

## Minutes SPCC Board Meeting July 5, 2005

The SPCC board convened at 7:00 P.M. at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center on July 5 at 7:00 P.M. Present were board members John Jeannot, Susan Minogue, Lottie Cross, Gail Williams, and Bill Zosel. Also present were Barb Biondo, Mike Sletten, Michel George, Tom Teicher, Eric Leland, and Chris Augustine. Ron Boddie SPCC presided.

**Minutes of June SPCC Board Meeting** Chris Augustine provided a clarification. The reference in the May minutes to an "unclear" Sabey project on the Swedish/Providence campus which Sabey hoped to start in the summer of 2005 should refer to the proposed parking garage addition. With that clarification it was **M/S/C to approve the May Board meeting minutes.**

**Neighborhood Networking** John stated that he had been approached by Cheryl Honey who is developing a program that allows groups to network with each other. Cheryl has applied for a Department of Neighborhoods grant to provide training for people who will use the network (called "weavers").

Cheryl Honey arrives: She stated that she created an organization called the Family Support Network in 1993. Now she is working on the project to which John referred. The project includes two was of disseminating information and ideas: (1) a list serv idea and, (2) a website idea. In order to submit and complete a successful DON grant she needs volunteers to pledge their time to match the grant dollars. She needs commitments before next Monday, July 11, the grant application deadline. If ten to fifteen people pledge by next Monday that will be sufficient to match the amount of money needed to pay for facility in which the training will be conducted. Each "weaver" would need to pledge 50 hours of volunteer time over the next six months. "Weavers" are moderators of the communication network, but also help link people with needed resources, Honey said.

Ron stated that one of the priorities of SPCC is to learn how to connect with people and that Honey's presentation is particularly important.

### **Sabey Providence/Swedish developments**

Chris Augustine stated, in reference to a question raised at the May SPCC board meeting, that Darren Reddick of Swedish Medical Center has indicated to him that Swedish employees are meeting or exceeding the Transportation Management Plan goals of the Providence Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP). That is, no more than half of the Swedish employees, excluding those who need their cars during the work day, commute to the Providence campus in a single-occupancy vehicle.

In their meeting with the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) Land Use Planner Bruce Rips, Sabey has not been able to get an answer to the question of whether or not changing the location of traffic circles contemplated in the 1994 MIMP would require an amendment to the MIMP. (At the May meeting there was a discussion of whether or not the locations for traffic circles identified in 1994 were still the best locations, or even if some other device, curb bulbs for example, would be preferable.)

Eric and Chris stated that Steve Sheppard of DON would be mailing out letters soliciting members for a Citizens Advisory Committee for the MIMP. All residents within 600 feet of the Providence campus boundaries are to be notified as well as community councils and other community groups. More than 700 letters will be sent. There will be a two week period for responses, and then the interviews of potential members will begin. The goal is for eight to ten members broadly representative of the community. The members will be chosen by a group consisting of a representative of the institution, Steve Sheppard, and a third person.

Several board members commented with surprise and shock that City policy is for a representative of the affected institution to have so much influence in the choosing of CAC members.

Erik and Chris presented to the community council an aerial photo of the Squire Park neighborhood which will be particularly useful in planning related to transportation issues.

The proposals for temporary parking lots at 15<sup>th</sup> and Cherry and at 18<sup>th</sup> and Cherry, both the subject of current Master Use Permit applications, were discussed. Barb asked how long the temporary lots would be used and Chris stated that it's not presently known. Chris stated that Sabey did not "have a plan in motion" for the east side of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Gail asked whether or not any consideration had been given to moving the 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. houses rather than razing them. Chris answered that both houses have asbestos and lead. There is a plan to salvage some usable items from the houses, but not to try to save the entire houses. John stated that replacing houses with a surface parking lot would be a significant blow to the residential character of the neighborhood.

Susan noted that in previous meetings attended by Sabey representatives there had been no mention of either of these two parking lot projects. Chris answered that the removal of these houses was contemplated in the 1994 MIMP. Barb replied that, even so, it would have been good for Sabey to discuss this at the board meetings. Susan stated that Sabey's attendance at meetings is appreciated, but we expect to be told what is coming up. Chris stated that he was sorry that the parking lot proposals were not raised.

An extended discussion followed in which board members pointed out that the neighborhood has a long history of negative impact from surface parking lots, some of which were described as "temporary" but which continued for a long period of time. (The aerial photograph of the neighborhood, on view at the meeting, demonstrates vast stretches of asphalt in places that used to have houses, streets, trees, and businesses.) It was pointed out that Cherry Street is a very visible street in the neighborhood and further removal of houses to be replaced by parking lots would be particularly significant.

Barb noted that, in addition to the detrimental effect of parking lots on the neighborhood, parking lots will be filled by cars and that there's a committee of SPCC to deal with traffic and parking issues. SPCC looks forward to working more closely with Sabey on traffic and parking issues rather than being informed, after the fact, that new parking lots will be built.

Chris noted that Sabey is planning development not at a new institution, but on one that has been in the neighborhood since 1905; that the MIMP boundaries were approved by a Citizens Advisory Committee over ten years ago; that Sabey is not proposing anything development outside of those boundaries already reviewed by citizens and approved by the City. He stated that it's necessary to tear down the houses to provide parking spaces that the City requires --- or at least parking spaces are required, although it's theoretically possible to provide them in other locations. He stated that preliminary inquiries had been made of other property owners (Garfield and several churches were mentioned) and there had not been any readily identifiable alternative locations for parking. So far an exhaustive search has not been conducted.

Erik noted that Labcorp had estimated that its staff would require 175 parking spaces but that the existing 18<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson parking lot, which has only 118 spaces, has not been filled to capacity. This would seem to indicate that Labcorp staff are using far fewer than 175 parking spaces at any one time. This may be evidence the the Transportation Management Plan is working.

Ron noted that the SPCC is on record as asking DPD not to approve any requests for permits until after a review of all requests and proposal by a Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Planning for July general meeting** Councilmember Licata has called and stated that something unexpected causes him to be unable to attend as previously indicated. His staff has arranged for Councilmember Mclver to attend instead. The board discussed possible questions of Mr. Mclver, including the monorail and regional transportation issues.

There is a new East precinct police commander. Mike Sletten stated that the former precinct commander will be attending training out of state regarding "homeland security" issues. Barb noted the frequent turnover in east precinct commanders and its effect on precinct officers' morale. Ron will call the new commander to request his attendance at the July general meeting.

The issue of things that each of us could do to encourage other individuals to attend the July meeting was raised. However, the discussion soon turned to talking about general methods of getting people to attend meetings.

Tom suggested that, in the next newsletter, more thought could be given to stories and headlines that are intended to encourage attendance at the general meeting. Lottie also stated that, if she were not a board member, the newsletter would engage her to attend --- or not, and she agreed that the newsletter is important for that purpose.

**Committee for Traffic/Parking** Barb stated that the committee had been successful in getting a grant for \$10,000 from the Washington Insurance Council to hire a traffic consultant to look at neighborhood residential streets and ways to mitigate non-residents' traffic on them. The next step is to apply for a grant from DON to get the balance of the funds needed for the task. (The estimated need is \$20,000 to pay a consultant and \$5,000 for workshops.) Barb stated that the committee will work to bring the group City Repair to do a workshop on turning spaces into places. The hope is that such a workshop will inspire neighbors. Residents of Remington Ct. already has an idea for such a project and the committee will follow up with that if possible. Also, Barb talked of the possibility of having David Engwicht, a well known write on reclaiming streets, come to Seattle. In order to finance this we'd have to collaborate with other agencies.

**Land use committee** Will meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M. at Gail's house. The committee is monitoring new developments in Squire Park.

**Black Dollar Days Walk/Bite/Jazz Festival** The event is August 20. SPCC members will participate. **M/S/C that Squire Park Community Council be a walking team.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Bill Zosel