

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Neighborhoods Program Report		
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office, Community Services Division		
PRESENTED BY:	Rob Beem, Community Services Division Manager Nora Smith, Neighborhoods Coordinator		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

This evening staff from the Community Services Division will provide Council with an update on the Neighborhoods Program. Joining staff will be the Council of Neighborhoods Executive Board including Arthur Peach, Chair (Briarcrest Neighborhood Association representative); Jack Malek, Vice Chair (Richmond Beach Community Association representative); and Patty Dooley, Secretary (Ballinger Neighborhood Association representative).

The Neighborhoods Program was established in February 1996, shortly after the City incorporated. The newly established City Council supported a high level of citizen participation and recognized that Shoreline residents wanted improved access to government decisions that affected their community.

The Neighborhoods Program continues to support the Council of Neighborhoods, individual Neighborhood Associations and networking among organizations that strengthen the Shoreline community. In the last couple of years Neighborhood Associations have expanded their emphasis for bringing people together beyond the standard neighborhood association meeting. A variety of Neighborhood Mini-Grants have spawned activities and projects such as the Outdoor Movie Night and improvements such as the Densmore /N. 188th pathway. New partnerships forged between neighborhoods have created community-wide activities such as Shoreline Youth Jam and the 4 Corners Brewfest.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required. The purpose of this presentation is informational and provides and update to the Council on current activity in the neighborhoods program.

Approved By: City Manager *JU* City Attorney ____

INTRODUCTION

The Neighborhoods Program was established soon after the City of Shoreline incorporated. The Neighborhoods Program includes staff support to Council of Neighborhoods monthly meetings, a Neighborhood Mini-Grant program, networking between community organizations, and providing assistance to neighborhood groups.

BACKGROUND

Resolution No. 54, adopted in 1996, established “a policy for the City’s support of neighborhood organizations.” The resolution spelled out key elements of the Neighborhoods Program to include:

1. Defining neighborhood organizations as formal groups of citizens which have organized for the purpose of improving and/or developing services and amenities for their respective communities.
2. City “support for and feedback to City service delivery functions” to meet three goals
 - a. Create a positive working relationship between the City and its neighborhoods;
 - b. Foster cooperation and consensus;
 - c. Facilitate communication between neighborhoods concerning common concerns.
3. Neighborhood Matching Grants administered by the Neighborhoods Program and approved by the City Council.
4. A Council of Neighborhoods for the purpose of communication among neighborhoods.

Shoreline’s 2029 Vision Statement in the Comprehensive Plan states “Shoreline is a city of neighborhoods, each with its own character and sense of place. Residents take pride in their neighborhoods, working together to retain and improve their distinct identities while embracing connections to the city as a whole. Shoreline’s neighborhoods are attractive, friendly, safe places to live where residents of all ages, cultural backgrounds and incomes can enjoy a high quality of life and sense of community.” The Neighborhoods program support for the Council of Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Mini-Grants and Neighborhood Associations is focused on achieving this Vision.

DISCUSSION

One of City of Shoreline’s guiding values is “strong neighborhoods, citizen partnerships and active volunteers.” The Neighborhoods Program implements this value by providing support and assistance facilitating open communication between residents, neighborhood organizations with the City.

Through the Neighborhoods Program the City provides support and assistance to neighborhood groups and residents to meet the City’s Strategic Objective for “safe and attractive neighborhoods.” Neighborhood Associations, through activities, projects, meetings and information build community cohesion, civic awareness and resident involvement. Through programs, training and support the City’s Neighborhoods

Program focuses on neighbors helping neighbors, neighborhood improvements, and clear and informative communication between neighbors, neighborhoods, and with the City.

Neighborhood Assistance

City staff provide support with organizing, meeting planning, facilitation and brainstorming as appropriate as part of our assistance to Neighborhood Associations.

The City also provides direct support for neighborhoods, assisting with design and production of flyers, and signs and newsletters for events and meetings. In addition program supply money is budgeted for supporting neighborhood-wide events by assisting with entertainment and material supplies for events such as the Richmond Beach Strawberry Festival, Briarcrest Anniversary Party and Ridgecrest Ice Cream Social.

In the last couple of years the City has designed and sponsored trainings geared to improving skills and communication necessary to run an effective neighborhood organization. Trainings have addressed the topics of Diversity, Engaging New Leadership, and Websites and Social Media.

Neighborhood Associations

14 neighborhoods are identified in the City of Shoreline. Many neighborhoods have active neighborhood associations with representatives who participate in the Council of Neighborhoods. The neighborhood associations are volunteer run and, as a result, go through cycles of more or less activity. Here is a quick overview of current activity levels:

Neighborhood Name	Regular Board Meetings	Regular Community Meetings	Annual or Regular Activities	Attend Council Of Neigh.
Ballinger Neighborhood Association	Yes, monthly	Yes, twice/year	Yes, movie night and community garden	Yes
Briarcrest Neighborhood Association	Yes, monthly	Yes, monthly	Yes, spring anniversary party	Yes
Echo Lake Neighborhood Association	Yes, monthly	Yes, monthly	Yes, annual picnic	Yes
Highland Terrace	Not active			No
Hillwood Community Network	Yes, restarting	Not at this time	Yes, Brewfest and ice cream social	Yes
Innis Arden Club	Yes	Annual meeting	Yes, club house, swim club, 10+ annual activities	Yes
Meridian Park Neighborhood Association	Restarting	No	Yes, Ronald Bog and elementary work parties. Starting new activity: Barter Party	Yes
North City Neighborhood	No	Episodic	Yes, movie night and	Yes

Neighborhood Name	Regular Board Meetings	Regular Community Meetings	Annual or Regular Activities	Attend Council Of Neigh.
Association			support Hamlin Haunt	
Parkwood Neighborhood Association	No – some individuals interested	No	Not active	No
Richmond Beach Community Association	Yes, monthly	Yes, monthly	Yes, 10+ annual activities	Yes
Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association	No	Yes, monthly	No, but Sunset has been a project focus	Yes
Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association	Yes, monthly	2-3/year	Yes, ice cream social	Yes
The Highlands	No information			No
Westminster Triangle Network	Not active	No	One National Night Out Party annually	periodic

Neighborhood Mini-Grants

This last year there was a heightened level of interest in Neighborhood Mini-Grants from residents who had not been involved in the past. Projects funded by Mini-Grants have ranged from the new Densmore/N. 188th Pathway (connecting south Echo Lake Neighborhood to the Interurban Trail), to new public art at Sunset School to community events such as Outdoor Movie Night and the Richmond Beach Halloween Carnival.

A summary of Neighborhood Mini-Grant projects from the last three years is included below:

Neighborhood	Project	Funding	Year
Ballinger & North City	Outdoor Movie Night	\$2,550	2011
Briarcrest	NE. 147 th Trail Planting	\$ 866	2011
Echo Lake	N. 188 th St – Densmore Pathway	\$4,848	2011
Richmond Beach	Halloween Carnival	\$4,000	2011
Richmond Highlands	Sunset pARTy Community Event	\$3,942	2011
Ridgecrest	Bulletin Board at Paramount Park	\$1,030	2011
Ballinger & North City	Outdoor Movie Night	\$2,500	2010
Richmond Beach	Halloween Carnival	\$5,000	2010
Ballinger	Outdoor Movie Night	\$2,550	2009
Briarcrest	25 th Ave NE Planting by South Woods	\$4,800	2009
Innis Arden	4 entrance signs – granite & steel	\$5,000	2009
Meridian Park	Ronald Bog – two benches & planting	\$1,850	2009
Richmond Beach	Halloween Carnival	\$5,000	2009

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

City Council Goal 5 states “expand opportunities for effective citizen communication and community engagement.” By enhancing communication and partnerships with citizens, supporting neighborhood volunteer organizations, and networking to connect residents with similar interests across organizations, the Neighborhoods Program strongly supports Goal 5.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Neighborhoods Program funding is reviewed as part of the annual budget cycle. For 2012, the Neighborhoods Program budget includes funding for 1.29 FTEs for a cost of \$134,287 for salaries and benefits. The Neighborhoods Program budget also includes \$20,000 for Neighborhood Mini-Grants, and \$25,620 for other program expenditures for a total budget of \$179,907. No additional funding is requested.

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