



Green Lake Community Council Meeting Wednesday, January 14, 2009 Minutes

The meeting opened with attendees introductions.

1. Friends of Green Lake Update – Gayle Garman

Gayle gave an overview of FOGL's history as a water quality monitoring organization. Last year was the clearest year on record at 22' of visibility. Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is Tuesday January 27th. Gayle reported on recent storm water discharge samples.

An otter was spotted in the lake during the snowy weather. Two independent reports came in, including one on top of the ice layer.

Reddish-brown stains in the lake on the bottom have been noted by some people. It is iron oxide that comes into the lake with groundwater. Settles where ground water comes in. It is not toxic, but just indicates there is brown water coming into the lake.

State board of health has said they are going to put up warning signs around the lake (in several languages) telling people not to eat the carp that are found in the lake. The carp have been in there for a long time and are old, and have legacy contaminants. They are unhealthy to eat. Signs also say do eat the trout. Last summer more hatchery-raised trout were put into Green Lake than any other lake in King County.

2. SNAP Class Announcement – Seattle Emergency Management – Eva Vincent

Joanne Jordan filled in for Eva Vincent to remind us "emergencies happen." SNAP = "Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare." The organizations encourage people to prepare for disasters by working with communities to have classes to educate people to prepare for a disaster. She promises they make preparation fun! Please pass the word along to friends, family, neighbors, blogs to attend their class at Broadview Library on January 24th at 12755 Greenwood Ave N. from 10:30 to noon. More information and the full year's schedule can be found at www.seattle.gov/emergency. They will also come to you if you have 20 or more participants. Materials translated into 14 languages!

3. Washington State DOT on the I-5 / 5th Avenue NE to NE 92nd Street Noise Wall Project update – Erin Fletcher & Elizabeth Faulkner

Thanked the Green Lake council for the opportunity to talk about the project and thanked the membership for putting up with the construction. They provided background about the project, which includes getting funding from the gas tax to build a noise wall. The goal is to noticeably reduce noise in this neighborhood, Maple Leaf, and Licton Springs. Usually see benefits of 50% reduction in noise when they live very close, with diminishing benefit the further from the freeway/wall. Input was sought from the communities prior to the build to come up with designs that work for the communities. Three walls are under construction right now. Wall 1 is not yet, as they are still working on the design for that one.

In April 08, Wilder Construction won the bid for the project and began in July of last year. The first steps were preparing foundations and pouring concrete to prepare for the actual walls. The actual wall panels are built offsite in Auburn. Once the walls have cured, they're brought on site to be placed on the foundations.

Construction is done at night to minimize traffic impact when I-5 lanes need to be blocked off.

Wall 3 was just completed yesterday; Wall 4 begins next Tuesday (85th to 76th Streets). The crews will be closing the N 85th offramp and 71st offramp starting Tuesday January 20th at night for about 2 weeks. Crews will also be closing lanes of SB I-5 for crane placement. Full benefits won't be realized until the project is completed. Expected completion is Spring of this year, and there may be intermittent closures throughout this time.

Team wants to communicate what's happening, so in addition to the message signs on the freeway, there are also emails sent out to those on their mailing lists. You are invited to visit the website or contact at the office if you have questions about the construction. The website address is www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/5thAveNEtoNE92ndNoiseWall. Construction hotline is (206) 819-7230.

4. Woodland Park Zoo update – David Schaefer

David provided an overview of the long range vision for the zoo, which includes a proposed new West Entry to ease congestion and provide safer entry to the zoo. During the summer it can take up to half an hour to get through the existing entrances during the busy season, and this is expected to reduce that time to five minutes.

The North entry will be closed when the new West entrance is completed, so ZooTunes attendees will need to use the West entrance, which is about the same walk.

This year there is a new exhibit of Humboldt penguins. This is the biggest animal exhibit the zoo has built in years. These are NOT the dancing penguins in the movies. These come from Chile and Peru. They're very endangered due to habitat loss. This replicates a San Juan, Peru environment. Part is an underwater viewing

area, as they “fly” underwater. Water is heated & cooled by geothermal wells so there is almost no electricity used. Water is filtered and reused so almost no new water. The exhibit opens May 1.

A new species of eagle – the Stellar (sp?) Sea Eagle from Russia is in. A tree kangaroo is coming to the zoo. A new food concessionaire is in as there were complaints about expensive, not-so-tasty food. So a new vendor is taking over the food operations. It’s only been open a couple of weeks. The prices are lower and David believes the food is better.

The zoo receives a portion of the parks levy. In 2008, the funds were split between operations and capital (penguin exhibit). In future years, it is mostly used for the operations budget.

5. McDonald school update – Nytasha Sowers and Mark Agopsowicz

The McDonald school is between 1st NE & Latona at 54th. The Friends of McDonald school are working to renovate the playground of this closed school into a safe, clean neighborhood “pocket park.”

The group was awarded a grant in November and the project was written up in the Seattle P-I. They have raised \$22,000 of the estimated \$60,000 - \$80,000 needed to complete the renovation. So Phase 1 is underway with a planned replacement for the decaying play structure and expand on the older kids’ play structure that’s in place. In addition, seating areas, picnic tables, and chess tables are planned. Where there is puddling in the fields, drainage will be installed. In the lawn area, some additional landscaping like shade trees are planned. The rusty, bulging fence is planned for replacement when additional funds have been raised.

January 27th at 7:00 in the library is a workshop to confirm a preliminary list of what the community wants to see in the park. From there, the Friends will be pursuing additional grants and funding for the subsequent phases. For more information, the website is www.friendsofmcdonaldschool.blogspot.com.

6. Proposal for SDOT's Neighborhood Street Fund at Winona & N 76th – Karl Arne

An intersection on the N side of Green Lake – Winona & 76th (near PCC) – has issues that Karl and other neighbors are seeking support to address via the Neighborhood Street Fund. On Winona going up 76th, cars zoom around the corner as they’re coming off an arterial. The curb bulb creates closer to a 90 degree angle, which will slow traffic down. There is a safety concern. Second, replacing the concrete with a little park will beautify the intersection. Third, the city is looking for sites for a rain garden. This area gets a lot of traffic so a rain garden would get a lot of visibility there. A rain garden captures rain and slowly percolates it into the ground to reduce the runoff entering the sewer.

Karl asked for the community’s support as this proposal is moved forward. If selected, SDOT pays for the whole thing. No match is required. The estimated cost is \$40,000. Each district has a certain dollar amount of funds that communities

compete for. Interested people who can help out can contact Karl to learn about next steps either via email at arnekarl@mac.com or by phone 206 297-3700.

7. Sustainable Green Lake – Pennie O’Grady

Sustainable Green Lake is a newly formed group focused on issues germane to promoting a sustainable community. Anything related to long term quality of life for the area is fair game for this group. The group is having its first potluck and gathering at Bethany Community Church. SCALLOPS will be helping kick things off with a dynamic speaker. It’s February 16th across from Bagley School. The website is www.sustainablegreenlake.com.

8. GLCC Secretary position still open – Michael Cornell

Board position is open. The main responsibility is attending each meeting and taking notes. If interested, please get in touch with Michael.

9. Land Use Updates – Michael Cornell

Two projects: TCR (Albertsons) – project is almost complete. Expect occupancy permit for Ravenna-facing units any day with move-in starting February. If anyone has interest in either the residential or commercial spaces, contact Michael. They would like to have restaurants... but they would like to have tenants.

Old VitaMilk/ Lorig – a new project manager is on the project and may have an announcement in about the next ninety days. They have not secured the tenant they want. They still want a grocery store. The earliest any construction would move forward is about Spring 2010.

10. Aurora Avenue development update – Ref Lindmark

Suggestions have been identified and are in the process of being prioritized. One high “want” is wider sidewalks. The next meeting is February 2nd at Greenwood community center. The more people involved, the better the results usually are.

11. Northwest District Council Update – Blayne McAferty

Next meeting is on January 28th (4th Wed of month), Tim Burgess from the City Council will be in attendance. It’s on the corner of Greenwood & 85th on the NW corner.

Stella Chao – new Dept of Neighborhoods chair will be there.

12. Seattle PD North Precinct Liaison Report – Bernie Kay

The flasher at Green Lake was caught.

There was a court case for two people pistol-whipped at Green Lake. The perpetrators were caught and their trial started last Monday. It’s at King County Superior Court.

Avalon massage/tanning place at 97th & Aurora was raided. SE Asian women were being trafficked there and it has been closed down after a 2 year investigation.

Cyndy's Restaurant at 105th & Aurora is proposed to be a strip club, but will still serve pancakes. Get in touch with GAIN folks if you're interested in this issue.

During the snows, some residents reported seeing footprints leading up to their windows – which became apparent because of the snow, but this suggests people are checking for easy access to homes via unlocked windows. Be warned.

Bernie was asked about an increase of car prowls – he reports generally at Green Lake the numbers were down as five suspects were rounded up.

Washington is third in the nation in liquor sales. There is one license per 700 people.

13. Neighborhood Announcements

Anderson's Nautilus has been sold and will be owned by someone else. New owners are expected to be marketing to a younger crowd. Will be called American Athlete.

Recorded by Mary Muller