



Green Lake Community Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Introductions

Paul Kostek, newly elected Chair. Quick overview of his goals: Be active. Be here listening to you and bringing to you the people that are working on the issues of concern to you. Contact information on the agenda. Do our best to keep things moving and be proactive.

Lee Bruch – Bishop Blanchet HS Lights Project

Still waiting for Blanchet's response from city. Quick overview of history. Expect comments to come sometime later this fall. A number of groups have concerns. Lee represents "Concerned Blanchet Neighbors". Group is opposed to new permits. "Blanchet Stakeholders" have been negotiating with school. Group has not received response since April. Unaware if negotiations are on or off. Some members belong to multiple groups.

Looking for a land use attorney. Contact BlanchetNeighbors@gmail.com

Concerned not just about parking, but also lighting and sound pollution. Also believes Blanchet may be in violation of current permits.

Paul Kostek suggests getting the different groups together to attempt to come up with a plan.

Motion brought forward & seconded to have council write letter to city to attend meeting. Motion seconded and approved.

Katie Gray – Seattle Parks Department

Overview of bench decision. Removing two pads, two will remain bare, four benches will go in. The two bare pads may get benches later, or be removed. Will attend Council and FOGL meeting if/when other changes are made.

Large tree went down. A fungus damaged the tree from the inside out and couldn't be detected previously.

Fundraiser continuing to install bench near where the large maple tree found.

End of "peak season" – October 2nd. Evening cleanup will cease after that time.

Have been some issues with small fires in comfort stations. Some toilet paper was burned and spread. Please call 911 if you see anything like this.

Lighting improvements at Lower Woodland starting next year. Will look into having the project manager attend. \$700,000 to replace the lights. "Hopefully" lower poles and less spillover of the lights.

Bill Thorness – Solarize NW

Resident of Phinney Ridge. Working with non-profit Northwest SEED. Looking for other neighborhoods that want to get together to learn more about solar electric and for non-commercial education.

www.solarizewa.org

Northwest SEED's first solar project was about 35 homes in Queen Anne. Have also worked in other neighborhoods.

They hold public meetings with contractors. Contractors come out to their house and make an assessment. If assessment is favorable, resident makes contract with contractor directly.

Solar is surprisingly workable in Seattle. Similar climate to parts of Germany which gets a lot of energy from solar. Systems are \$20-30k for a large house. Tax incentives put the payback time in the 8-12yr range. Also increases value of house.

Federal tax credit running through 2016. State sales tax credit runs through June 2013. "Production incentive" – City Light will send a check for the amount of production you make. Program runs through 2020. A credit union is available that offers low interest loans. Some solar panels are made in WA. Higher production tax credits are available for these systems.

Sustainable Ballard is a supporter. Information is available at sustainableballard.org Phinney Ridge Community Council, and Sustainable Greenwood Phinney are supporters.

Not asking for money. Asking for putting name on the bid for fall project to help get word out when the project begins.

Motion to support group. Motion 2nd, voted and approved. GLCC will “support” effort.

Gayle Garman – Friends of Green Lake

Have been a few weevil hunts. Some have commented that the milfoil is worse this summer. The weevils are native and can be purchased, but are quite expensive. So prior to purchase, a search for weevils is made to determine if it's a good habitat. Unfortunately, while a good sample was sent to King County, no weevils were found. In the winter, they come to the shore and live under leaves.

Next meeting Tuesday, September 25th @ 7pm. 3500 channel catfish planted into the lake within the last month. Expects some discussion about that at the next meeting. Temperature is declining, down to 68°. Clarity is 14'.

If you see what looks like “pea soup” along the shoreline, please take a picture and send it to FOGL – friendsofgreenlake.org

Marina Gordon – EveryBlock

Used to manage MyWallingford. EveryBlock started in Chicago as a site focused on crime. There is crime data on there about your neighborhood. Works in a way similar to Facebook having a news feed.

Is a source to connect with the community, ask for volunteers... for example, Green Lake Litter patrol picks up litter around the lake every Sunday morning.

marina@everyblock.com

NW District Council – Ellen Hewitt

Rapid Ride is a new bus connection going down Aurora. Attempting to enhance impact on city council. Murals that were tagged have been painted over – 63rd and 57th.

NW Precinct Report – seeking volunteer to attend SPD meetings and provide report to council. Contact Paul.

Seattle Public Theater – Keith Dahlgren

Have been working on keeping the new roof from being damaged by vandals. Was supposed to take two weeks to get a new roof, took six... after many years of waiting. New HVAC system too.

Has been a terrific summer. Several plays as well as a partnership the Seattle Opera. 22 different classes, camps and productions.

River Ice – local play continues for one more weekend. *Superior Dounuts* in rehearsal now. Opens on September 29th and runs through October 21st.

Seattlepublictheater.org

Real Estate Report & Land Use Committee – Michael Cornell

Real estate reports provided. Economy picking up and developers and builders are coming back. Last year 25 units were sold in area, \$469k average price. This year, 36 unit, average price \$491k.

Biggest challenge is that there's not enough inventory.

Within the last week issues raised about "Backyard houses" – not rentals or "accessory" dwellings. This lots being split and small lots being developed. City has instituted moratorium on these small-lot houses. City has already changed mind on moratorium. It is now a restriction to 22' in height. Developers are fighting that.

Will be a hearing Thursday morning at 9:30 at city hall.

In 1957, some lots were created with error causing this to be allowed.

The permanent ordinance should be developed in the Fall, and reach a council vote in the Spring.

Seeking volunteers for a Land Use Committee as development is picking up in the neighborhood. Please contact Mike if you wish to join this committee.

Jerry Suder – Seattle DPD

Supervisor at Department of Planning and Development. Team generally works on bigger projects. Doesn't usually deal with most single family projects. There's no real discretion, nor the ability to disallow plans if they meet code.

Minimum lot size is 5000 for most lots in this area. For a number of reasons, there were also provisions put in for areas that are lots that are smaller than that. You can create smaller lots if they fit within an averaging formula. In the 80's, there were many subdivisions that had very tiny lots. Not uncommon for 25' lots that are 100' or 102' deep. People would buy multiple of these then build one house on them.

The city wanted greater density and the code was loosened up in the 80's to allow for more units on those lots. Then developers found they could buy up a whole block and pack houses in. After this happened, rules changed again. If the lot was in use, it couldn't be used to do this.

New rules as of Monday restrict this, and limit the height of the buildings.

Discussion about Design Review Boards, how they came about and their goals. Essentially helping building design to fit better in the city by ways that can't be dictated by code.

Sandy Shettler – Green Lake Community Center Improvements

About six months ago the ARC learned of a grant for neighborhood projects for parks or green space up to \$750,000. Can be buying land, or redeveloping. Our community center will be with us for quite some time due to budget constraints.

Would like to apply for the grant to fix four areas of the community center:

1. Replace water slide that was cracked and removed several years ago.
2. New roof. Currently the roof leaks in multiple places and the repairs aren't holding anymore. Would like a solar feature.
3. Remodeling the lobby as it's ADA accessible and otherwise difficult to use
4. Upgrades to the pool locker rooms – add new hot water system to save energy.

Need to show community support to get grant.

Q: Charge for using the slide?

A: Another pool charged \$1 extra for a wristband to use slide. Would use charge to pay for teen programs.

Motion made, seconded and approved to support application.