

**NENC Board Meeting
January 5, 2015– 6PM
University Of Puget Sound – Thompson Hall, Room 193**

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

Introductions & Welcome

In attendance: Jim Bush, Jenn Halverson Kuehn (arrived 6:05), Anna Petersen, Jim Merritt, Kyle Price, Morf Morford, Rachel Cardwell (departed at 7:15), Jim Lovejoy, Erica Nelson, Bea Christophersen, and Connie Spangler

Absent: David Schroedel

Local citizen opportunity to comment

Morf asked for OTC at 6:08. No citizens came forward.

Approval of Minutes

Moved (Kyle)/ Seconded (Anna)/ MP

Treasurer's Report

No change since last month.

Liaison reports

City Council: Council member Anders Ibsen: 1) City passed their budget, 2) no layoffs, 3) major policy decision is on paid sick leave, 4) public hearing at tomorrow's meeting on marijuana. Important to respect people's need for access, however the large number of current shops (52?) is creating a change to the neighborhoods that they are in.

Council member Robert Thoms (RT) comment on budget. Wants additional money for petty property crimes task force. Wants \$200K, but will take the \$30K and start from there. He's happy to see money restored to innovative grant fund, and more money to sidewalk and pedestrian repairs. 5 additional ppl were allocated to permanent road fixes. In the future, he wants 5-10% of budget allocated to roads. Agrees that a big issue currently facing the City is how to deal with proliferation of marijuana in our city--largely because the state has kept this a

gray area. All but 7% of sales tax goes to the State, which isn't really fair. We need to be able to help local areas deal with the shops. Review of relocation of County building to old hospital on Pacific. RT feels the City cannot do much to alter the course that is set in motion to get the county employees their \$90 million building on the hill.

Jim Merritt comments to Mr. Chair that this topic could be discussed until 10 PM tonight. Goes on to say this decision has been completely internal, and that most citizens don't know this is happening.

Bea comments that she doesn't understand how the County should be held responsible for promises the City made to fill out the downtown area with government buildings. County should be allowed to put their building where ever they like.

RT corrects her that all forms of government committed to filling out the downtown core. He agrees they can put their building where ever they'd like, but affirms Mr. Merritt's comment that it wasn't vetted the way a project of this size should be.

Christina (City Liaison) says that County is due to come in front of City Council on February 8th to discuss this further.

Kyle thinks it's quite peculiar that there was a lack of public process, and asks for a letter to be written to County Council to slow down their process. Jim Merritt seconds that motion. Vote 10 Yays, 1 nay (Bea Christophersen).

Christina (City Liaison) City of Destiny award nominations on Jan. 16th. New assistant city manager had his first day today.

Derek Young (County Council) If you are going to write a letter, to get it out fairly soon. Being voted on 1/28. The lack of public process around this decision doesn't really feel good to him.

Tacoma Fire: Mike Fitzgerald states it's a relief that budget passed and for the first time in 4 years where funding to fire department was stabilized. New year is a good time to make resolutions, and perhaps one should be to check the safety situation of your home (handout).

Tacoma Police Don Spidola says there are currently 12 positions open that are unfilled, 14 ppl are retiring. 10 new grant positions. 36 police officers to be hired. New CL Officer in the North End is Kelly Custis. Jen Terhaar has rotated back to patrol.

Puget Creek Restoration Society Steve- Seeks clarification of where to send email:
chair@nenc.org

Old Business – Thanks to Kyle for an exceptional job.

Round of applause to Kyle for his service as chair the last 3 years.

i. New Business: Concerns for 2015 – traffic, parking and other changes because of the apartment/retail development on Proctor, the multiplex at Pointe Ruston due to open this spring, The US Open in UP this summer. Anything else?

Anders Ibsen reports that the issue involving idling trains along Ruston has been resolved--took a call to Kilmer's office. Trains are now idling in Auburn.

Bea and Anders updated Board on parking lot used by VFW Hall. 2 options were presented and the one that was agreed upon was that the City would maintain ownership and in exchange of using the lot, the VFW and Frank Tobey Jones would agree to maintain the lot. Anders: Public process done right.

Jim Merritt agrees that we need to be mindful of the anticipated growth at Point Ruston, expected to be around 10,000 ppl in 15 years.

Morf asks the Board if any members want to go on CityLine to talk about what's going on in the North End. He's willing to do it, but would like another volunteer. Bea suggests Kyle and Morf should do it. Kyle cannot do it at that time.

Rachel asks how can we have a better sense of what's happening in the North End, so that we can stop being reactive and be better ahead of issues affected our area. Connie suggests that we could work with the schools. Rachel agrees that better relationships with groups like the schools are a very possible avenue for proactive communication with the residents. Sheila says that we could help ourselves by doing a better job of advertising NENC meetings. Rachel agrees a good communication plan and execution of said plan is exactly what we need.

Jim Bush asks what duty the City has to advise a neighborhood council of a major construction projects. Robert Thoms says none. Perhaps we should be doing a better job (than post cards) of filtering that into your neighborhood portal. Add a requirement to the permitting process?

Anna clarifies that we're talking about two different things... we should be more aware of what's happening at the County, reading comp plans, etc. Certain things are allowed, and don't require special notice b/c it falls under the purview of the gov. agency granting permits. Developments like The Proctor were put in motion by code that was adopted five years prior. The time to speak against such developments is the time the changes are being made to city or county code, not when a developer acts in accordance with the rules allowing such development.

Jim Merritt: one thing our city doesn't have is a design commission (although UWT has one).

Connie: decisions are made behind closed doors, regardless of public opinion. RT: before his time, perhaps, but not now. Anders agrees this does happen in other parts of government, but practical reality is that the earlier you start in the process, the greater impact you can have.

Kyle comments that you can be on the planning commission distribution list to be more aware of what is being prioritized from a planning perspective.

ii. Proposal to dedicate \$500 each year toward NUSA. Discussion and vote. Not addressed.

iii. Alternate site for large meetings (like the Proctor development meeting last spring). Not addressed.

iiii. Clarification of boundaries and member responsibilities for new members. Not addressed.

iv. Volunteers for LIVE TV show on CityLine featuring Neighborhood Councils and 2014 year in review, January 15, 8:15 AM. Addressed earlier.

Adjournment 7:30ish PM

Motion to adjourn at 7:38 PM/ S/ P

Times are approximate. Agenda is subject to Chair's discretion.

Respectfully submitted by Jenn Halverson Kuehn

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