

**CITY OF SHORELINE
COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS MINUTES**

October 04, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Shoreline Center
Spartan Room

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Ballinger – **Londa Jacques**
Briarcrest – **Jon Kallestad**
Echo Lake– **Marci Riedinger, Diane Hettrick**
Highland Terrace – **Allan Bennett, Bob Barta**
The Highlands –
Hillwood –
Innis Arden – **Judy Allen, David Fosmire**
North City – **Charlotte Haines, Sally Granger**
Richmond Beach – **David Bannister**
Richmond Highlands– **Naomi Hardy**
Ridgecrest – **Patty Hale**
Westminster Triangle –

VISITORS PRESENT: Shoreline Mayor Bob Ransom; Shoreline City Councilmember Keith McGlashan; Gabriel Pederson, King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson’s Office; Shoreline residents Dan Henry and Kim Proctor

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Dick Deal, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director; Joyce Nichols, Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Director; Steve Cohn, Senior Planner; Nora Smith, Neighborhoods and Public Outreach Coordinator; Officer Deneese Elfenson, Eastside Police Neighborhood Center; Officer Leona Obstler, Westside Police Neighborhood Center; Carol Shenk, Records and Information Manager

I. Call to Order

Chair Patty Hale called the meeting to order. Naomi Hardy, Richmond Highlands, requested an amendment to the minutes of June 6, 2006, to change the reference to “St. Luke’s High School” to “the high school.” Chair Hale requested that an announcement by Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director Dick Deal be added to the agenda under “New Business.” The meeting agenda and the minutes of June 6, 2006, were approved unanimously as amended.

A. Old Business

Summer Reports

Chair Hale reported that the book sale at Swingin’ Summer Eve was a great success and earned \$80 each for the seven neighborhood groups that participated. Allan Bennett, Highland Terrace, reported that the Celebrate Shoreline booth was very successful. Chair Hale noted that the placement of the booth was better than in previous years.

Candidate Forum Follow-up

Charlotte Haines, North City, reported that the candidate forum committee met during the summer and decided the Council of Neighborhoods would not host a forum because two other forums were already being planned in Shoreline. She suggested that the Council of

Neighborhoods could host a forum for the 2007 election, which would include Shoreline City Council candidates.

Cascade Agenda Presentation

Chair Hale invited comments on the Cascade Agenda Cities Program presentation that the Council of Neighborhoods attended in lieu of the September meeting. Sally Granger, North City, questioned the cost of implementing the program. Marci Riedinger, Echo Lake, stated that the goal of the Cascade Agenda is laudable and supported the idea of long-term planning. However, she suggested that Shoreline may already be ahead of other cities in meeting these goals. Ms. Hardy commented that increased density can change neighborhoods for the worse. Ms. Hardy saw the current state initiative I-933 as an example of people reacting to growth management. She felt uncomfortable with Shoreline joining the Cascade Agenda Cities program before other cities. Chair Hale agreed that Shoreline is already ahead of other cities in long-term planning for sustainability, and she didn't feel it was necessary to take the lead by becoming a member. Ms. Allen objected to the concept of accommodating density and asked who would pay for this plan. Ms. Haines added that the amount of developable land in Shoreline is limited, especially since the Shoreline area was originally designed as a single family residential neighborhood. She felt that increased density is already changing the character of neighborhoods and has an impact on the City's infrastructure. She noted that the Cascade Agenda appears to be an enhancement of the State Growth Management Act.

Jon Kallestad, Briarcrest and Kim Proctor, Meridian Park, arrived at the meeting and introduced themselves.

Officer Deneese Elfenson, Eastside Police Neighborhood Center, announced that the Neighborhood Centers will be selling "the club" anti-car-theft devices at cost beginning in 2007. Noting the approach of colder weather Officer Elfenson advised drivers not to leave their cars unattended while warming them up.

Officer Leona Obstler, Westside Police Neighborhood Center, reported on community education goals: Bicycle Safety Rodeo, which supports City Council Goal #10, involving youth in neighborhood safety; and the launch of a program to provide hospital bracelets for the memory impaired.

Chair Hale recognized the arrival of Mayor Bob Ransom.

B. New Business

Off-Leash Dog Park Open House, Dick Deal, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director

Dick Deal, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services, announced that the Shoreline Park A and B Soccer Fields have reopened and are greatly improved with new synthetic turf. He then invited everyone to attend the October 14 open house for the proposed siting of an off-leash dog park at Hamlin Park.

Planning and Development Services Overview, Steve Cohn, Senior Planner

Chair Hale introduced Steve Cohn, Senior Planner for the Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS). Mr. Cohn provided an overview of the structure of the department: Current Planning Team, Building and Inspection Team, Permit Services, and Long-Range Planning. He added that the department also supports the Planning Commission, has one code enforcement officer and has one staff member on the Aurora Corridor Team.

Allan Bennett, Highland Terrace, asked how the department determines staff size. Mr. Cohn responded that the City Council makes budget decisions, noting that they just approved funding for a new Development Review Engineer for 2007, and he added that Shoreline is relatively lean in comparison to other cities, based on population.

Ms. Hardy asked if PDS is still fully funded through its revenue, and Mr. Cohn explained that only certain functions are funded out of revenue, primarily related to building permitting. Long range planning and other functions are funded out of the General Fund.

Ms. Haines asked if a list of open permits could be created and how long outstanding permits are kept open. Mr. Cohn replied that he would follow up with that information at a later date.

David Fosmire, Innis Arden, asked if PDS was considering making any changes to the City's nuisance abatement regulations. Mr. Cohn responded in the negative, and he explained the prioritization of public nuisances. Mr. Fosmire presented a photo of an unoccupied house and suggested that Shoreline should adopt regulations like those Tacoma is considering, with a strict 20-day abatement period. Joyce Nichols, Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Director, explained how code enforcement priorities have been determined. Two years ago the city polled city residents through a scientific, random-sample, resident survey. Based on the results of this survey and input from several public meetings, code enforcement improvements were added as a Council Goal in 2005. Chair Hale noted that the greatest concerns reflected in previous surveys were highly visible problems affecting the greatest number of people. Mr. Fosmire argued that he had participated in the public process, but the issue of abandoned houses was not subsequently addressed by Council. Ms. Hale stated that there are fewer abandoned vehicles and less debris in yards as a result of the revised codes.

Diane Hettrick, Echo Lake, asked how developers of projects like the Echo Lake redevelopment interact with PDS. Mr. Cohn answered that all divisions with PDS may be involved at some point with a large project. First a site plan is approved. Then, individual building permits are reviewed by permit services and the plans examiner. After construction, inspectors approve the buildings for occupancy.

Ms. Haines asked which group within PDS handled changes of use from residential to business, such as to an adult care home or a home office. Mr. Cohn explained that adult care homes are not regulated by the City, but that home businesses requiring a zoning change would go to the Planning Commission. Responding to Ms. Haines, he clarified that the process would depend on the current zoning, which may not be consistent with the comprehensive plan designation, as well as the specific impacts of the home occupancy. Ms. Nichols stated that at the next meeting, staff would respond to the questions put to Mr. Cohn.

Ms. Allen again brought up the issue of abandoned housing, contrasting the amount of regulation of home occupancy to what she felt was lax regulation of dilapidated homes. Mr. Cohn stated that he would ask the City's code enforcement officer about the abandoned house on Springdale referred to by Mr. Fosmire. Ms. Nichols noted that nuisance abatement must be conducted properly in order to avoid infringing on others' property rights. Mr. Fosmire repeated that the City of Tacoma is strengthening its nuisance abatement program. Mayor Bob Ransom commented that the City has in fact enforced clean up of homes. Mr. Fosmire responded that he had written to the City regarding this house.

Mr. Cohn then described how the City is working towards various Council Goals.

Working in partnership with Rob Beem, Human Services Manager, Long Range Planning has begun implementing Council Goal #5, to develop a comprehensive housing strategy. The City has advertised for membership on the Citizens Housing Advisory Committee and has received a tremendous response. He added that there will be opportunities for public involvement, including an open house. The meetings are scheduled to be held from November through May. Ms. Hardy asked how many years ahead the committee will be looking. Mr. Cohn responded that it's difficult to plan beyond twenty to thirty years. Ms. Hardy commented that she had expected the Comprehensive Plan to be applied as far into the future.

Mr. Cohn then reported on how the City plans to meet Goal #6, to make Shoreline an environmentally sustainable community. He said that one PDS project is to develop a Natural Resource Management Plan, such as Kirkland has completed, to help the City determine how to make the best use of its parks. Early planning for this process should begin in mid-2007. In addition, the City has begun developing a Forest Management Plan, to guide the management of key parks including Hamlin, Shoreview, Boeing Creek, and South Woods.

Related to Goal #7, construction of a new civic center, PDS will assist in determining what might be developed around the new city hall. This discussion should occur during 2007.

Mr. Cohn moved on to Goal #8, assisting the state in development of a Master Plan for the Fircrest campus. The City has approached the State on this issue, and the City's involvement will depend on the state's action.

Next, Mr. Cohn noted that the City is making progress toward Goal #2, implementing the Economic Development Strategic Plan. PDS is involved in development of new projects, for example, the redevelopment of the former bingo hall in Ridgecrest.

Allan Bennett, Richmond Highlands, asked for the definition of "environmentally sustainable." Mr. Cohn responded that part of the work behind this goal is agreeing on the desired outcomes. Ms. Nichols added that Council has directed staff to develop a work plan, for which staff has provided a list of specific items. Ms. Riedinger commended the City's involvement with Shoreline Community College's to sponsor Odyssey Days, the environmental sustainability fair to be held the following weekend.

Ms. Haines asked about the implications of Goal #5, developing a housing strategy, and whether the City can accommodate more density. Mr. Cohn responded that this question will be addressed by the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Committee and City Council. The City will have to anticipate who will be living in Shoreline in the future and make decisions such as whether or not there should be low-income housing or affordable housing for lower-income professionals such as school teachers, and whether there should be increased density, such as increasing height limits on multifamily housing near Aurora Ave. N. Responding to Chair Hale, Mr. Cohn stated that the names of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Committee members will be publicly announced.

II. Public Comment

Carol Shenk spoke as a member of the Washington Native Plant Society and invited people to attend the upcoming seed and bulb sale.

Councilmember Keith McGlashan reported on the progress of the Aurora Corridor Project and reported that the Interurban Trail Overcrossing walls are going up and already improving the area's visual appeal.

Mayor Ransom reported that he, City Manager Bob Olander, and Planning and Development Services Director Joe Tovar are meeting with the state in November to discuss the possibility of developing a master plan for the Fircrest campus. Ms. Granger asked if all of Fircrest is owned by Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Nichols responded that the property consists of two trusts, one held by DSHS and the other held by the state Department of Natural Resources. Mayor Ransom added that the medical lab located nearby is property of the state Department of Health.

III. Neighborhood Roundtable

Judy Allen, Innis Arden

Ms. Allen reported that Innis Arden has been replanting in the Innis Arden Reserve. She shared photographs showing both the new plantings and areas with trees she considers hazardous. She expressed hope that the City Council will cooperate with the group's management of the reserve. Mr. Fosmire added that Innis Arden's management of its reserve is comparable to the City's management of its own forested parks through the Forest Management Plan.

Marci Riedinger, Echo Lake

Ms. Riedinger reported that the second annual work party and picnic at Echo Lake Park in July was a great success. King County Councilmember Ferguson attended their June meeting and was very generous with his time. She recommended other groups invite him to their meetings. A King County representative also provided a well-received presentation on the Brightwater Project. For its October meeting, King County and City staff will attend and discuss Echo Lake water quality issues.

Charlotte Haines, North City

Ms. Haines reported on the annual North City/Ridgecrest Ice Cream Social in August, which 800-900 people attended. She noted that Councilmember Ron Hansen served ice cream during the whole event, and she spoke well of the Around the Sound Community Band. Ms. Hale agreed on the event's success and offered to share photos.

Naomi Hardy, Richmond Highlands

Ms. Hardy complimented the City on its "Shop Aurora" campaign and expressed hope that the City would begin such advertising sooner for the other sections of Aurora. She expressed concern about the environmental impact of the Hidden Lake Sewer Project at Boeing Creek Park. Ms. Nichols responded that she would provide Ms. Hardy with information, and Ms. Allen added that as neighborhood liaison to King County on the project, she feels that they are doing an excellent job.

Patty Hale, Ridgecrest

Chair Hale commented on the success of the August ice cream social, and she wondered whether it would need a sponsor if the event continues to grow and if the ice cream is no longer donated. She reported that Ridgecrest won first prize in the Celebrate Shoreline parade with its float on the theme of a new city hall and encouraged other neighborhoods to enter the parade next year. Ridgecrest offered a post-parade barbeque as an incentive for other neighborhoods to enter floats in the parade.

Bob Barta, Highland Terrace

Mr. Barta reported that the group's Web site continues to be successful. He noted that Highland Terrace is helping meeting City Council Goal #7 by cleaning up overgrown vegetation at two sites with trails: Fremont Trail and at Highland Terrace Elementary School.

David Bannister, Richmond Beach,

Mr. Bannister reported that 20 groups and over 50 people participated in the sandcastle building contest. He noted that this year the City paid for a steel drum band, which everyone enjoyed. He reported that there will be a candidate's forum the next week at the Richmond Beach Community Church. Richmond Beach's 20th Annual Halloween Party will be held on October 28 with over 100 volunteers working, including young people. He noted the assistance of neighborhood Mini-Grant funding from the City. The next neighborhood meeting would cover the proposed new park at the Hidden Lake project.

IV. Neighborhoods Program Report

Nora Smith, Neighborhoods Program Coordinator, asked neighborhood representatives if they would like the December meeting to be a training session, as in previous years. She proposed three possibilities: one, Susan Will, Communications specialist, could provide training on written and graphic communications; two, the Council of Neighborhoods could receive training on management of non-profit organizations; or, three, training on the use of technology for communication. The group identified writing and graphics training as the preferred topic.

Ms. Smith then reminded representatives of the upcoming events including the Clean Sweep recycling event, two candidate forums, and City Council's budget hearings. She pointed out the list of traffic calming devices installed in 2006.

V. New Business --- Neighborhood Representatives

Ms. Haines noted that in past years, the City Manager presented the proposed budget to the Council of Neighborhoods. Ms. Smith confirmed that City Manager Bob Olander would present the proposed budget at the November meeting.

Ms. Allen asked other representatives if their neighborhoods had trouble with door-to-door solicitors. There was general agreement that this was not a problem outside of Innis Arden. Ms. Hettrick commented that their biggest problem is mail theft.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.