

Minutes of Squire Park Community Council General Meeting, 4/12/2003

Meeting commenced at 10:00am.

- **Welcome and introductions.**
- **Clean Seattle Initiative Presentation**
Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Natasha Jones (615-0195) and Ted Divina led a presentation about the Clean Seattle Initiative. Squire Park has been targeted as a focus area for the next event, happening over a three-day period at the end of May. Representatives from SPU, SDOT, DCLU, the Arts Commission, and other departments will work together with community volunteers to organize a neighborhood cleanup. Steps in the process:

- 1) "Reconnaissance" in early May, includes driving neighborhood, to identify areas to target. There are no free dump passes available this year, and the focus is meant to be on things that benefit the neighborhood as a whole, not specifically individuals cleaning up their own basement. This can be graffiti removal, cleanup of public spaces, etc.
- 2) Define what departments can do what in advance
- 3) May 29-30-31 schedule work events with neighborhood volunteers.

The boundaries of the area involved are not necessarily equal to the boundaries of Squire Park, but should not be any larger than that area.

A signup sheet went around to get contact information for interested volunteers. It was determined that only a couple volunteers needed to participate in the planning meetings, though more were needed for the actual work party, but as a result there was some confusion about the nature of the signup sheet and few names were collected.

- **Larry Gossett, King County Council**

Whale park update: negotiations with the city were still underway at the time regarding the location of the replacement housing for the harborview development. The county does not have the money right now to prioritize the community's desired development on 12th Avenue, but the commitment is still there to pursue it. The County Executive's office plans to recommend some funding in the 2004 budget to prioritize studying this development.

Question: how does the replacement housing planning affect the overall timeline vis-a-vis Harborview?

A: That's still in negotiations, but Gossett is "confident" that harborview will be able to proceed before the housing is built.

Q: Is there a possibility of consolidating all JC/DYS facilities at some point?

A: Probably not, as there is little chance of relocating all the various offices elsewhere.

The request was made to get some sort of written agreement from the County to preserve the 14th Avenue open space in perpetuity. Steve Arai spoke up regarding the master plan, saying that the documentation of the master plan will codify the NE corner of the DYS lot as open space. Larry Gossett acknowledged the request and would pursue a written agreement as well. Gina Mares-Kurtz offered to talk with KC/DYS facilities people about creating neighborhood partnerships to clean and maintain the park space.

The subject arose regarding possible changes to the number of representatives on the King County Council.

A motion was made from the floor to officially oppose any change in the County Council representation. The motion was seconded, presented for a voice vote, and approved by a majority. There were no opposing voices. The community council will draft an official position letter to send to (who? Ron Sims?).

- **David Levinger, Feet First (783-3066)**

Feet first made a presentation to the community proposing a pedestrian map of the area, similar to other maps of Ballard and the U District they have done. There was conversation regarding the identity of the neighborhood, how it connects to other parts of town, and possible areas of emphasis if we were to pursue a map. The process for Feet First involves:

- 1) Defining the boundaries of the neighborhood in question
- 2) Find sponsors to help develop and pay for the map
- 3) Work with community to create the map and descriptive text.

Potential partners/sponsors in Squire Park could be Seattle U and Providence/Swedish.

It was mentioned that funding for a map could also come in part from a "small & simple" neighborhood matching fund grant. If there is interest, a Squire Park pedestrian map could be assembled and published as soon as August of this year.

- **Seattle University Alley Vacation and Public Benefit**

Bill updated on the community work concerning the alley vacation and public benefit project. The vacation has not yet been approved by the City Council, and is still in process with the neighborhood group and the Seattle Design Commission. The issue has not yet been scheduled to go to the City Council.

- **Kim Wahl, presentation on cell phone antennas at Immaculate Conception School**

Because of the unknown health risks of this technology, members of the community have been fighting the placement of cell phone antennas on top of a school in the heart of a residential neighborhood. Both Cingular and Verizon have projects in the works at the school. Cingular has been through the permit and appeals process and has been approved, but that approval had not been published due to community opposition. The city is working on legislation to keep antennas out of residential areas. The Squire Park board did officially make a statement in opposition to these antennas (when?), but to make headway the neighborhood needs to join with other community groups as a citywide issue.

- **Public Safety Discussion**

Barb Biondo (SP Board, city Weed & Seed) introduced the topic, explained possible reasons that E. Precinct Captain Fred Hill was unable to attend. He had been invited. Goal of discussion was to focus on the community role in creating and maintaining public safety.

Mary Williams (East Precinct Crime Coalition, 323-9584) spoke about the coalition, which recently formed an executive committee. The group meets on the 4th Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm at SVI, 2120 S. Jackson. The Weed & Seed council has also recently joined forces with the EPCC. The police captain comes every month with updates and is available for community feedback.

There was a handout on reporting criminal activity, and there are log books available for helping track nuisance calls, 911 or otherwise. Call Fred Hill @ 684-4300 or Sonja Richter at SPD Crime Prevention, 684-7717.

One of the goals of the EPCC is to identify and track "hotspots" and raise SPD awareness of these.

Adrienne Bailey of the Central Area Stewardship Committee also spoke. They are working to increase communication across the whole neighborhood, and want to find options for the neighborhood to "take back" the area. These options might be block watches, but also more direct neighbor-to-neighbor connection opportunities like block parties, making contact with dealers or

hookers, or even setting up a table for cards on a corner. "When the lights go on, the roaches and rats go away." The city is fully supportive of community efforts to be proactive.

There was to be a meeting on May 1, probably at Bailey Gaetzert school.

The community responded by identifying some safety issues, like:

- maintenance of empty lots and vacant houses
- car theft and the possibility of a "universal" key for certain makes/models
- shootings and drug activity near schools on Cherry

There are processes to deal with nuisance abatement. There will be a workshop scheduled for May 10th, contact Mary for more information. A process exists to sue negligent landlords & etc., but that process is being investigated following the criminal pursuit of Oscars on Madison. There are criminal and civil options, but the city is not being helpful in defining the two. The comment was made that many nuisance issues could be addressed as part of the Clean Seattle project. Also, the Rotary Club is interested in hearing about kids "hanging out" to better focus their outreach activities.

There was much conversation about the desire to get police out of their cars more and make a better connection with the people they deal with in the neighborhood. People are encouraged to write or call Capt. Fred Hill to encourage more foot or bike patrols.

- **Adjourn**

Lottie made the official council request for donations, and reminded all that the Larry Gossett campaign kickoff was scheduled for May 14th at Town Hall, from 5:30-7:30pm

The meeting officially dispersed at 12:30. ish.