

**CITY OF SHORELINE
COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS MINUTES**

November 1, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Shoreline Center
Spartan Room

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Ballinger – **Larry Moss**
Briarcrest – **Bettelinn Brown**
Echo Lake Neighborhood Association – **Marci Riedinger, Diane Hettrick**
Highland Terrace – **Bob Barta, Greg Logan**
Hillwood Neighborhood Association – **Lee Cerveny**
Innis Arden – **Judy Allen**
North City Neighborhood Association – **Charlotte Haines, Sally Granger**
Richmond Beach Community Council – **David Bannister**
Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association – **Naomi Hardy**
Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association – **Patty Hale**
Westminster Triangle Network – **Mary Jo Heller**

VISITORS PRESENT: Shoreline Councilmember Keith McGlashan; Leslie Brooks, Hopelink Supervisor; Shoreline residents Dan Henry, Bill Bear and Kim Proctor.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Olander, City Manager; Debbie Tarry, Finance Director; Joyce Nichols, Community and Intergovernmental Relations Director; Nora Smith, Neighborhoods and Public Outreach Coordinator; Officer Leona Obstler, Shoreline Westside Neighborhood Center

I. Call to Order

Chair Patty Hale called the meeting to order. The meeting agenda, amended to include a presentation by Hopelink Supervisor Leslie Brooks, and the minutes of October 4, 2006, were approved unanimously.

II. A. New Business

- **City's Proposed 2007 Budget, City Manager Bob Olander and Finance Director Debbie Tarry**

Chair Hale introduced City Manager Bob Olander and Finance Director Debbie Tarry. She noted that the budget was presented to the City Council on October 16, 2006, and a public hearing on the budget would be held at the November 6 Council meeting.

Mr. Olander explained that the budget process begins in April of each year with the City Council retreat, where Council defines its two-year goals and work plan. City staff incorporates the goals and work plan into the budget and presents the proposed budget to Council in the fall.

He outlined the City's key financial policies: first, that the City budget is balanced, as required under State law, and second, that one-time or unstable revenues are allocated to short-term investments such as capital projects, while ongoing expenditures must be funded with ongoing revenue sources. The final City Council budget workshop is scheduled for November 20, 2006, and the final budget will be adopted by the end of the year.

Half of the proposed \$68.2 million budget covers capital expenditures, and the rest covers operating expenses. For 2007, most services will remain at 2006 levels.

Finance Director Debbie Tarry outlined the City's revenue sources. She explained that the operating budget is funded primarily through taxes, including the property, sales, and utility taxes. The capital budget is funded from savings, grants, and low-interest Public Works Trust Fund.

Property tax revenue is budgeted at \$7 million for 2007. The growth of the property tax rate is limited to 1% per year due to the passage of Initiative 747 in 2000. Additional property tax income is expected to come from an estimated \$39 million of new construction added to the tax rolls this year. Overall, due to the property tax levy limit and increased property values, the City's property tax rate has gone down each year since 2000. In 2007 the rate is projected to be \$1.14 or lower, around 2.5% less than the 2006 rate.

Mr. Olander showed the distribution of property tax revenue to other taxing districts, including King County, the Shoreline School District, and the Fire District, pointing out that the City of Shoreline receives approximately 10% of total property taxes collected. He explained that the 1% growth on this tax does not keep up with inflation, which recently ranged from 2-4%.

Ms. Tarry reviewed projected sales tax revenue, which is the City's second largest revenue source. Shoreline's receives 10% of the 8.8% sales tax collected. Because most products sold in Shoreline - except for automobiles - are staple goods, Shoreline's sales tax revenue remains relatively stable during the region's economic highs and lows. Over the past five years the rate of growth of this tax has held steady at about 4% in real dollars.

Ms. Tarry noted budget changes for 2007, including a 5.5% increase for police services and an increase of approximately 46% in jail costs due to an increase in jail bed-days. Another area of increase is human services funding, one of the City Council's focus areas.

City policy requires a minimum of 10% reserves in order to provide a buffer against an economic downturn and to facilitate cash management. At the end of 2007, the general reserves will be at around 32%. Revenues in 2004 and 2005 enabled the City to put money toward capital projects, including savings for the Civic Center Project.

Ms. Tarry outlined recommended fee changes, including increased development and recreation fees, adjusted to match inflation. The surface water utility rate is increasing by \$9.00 per year to implement the adopted Surface Water Master Plan.

Mr. Olander outlined the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He stated that 2007 capital expenditures include \$4.2 million of the \$18.8 million in parks improvements approved by voters in May, 2006. \$18.4 million is budgeted in 2007 for the Civic Center project, for which property acquisition is already underway. Mr. Olander described other elements of the CIP, including \$1.3 million for transportation projects, including the annual road resurfacing program, sidewalk repair, and traffic small works projects. \$1.6 million is budgeted in 2007 for environmental review and planning for the next two miles of the Aurora Corridor Project. The 2007 Proposed Budget proposes an increase in funding for priority sidewalks near schools and \$3.3 million for flood protection, water quality, and stream habitat improvements as part of the Surface Water Management Plan.

Mr. Olander noted that with the recent property tax initiatives, school and fire districts have asked voters to approve property tax increases. He said that although nobody likes increased taxes, at the same time, nobody wants decreased services. The City has the advantage of being in a strong financial position and has the tools for planning for the future. He said the

proposed 2007 budget maintains current levels of service, supports the Council's vision and goals, and maintains the City's strong financial position while following sound fiscal policies.

Charlotte Haines, North City, asked when Council would revisit the cut in gambling taxes. Mr. Olander responded that the tax will go from 7% to 10% in March, 2007. In addition to the short-term tax cut, the casinos experienced a decline in business due to the smoking ban, increased competition, and restrictions on online-betting, resulting in decreased revenue for the City.

Sally Granger, North City, asked whether or not the City is paying for street lights. Mr. Olander stated that the City has begun paying for all residential lights, which was a \$96,000 budget increase in 2006. This amount may grow due to electricity rate increases.

Mary Jo Heller, Westminster Triangle, asked about revenue from gambling taxes. Ms. Tarry responded that in 2006 the City received \$2.6 million, and in 2007 this amount is projected at \$1.9 million. Ms. Heller then asked how much is budgeted for human services. Ms. Tarry stated that for all programs, including General Fund and Community Development Block Grants, the 2007 amount is \$450,000. Ms. Heller asked when the City's sales tax revenue would increase as a result of the Aurora Corridor Project improvements. Mr. Olander responded that increased revenues won't be significant in the short-term but should be notable within ten years. He added that major redevelopment projects on Aurora, including two banks, are already beginning now that the first phase is nearing completion.

Bob Barta, Highland Terrace, asked whether neighborhood volunteers would be recruited for the proposed Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team. Mr. Olander answered that the program is still being developed, but that it is intended to be a citizen volunteer group in support of the Council's goal to become an environmentally sustainable community. Mr. Barta suggested that the Council of Neighborhoods could play a role in encouraging volunteer involvement. Mr. Olander suggested that Environmental Educator Rika Cecil and Public Works Operations Manager Jesus Sanchez could speak with Mr. Barta regarding this possibility.

Marci Riedinger, Echo Lake, asked how the proposed human services expenditures compare with previous years. Ms. Tarry responded that this program's budget has increased nearly \$200,000 since 2005. She noted that this is a priority for the Council, especially in light of decreases in King County spending on human services. Mr. Olander added that Council has increased human services funding in part to fill the gap created by federal cuts. He acknowledged that Shoreline's allocation is relatively lower than other cities'. Ms. Riedinger asked if the 30% of the operating budget spent on public safety, jail, and public defense has increased. Mr. Olander responded that the costs have increased, but the percentage of the total budget has remained about the same.

Greg Logan, Highland Terrace, asked about the structure of the employee benefit plan. Ms. Tarry explained that both employees and the City contribute, and the rates for both are increasing this year. Mr. Olander further explained that as a public agency, the City pays into the state retirement system, and generally the contribution is split between the agency and the employee, and that Shoreline also offers a 401A Social Security replacement program.

Mr. Logan then inquired about jail expenditures. He asked if there weren't alternatives to jail for some offenders. Mr. Olander clarified that most cities spend around 50% of their budgets on public safety, which is inherently expensive. The City pays for jail in misdemeanor cases, while the County and State pay for the cost of jailing felons. Cities contracting with King County and Yakima County are considering building a new jail in this King County, recognizing that the Yakima facility is not a good long-term solution and that the existing King County jail cannot

accommodate more prisoners. A consortium of cities is also evaluating increased use of appropriate alternatives for non-violent offenders, such as home detention, minimum security facilities, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation like that formerly provided through the King County North Rehabilitation Facility.

Chair Hale thanked Ms. Tarry and Mr. Olander for their presentation. She recognized the presence of Councilmember Keith McGlashan and Officer Leona Obstler, Westside Neighborhood Center.

Chair Hale then asked new neighborhood representatives Lee Cerveny, Hillwood, and Greg Logan, Highland Terrace, to introduce themselves.

B. Old Business

- **December Meeting: Writing and Graphics Training Outline, Neighborhood Coordinator Nora Smith**

Nora Smith, Neighborhoods and Public Outreach Coordinator, described the proposed communications workshop by Communications Specialist Susan Will for neighborhood representatives in December. The session will cover defining a target audience, writing tips with a writing exercise, and tips on design using a before-and-after example. She will also provide handouts on formatting press releases, design tips, and ideas for contacting the press. The focus would be on using readily available software programs such as Microsoft Word and Publisher. Mr. Barta asked if representatives could bring additional neighborhood association members to the training. Ms. Smith responded yes, in the past, neighborhood group leadership has been invited. She asked to be notified of the number of attendees expected. As in past years, the meeting is scheduled to begin with an optional potluck and social hour at 6:00 pm, followed by the workshop at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Smith asked neighborhood representatives to review the proposed training outline and advise her of any suggested changes.

- **December Food Drive, Hopelink Supervisor Leslie Brooks**

Ms. Hale provided background on neighborhood involvement in food drive campaigns within the City. She welcomed Hopelink Shoreline Center Supervisor Leslie Brooks, who described Hopelink's services, including the food bank, financial services, and case management. She presented a flyer outlining how neighborhoods can support Hopelink's activities. She described some creative ideas for food drives, including a local church's recent "trick or canning" food drive, in which youth distributed plastic grocery bags for food donations. Another suggestion was to host a "Souper Bowl Party," and a third was to hold a "hygiene drive" to collect toiletries and baby care items. She suggested neighborhoods contact her to find out what Hopelink needs at the time of a drive. Hopelink also provides volunteer opportunities for students needing to earn community service hours and for those able to help with distribution. She noted that neighborhoods can also help by getting the word out about Hopelink's services to residents in need. In December, Hopelink will provide a holiday gift room, for which donations of new, unwrapped toys are needed. She suggested that toys can be donated through workplace holiday parties. Concluding, Ms. Brooks invited representatives to visit Hopelink for a tour of the facility.

III. Public Comment

Ms. Hale invited Officer Obstler to speak. Officer Obstler described the new anti-car-theft program, which will include selling steering-wheel lock devices at cost to residents. She noted that three cars stolen earlier in the day had been left unattended while warming up, and that 38% of stolen cars are unlocked. She also reminded residents not to leave mail or valuables in their cars. More information about the anti-car-theft program will be posted on the City Web site, on government access Channel 21, and in the *Enterprise*. In response to Chair Hale, Officer Obstler recommended using steering-wheel lock devices in addition to car alarms. She added that residents often pay for home security systems but then don't use them, and she urged people to keep security systems active.

Shoreline resident Bill Bear, who works for Community Care, stated that in the past six months, 175 Shoreline households have had their electricity shut off, that 20-30 households lose their water service each month, and that 50 students in the Shoreline School District are homeless. He suggested transferring criminal justice funding into human services as a way to prevent people from falling into situations that lead to crime. Mr. Bear also asked residents to check in on their neighbors and to refer those in need to organizations such as Hopelink, St. Vincent DePaul, and Community Care.

Councilmember McGlashan announced that there were 66 applicants for the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Citizens Advisory Committee. He expressed appreciation for community volunteers and thanked neighborhood representatives for their time and commitment to Shoreline.

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IV. Neighborhoods Roundtable

David Bannister, Richmond Beach - reported that the Richmond Beach candidate forum was a success, though it had a lower turnout than in previous years, possibly because it was only one week after the Chamber of Commerce forum. He reported that over 1,000 people attended and 100 people volunteered at the Halloween Carnival at Syre Elementary School. Upcoming events include: December 2 ornament making, tree lighting and caroling and December 6 Christmas Ship visit at Saltwater Park.

Larry Moss, Ballinger - reported that the Parks Department held an Ivy Out event at Brugger's Bog in October.

Patty Hale, Ridgecrest - said that the Ridgecrest Board volunteered at Shoreline's Hamlin Haunt event.

Mary Jo Heller, Westminster Triangle - reported that the neighborhood has grant funding for neighborhood signs. The group is planning its Christmas caroling activity for December.

Bettelin Brown, Briarcrest - commented that the neighborhood is interested in any plans for the closed Albertson's and China Palace businesses. She complimented Ms. Smith's organization of a Briarcrest reconstitution meeting. The neighborhood group is looking for a newsletter editor, and it held nine block parties over the summer. She asked people learn about the proposed location of an off-leash dog area at Hamlin Park. Ms. Brown commended the quality of the Mountlake Terrace solid waste and recycling facility.

Marci Riedinger, Echo Lake - reported that the last neighborhood meeting dealt with water quality in Echo Lake, with presentations from Sally Abella of King County Natural Resources and Parks, public Works Operations Manager Jesus Sanchez, and Environmental Educator Rika Cecil. At the next meeting Planning and Development Services Director Joe Tovar, Economic Development Manager Tom Boydell and a Forward Shoreline representative will discuss planning issues. Ms. Riedinger noted that the meeting format of having two to four presenters on a single topic has been well received, and meetings are well-attended. Diane Hettrick, Echo Lake, reported that they held a gardening work party at Echo Lake Park where Starbucks employees and neighborhood volunteers worked on the 192nd St. at the beginning of the Interurban Trail and removed 13 bags of weeds.

In response to Mr. Logan, Ms. Riedinger stated that Echo Lake advertises its work parties through its newsletters published nine times/year, an email distribution list, and through notices in the *Enterprise*.

Charlotte Haines, North City

Ms. Haines reported that North City is planning for its eighth annual holiday tree lighting event. Shoreline staff will hang outdoor decorations in the North City Business District in the next few weeks. The event is sponsored by the Shoreline Water District, the North City Business Association, the neighborhood association, and the City. There will be toys for children, free photos with Santa, and a sing-along led by the Around the Sound Community Band. She asked other neighborhood representatives to take posters advertising the event.

Greg Logan and Bob Barta, Highland Terrace

Mr. Logan announced that the neighborhood association has created a schedule of meeting five times a year, in September, November, January, March, and May. Finance Director Debbie Tarry will speak at the November meeting about the 2007 Proposed Budget. Bob Barta described the clean-up of the Fremont Trail at N 160th and Fremont Place, in cooperation with Shoreline Public Works. Allan Bennett is using the Web site to advertise specific, short term volunteer opportunities. On November 18, there will be a work party at Highland Terrace Elementary School. Fifth-grade teacher Jeanine McDonald is using the site to teach students to identify and study plants in the "living classroom." Highland Terrace is interested in participating in the Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team being planned by the City.

Judy Allen, Innis Arden

Ms. Allen reported that boulders had been removed at the lower end of Boeing Creek which had been impeding the water flow to the Sound. A work party also widened the trail at Blue Heron reserve. There are 600-700 plants to be planted in the reserve in November. Ms. Allen requested a City response on the unoccupied Tronsen property. The Octoberfest and the Halloween Party for children were both successful. There will be a "Girls' Night Out" event on November 10 and a holiday party in December.

Chair Hale read a letter from Bonnie Mackey, immediate Past President, expressing regret that she must resign from the Council of Neighborhoods due to personal obligations. Chair Hale thanked Ms. Mackey for her many years' service on the Council of Neighborhoods.

V. Neighborhoods Program Report

Ms. Smith announced that there was a 17% increase in participation in this year's Clean Sweep recycling event. She reported on the open house regarding the proposed off-leash dog area at Hamlin Park. The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Board has received the comments, and the survey results will be also reviewed by the Board. Chair Hale added that the survey results are on the City Web site.

Ms. Smith asked representatives to review the updated Council of Neighborhoods contact list. She invited representatives to take home either paper or electronic copies of the 2007 Proposed Budget or the "Budget in Brief" summary.

Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Director Joyce Nichols stated that she would follow up on Ms. Brown's question about plans for the Albertsons and China Palace sites. She then stated that Code Enforcement Officer Kristie Anderson was responding with a letter to Innis Arden's inquiry regarding the Tronsen property. Ms. Anderson did not find problems with the property warranting action by the City. Ms. Nichols noted that King County Public Health will provide rodent abatement if necessary.

Ms. Nichols said the City would be conducting its citizen satisfaction survey in the next few months, and she encouraged residents to respond if they receive a survey by mail. The survey firm will follow up with a phone call if they do not receive a mailed response. Ms. Nichols noted that only the tabulated results are returned to the City, and responses are confidential. She emphasized that the survey is an important tool for the City to learn how residents feel about safety, City services, and other issues in the community.

Ms. Nichols stated that due to the time, she would respond to land use permit questions from the previous meeting via email.

VI. New Business --- Neighborhood Representative

Mr. Logan asked if Albertson's owned the store property on 15th Ave. NE. Ms. Hettrick confirmed that they do.

Mary Jo Heller asked if there was a deadline for providing the number of attendees at the December training. Ms. Smith responded that she would email representatives, and that the deadline would probably be 10 days prior to the event.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.