

LICTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Meeting, March 18, 2015
NSCC Campus OCE&E Building, Room 220B

Directors Present: Tom Meyer, Kay Mesirow, Melanie Davies, Liz Kearns, and Ellen Beck.

Visitors: Ortes Montercy (Vice President of Administrative Services, North Seattle College), Kathy Package, Richard Truax, Lee Bruch (Greenways), and Mian Rice (Candidate for District 5).

Treasurer's Report. The February 28, 2015 bank balance was \$5,570.29.

Minutes. The February 18, 2015 minutes were edited and thereafter approved unanimously.

Board Member Liz Kearns called the March meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made around the table.

NEW BUSINESS.

April 15, 2015 Meeting. Monty Montercy reported that old cafeteria was available to us for our April 15th meeting. He had just approved it. This is good news. Amy, the rental coordinator, will send the information to Jan Brucker.

Liz reported the April 15th meeting will focus on Wilson Pacific, the murals, and the construction. She had stopped and talked to the men putting up boards to protect the murals. The equipment is there and the fence around the property. The workers said that they would start knocking down the old school next week or the week after. So, once that happens Liz thinks that there will be more interest in the new schools going in. She has already contacted to the Greenwood Community Council and Maple Leaf.¹ They are coming. They are also going to send it out on their List Serve, tweet it, and put it on their Facebook pages. We are going to do the same. There will also be an article focusing on it in our E-Newsletter in the first part of April. Haller Lake wants its own meeting with the School District. Apparently the School District told Haller Lake to come to the Licton Springs meeting, but they refused. The Haller Lake meeting with the School District will be on April 2nd.

Justine Kim, architect (Shiels Obleta Johnsen), Project Manager for the school design/construction will be our April 15th meeting, as well as John Chapman, Chairperson, Licton Springs K-8 Site Council.

¹ Green Lake Community Council and Broadview Community Council have also been invited.

New Cafeteria at the College. The new cafeteria for the College is in a new building. They have gone from the cafeteria style to a super expresso format. The College was losing \$150,000.00 per year for the last ten years on the old cafeteria. Liz noted that the old cafeteria was never full, and the new is full all the time. The new cafeteria is open on Saturdays. It is also open until 8:00 p.m. because of matching the hours of the tutoring center. When the new student center is built, hopefully in about a year or so, it will enhance that area even more and attract a lot more activity in the area. The campus is going to have that area as a new focal point, and it's working out very well. Any public space that is not being used for an academic program, is rented out, or Monty gets some other use out of it.

Update on Reader Board. Monty said that the College was in the application stage for new digital reader board with the City. Funding has been found. The College may request a letter of support at some point. The existing reader board was formerly lit, but the bulbs died and were never replaced. So the reader board hasn't been lit for the last eight years or longer. The new reader board will have the same footprint as the previous one, and the "guts" will be replaced. It will be readable from both sides, but the lighting will be shut off automatically at certain times, i.e., late at night and during the daylight. It will probably have a black background. If the new reader board was installed now, the Licton Springs community meeting could have been advertized all day, or if someone is getting an award, a speaker on campus, etc., these events could be easily put up on the board. The new reader board will also read North Seattle College, rather than North Seattle Community College.

Liz said that she understood that the new schools would have something similar. She believed it was one of the variances approved.

The big tower sign that can be viewed from I-5 has been worked on by the facilities crew. The bulbs were replaced and the sign reads correctly now.

Mian Rice. Mian Rice, who is running for City Council District 5, came to our meeting so that we can meet him and also to hear about what was happening in our neighborhood and what our concerns were. He formerly lived in Licton Springs and now lives near Northgate. He was asked to talk about himself and told us that he was born and raised in Seattle. He attended the UW. He has worked for Turner Construction, and worked on policy shop for transportation and planning for the Mayor's Office during the Nickels Administration. He presently works for the Port of Seattle, where he is the Small Business and Company Manager and helps small businesses get jobs. He went to Garfield High School. He is married and he and his wife have an eight-year-old son. He is interested in getting minorities into engineering and supports women's issues, i.e., social justice issues, equal pay for equal

work. There are six candidates running for District 5. The deadline for anyone entering the race is in May. Working for the City, Mian has made experience in all kinds of issues and processes.

Tom asked Mian what division he was in, and he replied Corporate. He works on getting more small business involved, and also minorities involved at the Port.

Tom also asked about the future when neighborhood borders and district council borders do not match up with the new Districts for the City. The present organization is under the Mayor and the Department of Neighborhoods. Tom asked how the new District representatives for the City are going to relate to the existing councils. Mian said he had thought a lot about this. He said he was 90% sure that the current way of doing things will change. Right now there is a dis-connect with the City Departments and projects are not being synchronized. He wonders why the Department of Neighborhoods couldn't be that link that gets projects coordinated between Departments. Perhaps district coordinators could connect with each other to make the City run better. Mian felt you didn't need to hire more people, but reassign people. Discussion followed.

Mian was asked about the City-wide representatives. He said that he believed that they would have to run again in two years to get on the same cycle as the Mayor.

Lee added that having representatives for the whole City and representatives for each of the Districts will help because boundaries will vary and so representatives will need to look at a wider understanding of issues.

Melanie added that Council members will still be chairing committees and that will put them in a position to be thinking about a subject City-wide.

Proposed Changes to Metro Day Routes. Lee Bruch brought maps showing Alternative 1: All-Day Routes and Alternative 2: All-Day Routes. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS.

Greenways. Lee updated us on the Haller-Licton Greenway, getting kids to and from school via a safe route. Tom Meyer said that Lee had met with Jan Brucker, Melanie, and him on Monday (3/16/15) regarding the requests for next week's Northwest District Council presentations.

Tom reported that nine requests would be presented. Lee said that five of the requests are from people with the Haller-Licton Greenway group. Haller Lake is

presenting two requests dealing with a couple of things on First Avenue North up by Northgate School mostly dealing mostly with safety. Three are related to the 92nd Greenway and Wilson Pacific. The Seattle Neighborhood Greenways has chosen the 92nd Greenway requests as their prime interest.

Liz stated that she has been involved in the selection sessions and has reviewed grants before, but has never heard of three requests from one organization being approved. Lee said these are presented by different individual people, but are related to one another. Liz said that the people reviewing the requests would see the requests as three for the same place, even if presented by different people.

Tom said that this year four of the nine will be chosen, plus two alternates. There is more funding available this year. This is the first time there have been alternates and it was unclear how the process will work with them included. The chosen requests are prioritized (by voting) and sent to SDOT. All Districts add their prioritized requests. Tom felt that the alternates would give us more chances to get one of our requests chosen. Parks and street fund money is very competitive. Safety proposals go to the top.

Lee said their future goal was to establish a Greenway that would go from Sacajawea School (Lake City Way) to Crown Hill, creating an east to west connection. That's a goal that will take years to achieve. To create a Greenway, you put in traffic diverters, round circles and you try to do traffic calming. You try to make it safe for walking and biking. For the most part, it's not a real expensive venture for that distance, but it will take a fair amount of time. It will form one of the big connections in North Seattle from the east to the west, a connection that Seattle doesn't have very well at present for pedestrians and bicycles. It will connect three major transportation corridors, Sound Transit, Aurora express buses, and the same ones on 15th. It would connect eight or nine schools and eight or nine parks. His first proposal is for a grant to study the central portion of the Greenway as a case study because of the safety issues for the children attending the new schools at Wilson Pacific.

The second proposal is for a light at 92nd for pedestrians only. The question is how do you get kids across Aurora from Greenwood/Broadview, Haller Lake, Olympic View? Because 90th is the third² most dangerous intersection north of the ship canal for pedestrians, bikes, and cars, Lee is interested in 92nd being studied as a crossing point.³ It's suggested as a potential, but the real issue is how to get kids safely across Aurora and to and from Wilson Pacific. Whatever route is decided upon will take years to

² This number comes from SDOT.

³ In Lee's opinion, 91st and Aurora has an island and cross walk but no signs or warnings; 93rd is even more dangerous that is where Dunn Lumber is located; 95th has a light but doesn't cross directly (the light was installed there because of the Rapid Ride).

accomplish, hopefully by the time the students are there. Right now, they are applying for a grant for the City to study those possibilities.

Lee said there would be 1700 students at the schools. The middle school will draw students from a large area, including Licton Springs, Greenwood, Broadview, Haller Lake, and Olympic View. So there will be a lot of seventh and eighth graders needing to cross Aurora someday.

Lee's third proposal concerns improvements to the 92nd overpass bridge. He wants a protected bicycle path. Discussion followed.

Tom added that the Aurora Merchants are in favor of changing the intersection at 90th. Faye Garneau is concerned that 92nd and Aurora is dangerous because of the vehicles and tow trucks that turn there. Having lights at 90th, 92nd and 95th is too many in too short a distance, and would impact traffic flow on Aurora. Lee noted that traffic engineers need to study this situation. Lee noted that the 92nd light would be for pedestrians only and could be coordinated with the light at 90th to keep traffic flowing.

Melanie added that even though many may be in favor of a pedestrian light at 92nd, maybe what will happen is that 90th will be improved and we'll end up with a better 90th, and a good solution.

Lee noted that the location of the Greenway was dependent on where the kids cross Aurora, and so planning the exact route will have to wait on the decision of where the crossing will be.

Kathy Tuttle is with the Seattle Greenways committee working for safe routes for kids. That committee reported the School District made one concession at the north end of the property. The 92nd bike and pedestrian path is going through to Stone Way as a condition of the permit. The School District was also required by DPD to work with SDOT to devise ways of doing traffic calming in the neighborhood itself.

Liz said that the School District asked and was granted a departure to allow them to load and unload school buses on the street (rather than on school property). The covenants that the School District functions under say they will always load and unload buses onsite, not on the surrounding streets because it is too disruptive to the neighborhood. They are doing it in this case and going ahead to build two schools on a site that is not big enough and, consequently, there is no room for the buses. There is less parking than at any other schools. This is a shame. This is dangerous and will make traffic in this neighborhood horrible.

Lee said the permit has been appealed by a group of people to the hearing examiner. So the District can't act on it yet. The hearing has been set for early May. Until then the School District can't proceed on the permit. Lee noted that the group had appealed everything, not specific elements, and operating in that manner is not effective. This is not an appeal with an attorney involved.

Lee offered to share the research he has. He'll e-mail it to anyone. Melanie offered that she has the EIS Report which is no longer on the school's website that she is willing to share.

Discussion followed. Having 1700 students attend the schools is a lot of kids. A lot of parents will be advocating for those kids. The parents' voices will be loud and they will become major players. Liz said the APP elementary kids will come from the whole north end, and she has heard that their parents are vocal and difficult to deal with. Lee said that the 600 APP kids being brought to the schools is a big reason for the traffic increase. There is also a K through 8 Northwest Indian School, and the middle school drawing kids from a large area.

Tom suggested to Lee that he broaden the scope to 90th and 92nd when he makes his presentation to increase his chances. The request is entitled "Moving to North 92nd," so it is important to broaden that. There are probably seven voting members at NWDC who will be present. He referred Lee to the N.W. District Council website to see who the active members are.

Lee said that the Greenway groups are all over the City, but ours is the newest, formed in the last nine months. We cover a lot of area, and so have a lot of irons in the fire. Lee became involved because he was worried about the kids getting to the schools. Kids from Lee's area will be going to the school.

Four Corners Area. Tom said that there is a lot of energy emerging around the "Four Corners Area. Discussion followed. It's an area that needs attention. Four neighborhoods come together there, Licton Springs, Greenwood, Broadview, and Haller Lake. There has been talk about a committee of the N.W. District Council forming, or perhaps a new entity. There is construction going on there.

Pedestrian Bridge. Liz told of attending a meeting at the College where there were nine people from SDOT, each representing a different aspect of the Northgate Pedestrian Bridge Project. Each spoke about their particular area of expertise.

Tom said that he had been contacted by Art Brochet concerning choosing art for the bridge. Tom thought that Melanie would be a better person for this. Liz said there was

a model of the bridge at the College meeting she attended. It was kind of tubular and she thought it was quite artistic on its own.

Relocation of Power Line. Melanie mentioned an e-mail announcing that Sound Transit will begin a geotechnical survey of the soil conditions on the west side of I-5 between North 105th and North 113th Streets because of the relocation of the existing electrical transmission poles and lines to the west side of I-5. The relocation is to accommodate construction of the Link light rail elevated guideway that will be built for the Northgate and Lynnwood Link extension projects. Work will begin the week of March 23, 2015.

Discussion followed.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2015, and will take place in the old cafeteria at North Seattle College not in the OCE&E Building listed above.

The meeting adjourned at 9: 00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Beck, Secretary

