



Green Lake Community Council -- Minutes Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Program: Candidates for Position 8, Green Lake Community Council

Meeting Opened at 7:05 pm by Forrest Corbett.

First speaker: Richard Fleming, Friends of Green Lake

Compiled a wish list which was acknowledged last fall. In June, several officials joined members on a two-hour walk around the lake. Discussion included tree removal along the sea-wall. Friends of Green Lake website outlines all twenty-four issues.

Brian DeLuca highlighted the safety issue of location markers along the Green Lake Path. Any distressed person could identify their location within 75 feet to first responders. The markers would be thin metal plaques. About 100 plaques would be placed. At this time, the 911 operated wants the intersection. This can be up to 500 feet away. City will not give a grant for this. Unknown if private donations are acceptable.

Second Speaker: Green Lake Librarian Myreta

- Summer Reading Bingo for Adults! Check the branch for a display with more information.
- Kids Café free meals for kid 1 – 18, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
- Hot Topic for Seniors, one Thursday a month, held at the Cove.

Question: How are library open days determined.

Answer: Community vote. Friday's were traded for Monday.

Candidates:

Sheley Secrest, Hisam Giluli, Teresa Mosqueda, Sara Nelson

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Sheley: Mother and civil rights attorney. NAACP. Urban League. Alliance for Just Society.

Hisam: Doctor, NW Hospital, Mental Health and Geriatrics, Prof. UW. Teaches residents. 27 patients a day/ 20 are homeless. Platform based on a home for every family.

Teresa: Grew up here. SeaMar first job out of college. Services for Seniors. Degree in Public Policy.

Sara: 1990 Grad School, PhD in anthropology. Worked in Richard Conlin's office. Met husband at WTO protest. Owns Fremont Brewing company.

2. What do you believe are the three most critical issues facing the City?

Sara: a.) Lack of attention on basic services. Roads, parks, public safety. b.) Affordability: housing, jobs (middle class, working class). c.) environment.

Sheley: a.) Income inequality, b.) police reform, c.) racial equity

Hisam: a.) Housing and affordability, b.) homelessness, c.) livability: maintain culture and grow it (Mom and Pop stores, parks)

Teresa: a.) Public Health, homelessness and healthcare for all, mental health, b.) affordability, c.) income inequality

3. Of these issues, which is the most pressing issue and why?

Sara: Basic services and maintenance of public assets. Including transportation, the pool.

Sheley: Police reform. Moral decree, including relationships with businesses / police etc.

Hisam: Livability and affordability. Hospital is filled with older adults because they have no place to go that is safe and secure. Public Development authority, provide very low-income housing, subdividing. How to age in place here?

Teresa: Impoverished communities die younger: food deserts, no sidewalks, crumbling infrastructure.

4. Do you believe there should be any changes in leadership, training, policy, and accountability within the Seattle Police Department? If so, what? If not, why not?

Sheley: Yes. Training needs to focus on de-escalation, mental health and homeless.

Hisam: Agitation and irritability training works in hospitals, should be given to police. Mental illness is a disorder of thought. 40 hours of de-escalation training, Memphis model.

Teresa: Additional training. CPC recommendations – technical advisors should be in the room. De-militarization of Police Departments.

Sara: Yes, training. Tested. Personnel record should reflect training is implemented. Accountability, strengthen Community Policing Commission.

Now we'll focus on some neighborhood specific issues.

Money has been voted on and allocated not just for the repair of Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool, but other community centers as well. The Parks Department has not been spending this money.

5. What would you do to make sure the city spends the money on what voters were told it would be spent on?

Hisam: Council should be advocating for communities. Council did not take enough responsibility. Against privatization because it can exclude people.

Teresa: Investments in public spaces like parks and pools increased public health.

Sara: Seattle is flush. We voted Metropolitan Parks Commission which includes the city council. This has not been a priority. Need reprioritization.

Sheley: 2014 Parks levy money has not been released. Against privatization.

6. Rather than spending this money, the city has proposed forming a private/public partnership and have a private party build a new community center and operate it. What is your position on this?

Teresa: Full public investment of parks, greenways, pools. Privatization is shortsighted for quick fix.

Sara: Not all Public / Private partnerships are bad, Magnusson and Occidental work. What is happening here is atrocious. Not appropriate. Audit the Parks and figure out who is doing what?

Sheley: Against privatization. No accountability. What is need and is it defined by actual community. If privatized, the community should stay at the steering wheel.

Hisam: Private/Partner in healthcare is a disaster. Private decides what is a right and what is a privilege. Privatization may mean fees, even if nominal, which moves the asset out of reach for many.

Let's talk about transit and transportation in the neighborhood, especially around Green Lake Village

7. For quite some time the neighborhood had been told that with greater density comes greater transit options. We now have dramatically greater density, yet transit has not improved at all. This had created significant traffic, parking and pedestrian issues. How would you solve this?

Sara: Four years from now, more money would be allocated. Increase metered parking. Don't know if we need more service.

Sheley: Columbia City looked at how to be a walkable neighborhood and not take their car. Bike lanes, sidewalks.

Hisam: Budget should reflect service to the environmental jewels of the city – like Green Lake. Agrees with bike lanes and sidewalks.

Teresa: More transit investment. Improve electric grid. Endorsed by environmental groups.

8. Unauthorized homeless encampments are growing problem and we are eager for solutions to solve the root issues, and not simply force the homeless to move to another neighborhood. What do you think the root issues are and how would you solve them?

Sheley: Wrap around services, stop sweeps, ban the box (convictions), non-discrimination.

Hisam: 150 homeless camps, there is no affordable space. \$96 for a family of 4. Vacant properties should be developed to get people off the streets immediately.

Teresa: Increase access to low barrier facilities. Giving case management, substance abuse, mental health in addition to a house. People need education and training so that they are not chronically homeless.

Sara: Root causes: Domestic violence, sexual abuse. We need training, manufacturing, maritime, industrial. Substance abuse – council doesn't fund, bring in partners. Housing first.

Land use & livability. Green Lake has both a Residential Urban Village as well as a large population of single family homes.

9. A key aspect of the HALA is Livability. What are your plans for making Seattle a more livable city?

Hisam: Developer accountability via regulations and review.

Teresa: Zoning and regulations for planned communities.

Sara: Daycares and historical preservation has taken a hit with HALA. These were previously a focus. There is probably a developer fee included.

Sheley: How does a family experience the space?

10. Do you support unzoning single-family homes throughout the city or just in certain areas?

Teresa: Upzone the whole city so that the taxes do not drive people out of their homes.

Sara: How do people stay in their homes? Voter approved measures are adding too much for taxes. Allow for back yard cottages and basement apartments.

Sheley: Add in-home apartments. In some places the home owner does not actually have to live there, like Shaker Heights.

Hisam: In favor unzoning almost all of Seattle. Kids can move to good school systems. Maintain character by sustainable subdivision. Large homes become two – three homes. Property taxes go down. Property owner does not have to live on the land.

11. Green Lake Park is by far the most popular park in the state. Yet it has some of the most neglected facilities of any park. What would you do to improve the safety and maintenance of the park?

3.5 million visits per year

More than Yellowstone or Mt. Rainier. Burke Gilman 1 million.

Sara: Deep dive audit on operations and maintenance and capital improvements. Has not happened since the improvement district.

Sheley: Rich, white, older – we don't get the funding. Money is there. We need to make it a higher priority. On it right away, no excuses.

Hisam: Green Lake has been taken for granted. Infrastructure. Lighting. More emergency phones. Safety and public health.

Teresa: Bike lane added. Lights around the pathway. Lifeguards and kiddie pool open earlier and open later. More fields in addition to Seattle. More bathrooms.

12. Audience question, Gail: Increase in gun incidence in City in Seattle?

Sheley: Officers partner with community based organizations. Restored Justice type model.

Hisam: Increased density of people and no capacity results in increased stress and depression. Coping strategies fail and more violence ensues.

Teresea: Gun violence is a public health crisis. Guns seized in a crime should never be sold back out. Sister cities should follow suit. Youth should have education opportunities: free community college.

Sara: Guns are the problem. Get guns off the street which will prevent suicides and domestic murders. Tracing bills. Reduce assault weapons.

13. What differentiates you from your opponents of this position on Seattle City Council, and what unique qualifications do you think you will bring to the council? Why should we vote for you?

Hisam: Dedicated to service around the world as an MD. End of life care. Homelessness. Mental health. Protect and serve the community.

Teresa: Grew up fighting against injustice. Family values. Push forward progressive values like health care and minimum wage.

Sara: Extensive policy experience in Seattle. Historical knowledge of the issues. Business owner.

Sheley: Endorsed by the Bernie Sanders group, Our Revolution. Bring both sides of a situation. Coalition builder.

Audience member statement: Money should not be spent studying how to fix the bathroom. Money should be spent on the carpenter and the plumber. We need leadership.