

MCC MINUTES, 6 January 2015

PRESENT: Holly Smith, Bill Mahoney, Dan Sanchez, Barbara Parker, Susan Minogue, Barney Mansavage, Paul Gomez, Winky McCoy, Davic Thacker, Margaret Ceseña, Whitney Johnson, Neil Shah, Jennifer Wieland and Moira Laden(?), Mary Gallway, Rob Ward, Wayne Duncan, Kevin O'Doherty, Casey Losh, Stacey Kryman, Deirdre McCrary

TREES AND SIDEWALKS

Jennifer Wieland returned to update neighbors as to implementation of the plan to address conflicts between sidewalk safety and street trees and to answer questions about the plan. She presented an overview of the study, which looked at the tools, techniques, and processes used nationally and internationally to address the conflicts between trees and sidewalks. She described the design process, which strove to make apparent how SDOT evaluates conflicts and works with arborists and engineers to decide about health of trees and ways to achieve accessible walking surfaces. The study created a solutions toolkit of techniques to be used and adapted for widely differing situations. After conducting three case studies in various neighborhoods, and after delays caused by transitions in departmental personnel, the team is now moving forward with a plan for the 900 block of 34th Avenue, although the case study for Madrona included blocks from Union to Cherry, but SDOT has funds allocated in the 2015 budget only for the single block. The department is just starting to move on the plan and will have better information next month about dates and steps. The team is looking at funding solutions for the remaining blocks, but the entire SDOT budget for sidewalk maintenance is only \$2.5 million/year (City of Bellevue funds only 10,000 square feet of sidewalk per year). SDOT is asking for additional funding and pursuing other sources of funding. There are no commitments yet for 2016, but SDOT will determine priorities based upon individual cases. A representative from the 700 block spoke of the neighbors' frustration over unmet promises over many years from SDOT and over their having all the responsibility for the sidewalks but no control over managing them. Jennifer suggested that the neighbors' receiving a Dept. of Neighborhoods grant for the project would enhance their position and speed implementation. By summer there will be an improved website for users to access the street-tree manual and right-of-way improvement manual, but until then SDOT staff can help people find resources and answer questions.

BY-LAWS

A suggested change to the draft by-laws regards required reading of and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. It was agreed to amend that item to say that minutes would be read at the meeting unless previously distributed (since minutes are now emailed prior to the next meeting) and also to say that there would be an opportunity at the next meeting to correct the minutes as needed.

Each Board member signed the "Code of Ethics" at the end of the meeting, which Board members will do annually in the future.

BUDGET

Paul Gomez is now the official treasurer and signs the checks. He reported that we have about \$42,000+ in our operating budget, and we have \$3,000 more income than

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expenses, with net income expected to increase yearly. The Blossoms account is in good shape now with recent fund-raising efforts. The Kraus Fund rose by a few cents' interest.

Paul is currently using his home address for correspondence, and he advised that, because he works for Microsoft, he needs to disclose publicly his connection whenever matching funds from Microsoft are received to avoid a conflict of interest.

Dual signatures of Board members on checks was deemed unnecessary because the Treasurer's monthly presentation of figures achieves accountability more efficiently. The budget files are currently stores in a Drop Box and Paul will add statements as he receives them. He requests that we look but don't touch!

EVENTS

- Kraus application deadline is March, and there will be a related story in the next newsletter.
- The first Author Event will be February 2 at Madrona K8, Ben Michaelson, "Finding the Heart of the Story." Stacey is working with Seattle Public Library, which welcomes having this larger space to showcase local authors.

NEW BUSINESS

Two neighbors expressed concern about the pending development of the Amara/Fetch portion of the block and the addition of a second marijuana store in the Central District corridor. The Amara development raises issues of increased parking and traffic in the neighborhood, and the second pot store raises issues of fairness in dumping permitted pot stores into one or a few neighborhoods.

The City evaluated our 34th corridor at our request and found that we don't qualify for a special parking zone because we don't have 10 contiguous blocks of businesses. Holly and Dan will investigate on the DPD website and seattleinprogress.com to see whether any permits have been filed for the Amara site and report to MCC and the concerned neighbors.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Debra Tarpley and Sheryl Allen will prepare a letter protesting the addition of more pot stores in the CD for MCC to sign if approved.

Wayne Duncan urged that MCC write to urge increased funding for sidewalk maintenance. He will email Jennifer to find the optimal timing to influence those preparing the budgets.

NEIGHBORHOOD AWARDS

Board members present selected the following honorees:

- Unsung Hero--Risa Blythe
- Good Neighbor Business Award--St. Cloud's

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- Nora Award--Barbara Parker
- Local Hero--Holly Boone

The Board decided to investigate getting mugs with the peaceable kingdom logo imprinted as a gift to honor past and current award winners who gather at the ceremony. Bill will investigate the cost and volume necessary. Barbara will present the framed poster of historical Madrona businesses to Mary McDaniel to hang in Madrona K8. Susan urged participation by Board members to mark this 20th Neighborhood Appreciation Day on February 7, 9:30 am, Madrona K8 library. Stacey will confirm that the school is aware of Norm Rice's appearance at the event.

Adjourned at 8:35

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Secretary