

LICTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Directors Present: Jan Brucker, Mike Cuadra, Melanie Davies, Tom Meyer, and Kay Mesirow.

Visitors: Christa Dumpys (Department of Neighborhoods) and Arnel Valmone (SPU).

Treasurer's Report. The October bank balance was \$5,704.81.

Minutes. The October 21, 2015 minutes were approved as presented.

Board President Jan Brucker called the November meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. We had introductions around the table.

NEW BUSINESS.

Sound End Park Project: Arnel Valmonte with SPU came tonight to provide the update on the completed water mitigation project at the south end of the Park.

He provided history about the Licton Springs Basin (280 acres ground watershed basin). All water flows from this area. The school came to SPU and asked SPU to move up the project to mitigate the flooding, so the school could start construction. The School District and SPU therefore partnered on the mitigation project. SPU installed a 30-40 inch pipe to replace the old one. This new pipe connects to 40 inch pipe on the school property. They left the existing pipe where it laid. All work was officially completed by November 13, 2015. They have engaged the Parks Department to re-establish the retention pond behind where the new system has been put in. The old retention pond has not been maintained and is currently overgrown. It will require some man power and they are still talking with the Parks Department on how to best remediate the situation.

SPU also improved a portion of sidewalk by the new system and provided some money to the Parks Department for landscaping.

Department of Neighborhoods: Christa Dumpys from the Department of Neighborhoods joined us. She mentioned she has a new boss who has been in her position for about four months now. They just went through a budget process and created new positions that are still open and need to be filled. Right now there are nine District Coordinators to spread over new district lines.

Urban Villages will increase housing and create diverse neighborhoods.

Jan asked about the 2016 Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA). She gave the opinion that citizens were asked opinions and not listened to.

Christa mentioned that there have been restructuring of the departments. Public Outreach Representative Program under the Department of Neighborhoods and Youth Program was also brought over. The purpose of the restructuring is to get the Department more robust.

Next step with HALA: Jessica Brand to plan outreach meetings in 2016.
jessica.brand@seattle.gov

DPD is branching into two divisions in January. OPCD is new and the Director Position is open.

Office of Planning and Community Development – Interim OPCD Director is Dianne Seymour. Nathan Togelson, head of the permitting part of DPD, is retiring. Mike Cuadra asked who gets zoning? Discussion followed.

Jan said that the neighborhood plan of Licton Springs accepted increased density, and the increased density was met in 2001. We have now more density and how is this going to affect our neighborhood?

Christa is working with group up at 115th on public safety issues. Jan asked what is happening about prostitution? Mike mentioned that the police are supposed to offer services to them but it's not happening. There are not enough resources. Jan asked how the prostitutes are going to get somewhere safe?

Tom Meyer mentioned that he's heard that folks are saying it's time to improve Aurora Avenue and that would help the situation.

Christa has been meeting with all the communities in the area on public safety concerns: the area around Haller Lake, Home Depot and the Cemetery. The land behind Home Depot is actually a flood catchment area and there has been drug dealing and prostitution going on over there. Immigrants who live in the housing around there won't call the police. They are too scared. Dave Gordon, Seattle Police, patrols that area.

From 125th south on Aurora there are many public safety issues. They had a meeting today with the Mayor's Office to address the concerns.

OLD BUSINESS.

ALUV- Aurora Licton Urban Village: Jan mentioned that on December 3rd at the I-Hop at 7:00 p.m. they will be looking at the public safety issues: sidewalks and safe routes to school. They called the Fellowship Center, but they have not returned any of the calls to ALUV. Jan would like Christa to get involved. There is a need for active participants in Licton Springs and Greenwood.

GreenWay Group: Melanie spoke about Lee Bruch's work with the Greenways Group. They audited a few routes under the guidance of Kathy Tuelles on Wednesday and Saturday, walking along certain areas and taking a checklist to look for items to take to the Mayor. They are walking to find best routes for kids to walk to school. SDOT wants folks to look at 90th for the school. The Greenways Group wants 92nd Street to also be considered. Something needs to be done before school opens in 2017.

Christa mentioned that Lake City has some good safety things they implemented. Licton Springs can learn from them. Lake City Neighborhood Alliance was created to ban together groups. The Pierre family supports them and is not against them like the Aurora Merchants, who are strong and against any changes in Licton Springs. Lake City had issues with Rick's and nude billboards.

Might be good to have someone from Shoreline to visit and talk to LSCC about what they did to make improvements of North Aurora Avenue. They purchased land to start the process.

Tom asked about the 99 tunnel closure and what will happen with all the traffic? Not sure there will be closure as the website indicated no closure until after the tunnel is built.

School time changes will affect traffic around Licton Springs. A new traffic study needs to happen taking into account two schools with two different start times. SDOT and School District need to come together for a study.

Christa said that the Mayor's Office is going to look at traffic issues and safe routes to school walking areas. The Deputy Mayor is going to investigate. Kathy, Director of Neighborhoods, wants to walk the area so Christa will us know when that is happening.

Jan says Seattle needs to start buying properties along Aurora to push changes on Aurora.

Visioning for each urban village needs to happen. Focus planning for each Urban Village is sight specific.

Jan will attend NWDC as the Licton Springs representative.

Halloween in the Park. Melanie Davies reported that we received \$166.00 in donations at the Park. We had approximately 250 children attend. It was a very rainy night. The owl came out too. All said it was very successful!

Pedestrian Bridge: Tom mentioned that the Pedestrian Bridge was funded in the transportation levy. They did not get the Tiger Grant. Moving forward, sidewalks will come to the North End, too. Prioritizing what should get done is the highest priority.

There is an active group concerned about the bridge called "Connect Northgate" The Bridge Group is looking at all the safety concerns for bikes, pedestrians, etc.

North Precinct. Mike said there was not much to report about the police meeting in November. Next month he should have more information from the Alcohol and Cannabis Board member. Car campers are a big issue.

Jan wants Licton Springs needs to be thought about. What do we want for our neighborhood? There a lot of issues with encampments. How do we keep families safe? Jan wants to know what the City is doing? Why can't Licton Springs have rest stop showers or something to help the homeless? How do we get ahead of this?

What's going to happen to Mary's Place when the Police Department needs to start building in that location? Jan thought maybe other sites around Licton Springs might help them. What about tiny home encampments that might be safer for children?

Jan mentioned that for our January meeting, we need someone from Human Services to attend.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 20, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Mesirow for
Ellen M. Beck, Secretary