



Greenlake Community Council Meeting Wednesday, November 12, 2008 Minutes

The meeting opened with the traditional introductions of the community members in attendance.

1. Shade Garden Update – Ted Holden
 - The shade garden came about as part of the pro-parks levy. One of the last projects to be built, construction will begin next Monday, November 17. Several public meetings were held. Two areas will be developed: An esplanade between Starbucks and the pool. The design involves removing the two paths and replacing them with one crushed gravel path and a terra cotta archway over a raised platform. Benches will be at intersections. They are looking at lighting and electrical accommodations to make it possible to have concerts there.
 - The other area is by the Hearthstone, west of the existing path. Crushed gravel with 3 small picnic/game tables and two 2-person benches (too small to sleep on) are planned so people can be off the main path.
 - 95 day construction window, so expecting it to be finished in April. A-1 Landscape is doing the construction.
2. MacDonald School at Latona & NE 50th is used as overflow/emergency campus, but is otherwise vacant. There is a large playfield there, and the local residents have applied for a neighborhood grant to clean up and fix the playground so it could be a neighborhood park. By January, they hope to have a decision on a grant for the project and will be looking for volunteers to assist in sprucing up the field.
3. Green Lake Advisory Council -- Community Center & Path of Lights – update by Sue Ruuska, President GL Advisory Council
 - The Pathway of Lights is always the 2nd Saturday in December, which falls on December 13th this year. Instead of the old safety candles, they're using LED candles that flicker and won't go out. Hope is they will last a couple of years.

The number of candles is doubled from last year and will circle the lake. There will be “quiet” singing groups and musical ensembles around the lake at the Community Center, Bathhouse Theater, and Aqua Theater areas during the event.

- The Pathway of Lights has been going on for over 20 years now. Originally the lights were just around the community center and down toward the Bathhouse, and other associated activities have varied over the years. For the first couple of years, there were even hayrides. Volunteers take a section of the lake to bag the candles. They are always looking for volunteers, so if you have a group or that can help, get in contact with Barb at the center or ask at the front desk. Usually volunteers start at 3 pm and the event runs from 5 to 8pm.
- In other news, the city told the Green Lake Advisory Council that if they have any excess funds, the city will take 40% of them. So, north areas that have a little extra income from activities have been spending it on improvements here. A new slide is going in the pool to draw more kids. Also, updating the children’s play center and buying new equipment to update the popular pottery program. (A new kiln, improved ventilation, etc) ... A big upcoming project is going to be updating the kitchen so it’s more accessible for dinner meetings. All these should bring more people to the community center
- Music lessons are the fastest growing activity at the community center, including guitar, piano, other musical instruments.
- Anyone who might be interested in joining the Advisory Council can attend on the third Tuesday of the month at about 7:15 at the community center.

4. Friends of Green Lake Update – Gayle Garman

- Good news & bad news: October 18th was a shoreline milfoil cleanup. A number of volunteers were recognized for their efforts in assisting with the cleanup. Last year it was done in November, this year in October. Feedback was that it may have been done a little early. There is still a lot of milfoil that looks quite healthy. So there may be a request for a repeat in January or February of next year.
- The Parks Levy passed. It’s another 8 year levy, but unfortunately no funds were included for improving the Bathhouse Theater or our community center. So any major capital improvements will need to wait for another levy. The last levy paid for new tennis courts in addition to the shade garden. It also improved the drainage, which helps to keep the lake clean.
- Waterskiing on the lake has been banned. Lake Sammamish Ski Club had had permits to have skiing events on Memorial and Labor Day weekends grandfathered since the 60’s. All other motor boats except official ones were long ago banned. Thanks in part to testimony and input from many in the community, their special permit was not renewed. The Park Board vote was unanimous to recommend ending it to Superintendent Gallagher, who

concurred with that recommendation. This does not mean no power boats, but they will be consistent with the signs – for safety and rescue only.

- Next FOGL meeting is November 25th, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Jason Fisk, head of small craft center, will show slides and talk about his program. Gayle has requested the large meeting room at the Heathstone for this meeting, which will start at 7 PM and end at 9 PM.

5. GLCC Secretary position open – Mike Cornell

- Our GLCC Secretary, Jeremy Jones, moved out of the area and has left his position as secretary, so we are seeking a new secretary. The primary responsibility is taking notes at council meetings. It's also a great way to meet members of the community and make a difference.
- Talk to Mike or get the email from the GLCC website if you would be interested in volunteering for this role.

6. Land Use Updates – Mike Cornell

- TRC (old Albertson's site) building is ahead of schedule and expected to be finished in January. Have about 30% commitment for the retail space and will start leasing to residential tenants in January.
- The Vitamilk "hole in the ground" still has no update
- Shell station building on 72nd and Aurora – no information to announce.

7. Aurora Avenue development update – Ref Lindmark

- Ref passed out a newsletter about the things going on in Aurora Ave. GAIN is Greenwood Area Involved Neighbors, who got together first to go after crime. Then they approached the city to expand efforts around improving the Aurora corridor.
- An urban design meeting for the Aurora corridor was held this week. 40 – 50 people attended. Aurora was divided up into three geographical divisions for the meeting. Attendees who lived or worked near a division provided input into what they liked and didn't like about that particular section. One recommendation was to make sidewalks uniform width. Some wanted more amenities, like a coffee shop at the "fast transport" stops. There was input into what the storefronts should look like, including roof overhangs to protect from the elements, etc ... Feedback is taken by designers for advance planning so when there is new development, that input becomes part of the buildings going forward.
- Crime is significantly down along the corridor. Police credits the community with discouraging crime in the area.

8. Green Lake/Phinney tunnel mural – Ref Lindmark

- The tunnel that goes under Aurora has a mural. There is another one by the zoo that drops under Phinney. These were painted as community projects. For many years, it's been graffiti-free; however, recently they have been hit. We could have an opportunity to repaint it, using improved design techniques, that make them less taggable. Or we could get volunteers to touch up the mural that is already there.
- Beth from Dept of Neighborhoods has been in contact with the transportation department and is looking at different solutions for the mural. Get in contact with her if interested in volunteering.

9. 4 Culture – Art work near Park & Ride – Cath Brunner

- Artist Sheila Klein was chosen as the artist for the site. She camped out in a tent there for two weeks asking passersby what they liked, thought, etc... Phase I is complete – the painting of the columns.
- They are looking for a local painting contractor who could be on call to fix the graffiti if it appears. If anyone has a contractor to recommend they should contact Cath at 4 culture (206) 296-8680.
- Phase II / final phase – a lighting element along 65th St. Each step requires permits from 5 different organizations (Wash Dot, Metro, City Light, other organizations) so it can be complicated and takes time. Cath provided conceptual drawings. A minimum of 10, maximum 16 suspended light fixtures are proposed. They will be mounted between the columns in the immediate vicinity of the Park & Ride. This is one of the darkest parts of the area. They hope to start the installation in late Spring, early Summer.
- Also looking to prune some of the trees and replace the ivy with four flowering cherry trees.

10. Update on the Green Lake library closure - Jennifer Patterson

- The Green Lake branch closed on October 2 when mold was discovered in a crawl space under the meeting room floor. For cautionary reasons, it was decided to close the library altogether.
- Lots of work has been done since then. Air sampling was done before and after the work was done. The mold was removed successfully. No other mold was found anywhere else in the building. Some lead-based paint was also removed from the crawl space.

- This is not the source of the odor in the building, but they are looking into that. All ductwork has been cleaned, carpeting has been deep cleaned along with cleaning throughout the building. Junipers were removed. Old blinds were removed and are being replaced.
- Awaiting final test report, but expecting to reopen next week with an announcement later this week of the exact date.

11. NW District Council Update – Blaine McAferty

- Over the last two months, new bylaws have been passed.
- NW District Council has elected its representative to the committee created by the City Council charged with developing a new neighborhood plan for Seattle.
- There are about 15 groups represented at the NW District Council. The boundaries are from Green Lake (approximately NE 50th Street) north to NE 145th Street and from I-5 to west of Aurora, including Phinney, Greenwood, Carkeek and Broadview. The boundary is irregular and doesn't include Ballard.
- NW District council is developing a new website: www.nwdistrictcouncil.org.

12. Bathhouse Theater/ Seattle Public Theater update – Keith Dahlgren

- Just began rehearsals for their holiday shows: Santaland Diaries the family show, “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.” It features eighteen kids from the Bathhouse educational program.
- Santaland opens on December 5th and Pageant on the 12th. Both run through Christmas eve.
- Go to www.seattlepublictheater.org or the GLCC website with links to the theater site. Brochures were left on the table for attendees.

13. Neighborhood Announcements

- FOGL has t-shirts for sale at meetings or by contacting FOGL on their website.
- This year Green Lake is the clearest it has been since measuring began.

Recorded by Mary Muller

GLCC Vice President