



Green Lake Community Council
Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Location: The Hearthstone, 6720 East Green Lake Way N.

1. Michael Cornell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the Green Lake Community Council board members.
2. Councilwoman Sally Bagshaw (Chair Parks Committee) and Council member Tom Rasmussen (Vice Chair Parks and Chair Transportation Committee) announced that as a result of the letters from the community the GL Community Center will remain open and the hours of operation will not be reduced as much as originally planned. However, substantial cuts will be made.

Function rooms will continue to be available for toddler, pre-school, adult basketball, table tennis, pottery, drop-in sports, teen and other programs. One of the 3 rooms will be converted to an office (Special Events Programs – space for 7 people). This is 900 sq ft which is 5% of the building. This is planned to be a temporary change.

In response to questions and comments from the audience and letters from Michael Cornell and others, Ms. Bagshaw discussed the options of using alternate space in the Seattle Municipal Tower, but the Parks Department doesn't want to pay rent to another city department for the space. Additionally, Michael Cornell had met with Seattle City Councilwoman Jean Godden to discuss this concern. Ms. Godden is Chair of the Budget Committee. Michael Cornell had a similar in-person conversation with Councilman Tim Burgess. Both Godden and Burgess expressed to Chairman Cornell that they have heard our concerns and were working on alternatives.

A question was asked about the impact on Pathways of Light, Easter egg hunt and other "events" held at the Park. These are driven by staff and Ms. Bagshaw was unsure of the impact these changes would have on the programs. Others present who were more intimately knowledgeable about the operations at Green Lake Community Center explained that those things are handled by the staff people being cut, and will likely end.

This year's Pathway of Lights may be the last one, under the mayor's plan as it now stands.

The role of ARC at Green Lake was discussed: ARC is a volunteer organization that oversees the funds that are collected and then uses them to support programs. Concerns were raised about the issue of accountability of groups such as ARC and the Seattle Parks Foundation. Comments were made about use of temporary buildings, or using space in other departments that are downsizing.

Many neighborhood residents expressed thanks to Sally Bagshaw at Tom Rasmussen for the progress that has been made, but expressed extreme displeasure that the plan still includes confiscating part of the Green Lake Community Center for city employee offices, when there is ready vacant office space at Seattle Municipal Tower and space available at other city property.

Even during The Great Depression, the city never attempted to confiscate part of the Green Lake Community Center for employee office space.

There was a serious outcry from the community members present, for Sally and Tom to work harder on this issue. The Green Lake Community does not consider the matter resolved.

Although the City Council officially extended the public comment period through November 22, Councilwoman Bagshaw said they were voting on the package of cuts this coming Friday, November 12.

Several attendees asked about the need for an upgrade of the GLCC building and the Bath House theater. Funds have been allocated for repairs to the Bathhouse (roof, HVAC, bathrooms).

Overall the results were certainly better than initially expected.

3. Expansion of the Hearthstone – Sheryl Harmon reported that the planned expansion to add independent living residences is back on track. The units will be across the street from the Hearthstone. Environmental clean-up will start up soon and construction is likely in the spring. The first floor of the facility will be retail. There will be an open house at The Hearthstone the afternoon of December 5th.
4. Eric Fisk – President of the Wallingford Community Council reported on a possible extension of Stone Way Road Diet/Bike Lane North onto Green Lake Way. Goals are to restore crosswalks to 51st and 53rd and improve traffic flows and bike lanes. Eric was looking for the GLCC to support the proposed study by Seattle Department of Transportation. It was moved that the GLCC will join with WCC in a letter to SDOT to request a study of this potential improvement. The letter will also request that SDOT

report back to GLCC and WCC before making any changes. The GLCC approved the motion by an overwhelming majority vote.

5. Mary Muller reported on the planned new plantings for median at 64th, Green Lake Way & Meridian. To do this required numerous steps to get the work done, safety cones, having a City employee present, etc. At this point the understanding is the City is planning to pave the median.
6. Gayle Garman provided a report on Friends of Green Lake and shared photos before the meeting from the latest monthly clean-up. The goal of the clean-up is to restore habitat for birds. The November meeting will be on Tuesday November 23rd. Lake clarity was at 9.7 ft and temperature 55deg.

Pathways of Lights will run from 4:30 to 7:30 on December 11th. This could be the last time this event takes place due to the mayor's cuts.

Michael Cornell secured a commitment from Seattle City Councilman Tom Rasmussen to return to the January GLCC meeting to discuss transportation issues relating to Green Lake and the City. Councilman Rasmussen is Chairman of the Transportation Committee.

Discussion is underway to try and restart the GL Chamber of Commerce. A meeting will be held in January.

Next meeting will be January 12, 2011

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.