



Green Lake Community Council

Meeting Notes

Date: March 14, 2007, 7-9 pm

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

1. Meeting was opened with welcome and introductions by Chair, Monica Hinckley.
2. **Vitamilk Site.** Tom Bartholomew of Lorig and Hewitt Architects gave a presentation on this site. Numerous design boards showing various views of the building and an architectural model were available for viewing. They expect to apply for building permit within a week, demolition of existing buildings on the site to begin this summer, and occupancy in the first quarter of 2009. Metropolitan Markets is close to signing their lease on the largest retail portion of the building. This grocery is similar in size to the old Albertson's store. It is a two level store with the top level being a coffee and pastry shop. The loading area for the grocery and the building is inside the building and includes acoustical treatment to lessen the noise to neighbors and tenants of the building. There are 280 market rate apartment rental units split fairly evenly between studio, 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom units. The 4th public design review meeting will be held on April 16 at University Heights Center. A question was raised about the ground source cooling system that was contemplated for this project. Mr. Bartholomew explained they would no longer be pursuing this option as it has turned out to be too costly. A question was also raised about storm water runoff. It was explained that the water would be collected as required by city code and put into the storm water sewer system where it will eventually end up at the West Point Wastewater Plant. There was also a question about parking and whether the number of stalls is adequate for the tenants, grocery and retail. The building is providing more parking than is required by City code. A question was raised on whether they considered a green roof for the project. This project does meet the City's green factor, and it will not include a green roof.
3. **Albertson's Site.** Glen Scheiber of Trammel Crow gave an update on this project. The next public design review meeting will be held on Monday, March 19, 2007, at University Heights Center. The project includes 156 condos and nearly 15,000 sf of retail. The project may be converted to apartments due to the softening condo market. It provides 1.25 parking stalls for each condo unit and 47 parking stalls for retail. Trammel Crow may opt to build an additional 50 parking stalls on the site. The property owner was praised for their diligence and commitment to keep the property free of graffiti. Mr. Scheiber let us know that they experienced a break-in recently and all of the copper piping and wiring was stolen. Unfortunately, the theft also affects the lights in the parking lot, which are no longer operational. Trammel

Crow would like to demolish the building in May. They expect delivery of the project in 2009. A question was raised as to whether it will be a green building. Mr. Scheiber explained that they will employ many green strategies during construction such as recycling of demo materials but may not apply to receive the certification. The question was raised as to whether a green roof would be included. It is not contemplated on this project. Trammel Crow has a project in Ballard that will include this feature. A few community members made the suggestion that Trammel Crow consider providing a dedicated loading area for the building. This will be of great benefit to retail and condo tenants as well as neighbors.

4. **I-5 Noise Wall Project.** Anna St. Martin of the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) gave us an update on this project. The I-5 / 5th Avenue NE to NE 92nd Street Noise Wall Project received \$7.7 million in funding as part of the 2005 Transportation Partnership Account. Residents of Seattle's Maple Leaf, Licton Springs and North Green Lake neighborhoods that live near I-5 experience high noise levels. When I-5 was built in the 1960's, noise was less of a concern, largely because there was less traffic. Since that time, noise levels have increased significantly as traffic has grown. Today, these neighborhoods are high priorities on DOT's statewide noise retrofit list. DOT considers building noise walls along major urban corridors like I-5 where noise levels above 66 decibels are measured. Noise at 66 decibels makes it difficult to carry on a conversation. The average decibel level in the area of this project is 76. Persons living within 500' of the proposed wall will receive notices of community meetings to discuss the project and may vote on whether to build the wall in their area. The meetings are public and all are invited to attend. Current project schedule indicates noise analysis and planning in 2007/2008; solicit bids in 2008; and construction to begin in 2009. Further information can be found on the project website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/5thAveNEtoNE92ndNoiseWall/ Project contacts are Lauren Chudecke, WSDOT Communications Officer 206.440.4473 ChudeckL@wsdot.wa.gov or Kinyan Lui, WSDOT Project Engineer 206.770.3503 LuiK@wsdot.wa.gov.
5. **Community Court Partnership.** Julie Taylor spoke to us regarding Community Court, a community-involved justice initiative. The project is a partnership of the Seattle City Attorney's office, the Associated Council for the Accused and the Seattle Municipal Court. Community Court gives defendants the opportunity to give back to the community where their offenses occurred. Rather than go to jail, defendants who enter the program can help themselves in overcoming their own problems as they complete community services, classes or educational programs and social service referrals. Ms. Taylor explained that those with significant barriers such as homelessness, unemployment and mental health or drug/alcohol problems often commit low-level, non-violent crimes. Therapeutic and restorative justice models have proven effective at reducing incident rates in other cities around the country. Defendants eligible to enter the program have committed a low-level, non-violent crime and are not at present risk to public safety. This Partnership program is seeking community involvement in the form of a committee or advisory board. This board would identify the types of community service they would like to see completed and partner with Community Court to facilitate these services. Contact Stephanie Tschida, Community Court Grant Manager (206) 684.7731, Stephanie.Tschida@Seattle.gov for more information on this project.

6. **Gregg's Green Lake Cycle.** Monica Hinckley gave a quick update on this project as sent in by owner, Stan Gregg. The project as approved specified the rebuilding of the first level, which has now been demolished. The concrete construction method of the original building was not sufficient to support a second story. In addition, this rebuild allows the installation of an elevator, utility installations, and removal of old gas, water and sewer lines, and the ability to reconfigure the entire first floor layout. The new structure will allow the removal of the remainder of the original building at some future date should this be desired. An interesting historical footnote: a rather large garbage dump was discovered on the site of the demolished building. The compaction of cans, bottles and other debris over the past 8 decades caused a void 7 feet deep and several feet wide to form under the floor.
7. **Friends of Green Lake.** Gayle Garman, Chair, gave the committee update. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 20, at The Hearthstone. The Park vegetation plan will be discussed. Ms. Garman let us know that native bushes have been planted to replace the blackberry vines on the SE lakeshore. FOGL wants to thank the Parks Department for listening to comments by this committee to utilize native plants. Other business at the meeting will be a vote to change the bylaws to expand the focus of the committee to include stewardship of the park and the drainage basin to FOGL oversight, and to add the position of recording secretary. The meeting will also include a vote for the offices of vice president, recording secretary and treasurer.
8. **Seattle's Green Lake.** Ellen Hewitt, webmaster extraordinaire of both the GLCC and FOGL sites let us know that a new book has been published by Arcadia Publishing entitled *Seattle's Green Lake* by Brittany Wright. The book covers the founding of the Green Lake neighborhood beginning with the acts of the original homesteaders. *Seattle's Green Lake* is now available at bookstores. More information and a few images from the book can be found on our website www.greenlakecommunitycouncil.org.
9. **Seattle Police Department North Precinct Council.** Our representative, Bernie Kay, reported that residential burglaries are down, metal theft and auto thefts are up. The Sheriff's car that often parks near the ball fields was shot six times on February 9. Seattle PD is placing an emphasis on pedestrian safety program. The focus is not only on autos but also on pedestrians not following the safety laws. More information can be found at www.seattle.gov/police/Prevention/Tips/pedestrian.htm. The City recently changed a few laws that affect our community. Gang related graffiti will now be charged as a felony and the daily fine to slumlords is changed from \$5/day to \$500/day. Seattle is looking for community volunteers for Seattle Paint Out Day, which will be held in late August. Community volunteers are given supplies to paint over graffiti in their neighborhood. More information on this program will be given at future GLCC meetings. Save the date; the annual North Precinct picnic will be held on June 30.
10. **Seattle Public Theater.** Keith Dahlgren, Theater Director, let us know the new play *Stop Kiss* opens Friday, March 15, and runs through April 8. The non-profit theater's annual fundraiser Play a Part will be held on Sunday, May 20. More information on the fundraiser and their educational programs for kids and teens can be found on their website www.seattlepublictheater.org.

11. **McDonald School Playground.** Natasha Sowers, a resident who lives near this site at 55th and Latona, let us know that she is spearheading a drive to update the playground equipment at this former school site. She and other neighbors are working with the Seattle Public Schools and the Department of Neighborhoods on this project. The group will apply for a Small and Simple Grant to complete a master plan for the project, then will apply for a larger grant next February to build the new playscape.
12. **Green Lake Branch Library.** Steve DelVecchio, branch manager, let us know that on Saturday, March 24, local resident and poet William Witherup will celebrate his 72nd birthday with a poetry reading from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The program also will feature a performance by Cajun band "Jamais Trop Tard". The branch currently has 6 different book groups, 2 each for kids, teens and adults. Members of book clubs are given copies of the books to read. Washington Center for the Book has named *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri as the April Book.
13. **Evans Pool @ Green lake Community Center.** Karen Shurr let us know that a new manger, Donna Sammons, has taken over responsibility for the pool. The pool will close from August 20 through mid-October for capitol improvements including a new ultra violet filtration system. Ms. Sammons is open to comments and suggestions and can be reached via email at Donna.Sammons@Seattle.gov.
14. **NW District Council Report.** Beth Pflug of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods gave us an update from their last meeting. Much of the meeting was a discussion of the viaduct ballot measures. We should soon be seeing more street fund spending from the approved Bridging the Gap ballot measure. Neighbors to the Viewlands School near Carkeek Park are looking at future uses for the school, which is slated for closure. Next meeting is March 28th.
15. **Neighborhood Announcements**
- *Step It Up.* Over 800 nation-wide demonstrations demanding action from our leaders on climate change will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2007. Locally, a rally, march and climate solutions fair will be held. The march will leave from Occidental Park in Pioneer Square and end at Myrtle Edwards Park with a rally and climate solutions fair. Event times to be announced soon. More information at StepItUpSeattle.org.
 - Green Lake Open Water swim sponsored by the Seattle Parks Department will be held on June 24
16. **Green Lake Community Council Bylaws.** Monica Hinckley introduced the new bylaws. Our bylaws are to be reviewed and updated as necessary every two years. The major changes to the bylaws include the addition of a non-discrimination policy, update of membership eligibility to be more inclusive and update of committees to reflect the current practice of the GLCC. A vote on the bylaws was taken and they were approved. The Bylaws can be viewed at www.greenlakecommunitycouncil.org.

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