

## SPCC Minutes 03032009

**Meeting commenced** at 7:05p.

**Present:** Jefferson Coulter, Jay Johnson, Tenaya Wright, Donya Williamson, Pearson Cummings (CDNA), Marianne Mork, Jean Tinnea (CDNA), Joanna Cullins, Kiku Hayashi, Bill Zosel

### **Central District Neighborhood Association (CDNA)**

Jean Tinnea and Person Cummings attended to fill us in on revitalization of CDNA and to talk about questions that some people have regarding the potential for CDNA and SPCC to have overlapping geographical areas.

Jean outlined briefly the history of CDNA. It addressed crime issues in the 80s & did Union street improvement project—got burnt out on that. (Grant-funded and volunteer – fueled street and sidewalk design, including curb bulbs, new plantings, pedestrian-scale street lights. Attempt to landmark the Coleman Building --- since razed.)

Many live east of 23<sup>rd</sup> that want to address issues pertaining to traffic, crime, positive things in the community. SPCC does not purport to organize residents east of 23<sup>rd</sup>. Just going through bylaws and officer's process - trying to get a normal rhythm in order.

May is the plant exchange.

April is a Union Street Cleanup.

Mostly relying on CentralDistrictNews.com to spread info.

MLK—has no crosswalks. (John Stewart at Feet First and others involved in CDNA want to advocate for better pedestrian environment for MLK and surroundings.

Central Cinema (Kevin Spitzer) wants CDNA to have a website

Cherry street cleanup contemplated.

Mike Yasutake was laid off—he was the community crime prevention coordinator.

Should we protest this somehow?

Cummings suggests having City Councilmember Tim Burgess come to a joint neighborhood council meeting. Bill noted that we've tried to get him to speak at our meetings in the past – perhaps the April quarterly?

Motion to write letter to City officials asking the Mike Y. be retained. 7 yes, 0 no, Donya abstained.

### **SPCC Retreat**

Important to revisit this. Push to next month. Marianne will draw up some ideas about how to move forward.

Bylaws revision put off until next meeting (or the following).

### **Newsletter Meeting Follow-Up**

People at newsletter meeting came to consensus that newsletter should be more visually appealing, easier to access. Dan Shafer will do a mock-up of a redesigned newsletter to consider for July issue.

Jefferson wants to rethink how we deliver to condos and apartments. At next meeting we should identify who's coming from condos and apartment buildings so we can get those people to deliver there. Bill suggested posters to advertise meetings. Jay suggested

providing our contact info in our newsletters, flyers, and poster with a requesting that those living in apartment buildings contact us to help deliver.

### **Quarterly Meeting**

Guests for next meeting: Judith Kilgore (SHA), Tim Burgess, Seattle City Council. He is chair of Public Safety, Human Services, and Education Committee and is considered a leader on the Council in the area of addressing youth violence.

Bill will contact Burgess – 45 minutes set-aside

Donya will contact Kilgore – 45 minutes set-aside, ask her to bring visuals

Joanna and Bonnie to talk about school closures lawsuits – 30 minutes

Another possibility is Keith Harrell, Seattle City Councilmember. He is also particularly interested in addressing youth violence Bill will take care of this.

Venue for meeting: Tenaya suggested getting grant money to hold meetings elsewhere. General feeling that consistency in venue is valuable. Joanna will contact CAMP for the April meeting.

**Landmark Board** will consider the Carmack House nomination on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon (meeting starts at 3:30p). Seattle Municipal Tower, 44<sup>th</sup> Fl.

### **Yesler Terrace Citizens Review Committee**

Donya gave overview of scale of project.

Bill noted that they should be looking at surrounding neighborhood plans. It is good that YTCRC is holding public meetings and letting others know what they have in mind, but they should be aware that there are existing neighborhood plans and neighborhoods with expectations regarding future development.

### **KC Youth Detention**

Bill talked about RFQ to redevelop the youth facility on 12<sup>th</sup>. For years community members have urged King Co. to undertake a more “active” development on the site of the parking lot. King Co., which wants to replace the “tower” building on the site with a larger courthouse/office building has issues a RFQ for potential developers to partner with Co. to develop new county building and also mixed-use buildings with housing and commercial space. A SPCC neighborhood representative has been allowed to participate in the review of the firms who have responded to the RFQ. Bill has asked Daniel Mihalyo to do this and he has agreed. The review meetings will take place over most of three days (and also require reading of extensive documents.) This is a substantial contribution of time by Daniel and most appreciated.

**RPZ** surrounding Swedish. Sonny and Alex’s project.

### **Reclaiming the Streets for the People**

Need to make sure the proper info about that is up on website. Jefferson suggested we consider “walkscore.com” as a resource toward this same goal.

Jay asked why this was important to us. Tenaya said it’s a way to improve the activeness of our neighborhood, Donya thinks it means a safer community. Jay suggested bringing

the “walkability” rating to the neighborhood meeting as a way to get people to understand and support the project.

Jefferson is the new reclaiming-the-streets point person! Perhaps the July meeting?

Marianne concerned about cultural sensitivity of plan. We should revisit the Reclaiming plan and identify potential problems in this area.

**Harborview Parking** (Defer to next meeting)

### **Seattle Public Schools**

Joanna reported that details have not been publicized, but some appeals have been filed (TT Minor, Collins, African American Academy) – Joanna thinks 5, so far. King County Superior Court.

200 complaints filed, too.

Bill noted that, as a community council, we should know what the school district policy is regarding the soon-to-be-vacated properties, and decide how we want to be involved later. What’s the procedure? Jefferson pointed out that it’s important to be able to move quickly, if we need to.

Tenaya offered to forward equity group email along.

### **Central District Council and Stewardship**

CD Council will have district-wide bylaw review. CDC Stewardship group will also look at doing more with youth – possibly working with James Kelly of the Urban League, which has been chosen by the City to be a lead agency in some of the efforts. First meeting will be next Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at Promenade in B of A building. Stewardship wants to facilitate inclusion in the neighborhood.

### **Meeting w Congress on Residential Architects (CORA)**

Bill still working on this. About a year ago, SPCC tried to come up with suggestions about ways Land Use standards for new townhouse and apartment buildings could be better. DPD had issued proposed changes and some community groups attacked changes, instead arguing that the current situation is acceptable. SPCC members disagree. Many of us have problems with the nature of new development and think it could be better with better regulation. One of the issues that rose to the top of neighborhood concern is saving existing homes where appropriate. SPCC (with considerable contribution from neighbor Ann Schuessler, drafted an outline of some proposed changes that could provide incentives for developers to retain some existing homes while building “around” them on the lot.

CORA has put together comprehensive analysis and suggestions. Meeting date will be sometime in March. Will be at Hiawatha Lofts. It’s important that neighborhood groups in favor of better regulations make their voice heard with the City Council. (Surely, developers will be speaking out.)

### **Report from 12<sup>th</sup> Ave Stewardship Meeting**

There is money for two new parks along 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. One is on a site already identified at James Ct. immediately south of a proposed new SU building. Early plans had been for

the development of the park and adjacent street to take place at same time as development of SU building. However building has been delayed. Group no longer wants to wait for SU addition to construct this. Will be meeting with Parks Dept. in the near future to resume planning for the park. Also. The recent Parks levy includes money to purchase additional land for a park in select urban centers, including 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Also, the group heard from Ethan Melone who is the SDOT contact person regarding planning for the Sound Transit-funded streetcar line that is to connect the light rail station in the International District with the light rail station at Broadway and John. We will be urging decision-makers to consider that the route include 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, perhaps as part of a loop that travels one way from Jackson St. on 12<sup>th</sup> to Broadway /John and then the other way on Broadway and Boren to Jackson St.

### **DON July BBQ**

Doesn't think there's any problem with the money from last year's BBQ. We sent a letter to DON asking for approval to spend money on the items that were actually incurred expenses, while slightly different expenses had been identified when we submitted the grant request.