side of an issue is presented and not the other." That was echoed by Burien Councilmember **Rose Clark**, who said she appreciated looking out and seeing North Highline "smiling faces." She added, "I think we're in a good position to move forward," but reiterated that if there are financial concerns, they made a commitment not to proceed. Pat Price asked about the South Park "sliver by the river"; Martin noted that Seattle has shown new interest in annexing that area. Mike gave a brief update on **Puget Sound Park**, saying that work is getting under way, new playground equipment, etc.

King County Sheriff's Office, Captain Joseph Hodgson: stated he didn't have a lot to report tonight, aside from one "big thing" – the interview process for the storefront deputy, which he said had taken place all day today. The process is still ongoing, and the process is not going to be based solely on these interviews. He said they are "trying to find the very best candidate we can." He expects a decision before the end of next week. Asked when the new deputy is likely to be assigned to this area, he said it's now more likely to be November, than this month. And even that is a fast-track – "there's an urgency to it," he acknowledged.

Julia Larson, King County Rural Economic Strategy Coordinator: Presentation: King County's New Public Engagement Model – ordinance #17139 that sets out parameters for the "community service areas" (CSAs) that are being created now that the County is no longer going

to fund unincorporated area councils. It says, among other things, that public meetings involving King County council members will be set up at least once a year. And the county will work with any community-based organizations that exist, including unincorporated area councils, if they decide to continue operation, absent the previous structure of county financing and interaction. Meantime, the county is coming up with a process for figuring out how to create boundaries for those CSAs – whether they should follow the boundaries currently used by UACs. Community meetings will be a part of that process, they said. As well as looking at geographic factors, they're also looking at demographic factors. County reps reiterated that they have no idea yet how the CSAs will operate, whether it will be like the existing UACs, or something different. "All the UACs have history," Barbara Dobkin pointed out. "There's a history of people on this council with knowledge, who have devoted a lot of time and energy. And now, I feel like, the county is kicking us to the curb, with no acknowledgment for years of work. I haven't heard anything (from elected officials). It's somewhat disheartening to put so much work into this community and we just go away in their eyes without recognizing everything that this council has done for the community." Public meetings are planned in February to go over some proposed boundaries, and a website is expected to be up by then. Once the boundaries are done, they will be out to seek public input on the "annual plan," among other things. Burien Councilmember Clark – while stressing she wasn't speaking for her colleagues – said it seemed like a bad time to disband a group like this. "If this goes away, it handicaps Burien's ability to reach the people," she said, suggesting this council should be preserved at least through the prospective annexation vote. Otherwise, "It seems shortsighted to me." Ms. Larson said she couldn't comment on Clark's suggestion, but said the county does intend to invite potential-annexation cities "to the table" to be part of the forthcoming decisions. She also noted she is "newly appointed ... to try to move this process forward." One other point of concern was brought up: How the county would dole out money to unincorporated-area community-outreach projects in the future. "We are the only organization that has purely the interest of this community" in mind, said Liz Giba, voicing concern about the concept of Community Service Area-based county grants. NHUAC doesn't have professional grant writers, pointed out Ron Johnson. He added that if the county "kept us around, functioning for another 6, 8, 12 months" would help the area get annexed. Dropping support for NHUAC would be "leaving us rudderless" at a critical time for the annexation process. Other words of disappointment and anger came from the audience. "I hope that Julia will come back when (she has) some answers," said Pat Price toward the end of the discussion. It's frustrating that "there are no answers, so go find us some answers."

THE FUTURE OF NHUAC: NHUAC members voted unanimously to keep going as a group, regardless of their status or funding. This followed a vigorous discussion immediately after the "frustrating" discussion with the county reps. The contract with the county runs two more months, through December. President Barbara said she had consulted lawyer Jerry Robison and that he didn't believe they would need to carry insurance – which was part of what the county funding expiring after December had paid for. We really have little exposure for what we are doing, and it's just not necessary for the type of volunteer group that we are." Douglas Harrell wondered what voice they really would have after December; Barbara's answer was that she believed they could and should "continue as an advocacy group for the community." Despite the uncertainties, Liz Giba, said: "We have a community that's really in need of representation, and we're the best they've got at this point." She later added that her perception is that the runup to the transition "isn't going as smoothly" as county leaders might have expected, so there's hope

that at least NHUAC, with annexation now officially pending, might have the chance for an extension.

Committee Reports: President Barbara said she had received word from County Councilmember **Joe McDermott** that final action on the moratorium on dance-club licenses in the White Center area is set for 1:30 pm October 24th, and people who support the plan are invited to be there to speak in favor of it. Burien city manager Martin said he would have representation there to emphasize support, as well. Barbara also said that the county health offices that are next to the White Center Food Bank are moving to Greenbridge in 2012.

Transportation: the overlay on 16th Ave. has been completed, per Ron Johnson.

Flower Bed Planting: NHUAC is seeking a permit for some beautification on two corners at 16th/100th, using remaining funding, but there are some questions about whether they can get it done before their funding expires at year's end; the project would cost \$510.

Treasurer: Ron reported a balance of \$2458.06.

New Business: Supplies – discussion of printing our 3 fold flier/handout about NHUAC which needs to be updated, voted to purchase a \$500 Costco card to use for printing services, and also other supplies including ink cartridges, paper, etc. Voted to obtain Liability-only insurance for 2012, at cost of \$503.00. Discussion & vote to send a letter to Metro regarding Zone Changes.

NEXT MEETING: In November, King County Prosecuting Attorney **Dan Satterberg** will be a guest, President Barbara announced.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 pm Pat Price, Secretary Pro Tem