

Minutes SPCC Board Meeting April 1, 2008

Tenaya Wright, board president, called the meeting to order at Langston Hughes P.A.C. at 7:00 P.M. Attending were board members Joanna Cullen, John Jeannot, Sunny Knott, Donya Williamson, and Bill Zosel, and neighborhood residents Andre Helmstetter and Marianne Mork. Also, from Pratt Fine Arts Tracey Fugami, the Director of Government and Community Affairs for Seattle University Lara-Anne Jordan, of the Central Area service center of the Dept. of Neighborhoods Thomas Whittemore, and from the Dept. of Parks and Recreation Randy Robinson.

Blanche Lavizzo Park planned improvements Randy Robinson, landscape architect with the Parks Dept. stated that there is a "little bit of money" to improve Lavizzo Park --- about \$43,000. Most of the work will be done by the Seattle Conservation Corps. The plan is for the work to be done this year. It's likely that the focus of the work will be on the arcade structure. (The original design included a sitting area under the arcade, but the benches that were there have been destroyed.) Planned improvements will include some ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) features. Locking the fireplaces has been suggested. There will be a directional sign for the Central Park trail.

It has been reported to the Parks Dept. that people avoid the overhead shelter. Randy wants feedback from the community regarding the shelter. Tenaya suggested that the shelter could be improved if it had a clear roof to let light in.

Several people noted that the park is "a bog" --- drainage is a problem. John suggested that Parks "go with the bog" and make a wetland.

Several people emphasized that the park is poorly lit. Tracey suggested that thought be given to activating the space ---- maybe a chess board, for example. Andre urged that there be more programs for the park. The amphitheater is a good thing, but on most days the park is a cold, dark, wet place. Randy Robinson noted that there are more programs planned for the park this summer and he will recommend to the Parks Dept. that there be a comprehensive plan for the park with opportunities for future development. Tracey suggested that the Parks Dept. survey participants at the programmed events to seek opinions about what should happen to the park/at the park.

Randy Robinson stated that he will have more information to provide in about a month. (Randy Robinson, Senior Landscape Architect, 684-7305)

Impact of staff and visitors to Sabey/Swedish campus on street parking in the neighborhood: Andre brought to the board's attention the increasing problem of scarcity of on-street parking spaces. Staff and visitors to the medical center and Sabey's tenants are known to be parking on neighborhood streets. The institution raised the parking rates recently, a step it is required to take in order to discourage staff from arriving by single occupancy vehicle (SOV), but it seems that many are not joining carpools or taking transit, but are parking for free on neighborhood streets in order to avoid paying for parking. Donya stated that this is also an increasing problem around her house. (She lives west of the institution and Andre lives east.) There was a discussion about asking the city to extend the boundaries of the Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) which covers some of the streets around the institution. The board stated that it would write a letter to the Department of Transportation (SDOT) if Andre, and others, will suggest what might be the appropriate new boundaries for the extension of the RPZ.

Planning for July SPCC party Kiku was not available to give a report on the status of party planning. Alex stated he will contact Kiku to see what needs to be done in the next month.

Juneteenth Celebration John led the discussion regarding the upcoming Juneteenth celebration and participation by SPCC and SPCC board members. He stated that he would do the “standard outreach” to encourage participation. He asked other board members to take part in the event and in encouraging others to participate.

Newsletter Delivery Joanna and the board discussed the details of newsletter delivery. The newsletter should be ready by Friday. Tenaya will pick up the newsletters from the S.U. Copy Center. Joanna is designing routes. Alex will deliver the batches of newsletters to the delivery persons. It is expected that newsletters will be delivered to homes this weekend.

Quarterly Meeting There has been no planning for a program or guests at the quarterly meeting. Even though it is too late to publicize it in the already-printed newsletter, it was discussed that it would be good if we could plan a program and publicize it by phone calls and e-mails as well as the list service and www.centraldistrictnews.com Donya noted that the last quarterly meeting, and several previous quarterly meetings had been attended by new people who were wanting a discussion about crime in their neighborhoods. The board decided to try to get representatives of the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition and the Police Department to speak at the quarterly meeting. Tenaya will contact Stephanie Tschida to invite them. When this is confirmed all board members will spread the word through phone calls/e-mails, etc. (Regarding relations with the East Precinct: Donya reminded the board of previous discussions about the tone of the photos at the East Precinct station. Community members had expressed a desire for “kinder and gentler” photos in the public areas than those currently displayed. It was unclear whether or not a request for a change had been communicated to the Police Dept. or if anyone had taken on the responsibility to do so.

Black on Black Crime Coalition The coalition continues to meet regularly. Tenaya attends those meetings.

Event at Flo Ware Park On April 19 there will be a community gathering with special emphasis on events and activities for children at Flo Ware Park. Tenaya and her family will be their. All are encouraged to attend.

Language classes at CASA Latina John stated that planning for Spanish and English classes at CASA Latina were progressing. C.L. is in the process of hiring a teacher. It’s expected that classes will start some time in May (Note, since this meeting the first Spanish/English class session has been announce for May 8 at 6:00 P.M.)

Swedish/Sabey CAC The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) issued a decision approving the institution’s request for an extension of the expiration date of its current Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP). The DPD decision states that any proposals that are beyond the scope of the projects approved in the existing MIMP will trigger a requirement for a major amendment of the MIMP or a new MIMP. This seems to provide some protection to the neighborhood. It was widely expected that Sabey intended to use the process of extending the Master Plan to propose and implement a project on 18th Avenue that would be much larger in scale and scope than buildings and uses for 18th Avenue in the current MIMP. The neighborhood should pay attention to the CAC meetings and upcoming Sabey proposals and be prepared to advocate for full review of any new and different large-scale proposals for 18th Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P. M.

Minutes submitted by Bill Zosel, substituting for Susan Minogue board secretary