

Whittier Heights Community Council General Meeting

Meeting Date: May 18, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ballard Church, 1460 NW 73rd Street, Seattle, WA 98117

Purpose: WHCC Community Meeting

1. General announcements:

- Update on WHCC revival and on “No Safe Way for a Gas Station” group and funds dispersed to them to reimburse some cost for landscaping in the affected area.
- Reminder of events:
 1. Annual garage sale is Saturday, June 4th. Sue Gregor is organizing again this year and can be reached via NextDoor to add your name to the map.
 2. Saturday, May 29th from 10am-noon we will be cleaning up Baker Park. Please bring your own gloves and tools if you have them.
- Updates about Ballard District Council. For more information go to <http://ballarddistrict.org/>

2. Seattle Housing Affordability & Livability Agenda (HALA) 101:

Jesseca Brand, Strategic Advisor, Dept. of Neighborhoods

- Information and handouts were provided along with a Q&A
- HALA was developed with guidance by a 28-member committee which includes renters, home owners, for- and not-for-profit developers, and local housing experts. The report that was produced comprised of 60 recommendations, which are now being prioritized by the Mayor’s office and considered and vetted by a series of neighborhood-based focus groups.
- Recommendations in the final HALA report are various, and some are highly contentious politically. The goal of HALA is primarily to enable the construction of 20,000 new affordable housing units (generally apartments). That would be a tripling of the current projected number of near-term affordable housing units in Seattle.
- In many cases, this is achieved by converting single-family lots into multi-family developments.
- In August, there will be a vote to renew the prior Seattle Housing Levy.
- By early 2017, the city will develop legislation with MHA (Mandatory Housing Affordability) zone changes for consideration by the City Council.
- Visit www.seattle.gov/HALA for more information and to view their calendar.

3. Crown Hill Urban Village (CHUV) Zoning Implications:

Information and Q&A with Deb Jaquith, CHUV Committee for Smart Growth

- The Crown Hill Urban Village refers to an area identified originally in the 1995 Seattle Comprehensive (Comp) Plan. It is an area that was then imagined to be the focus of significant long-term increases in population and population density.
- The CHUV is now being proposed for somewhat significant expansion in the current comp plan update and as a result of recommendations in HALA.
- Parts of Whittier Heights fall within the potential urban village expansion zone. This area is defined by the properties that are between 22nd & Dibble Ave NW, South of 95th and North of 76th St. The areas under consideration are slated for the largest “up-zone” of single-family properties in the entire city.

- The CHUV Committee for Smart Growth is a new and informal association of impacted communities and their constituent organizations in the CHUV area. Whittier Heights Community Council is one of the key potential members of that association.
- The CHUV Committee for Smart Growth has developed a series of “critical recommendations”:
 1. Expedite developing a comprehensive neighborhood plan for the CHUV—before rezoning in the Comp Plan
 2. Incentivize density on arterials that are already zoned but underutilized (e.g., many parcels along 15th Ave NW and on Holman Rd).
 3. Limit up-zoning in single-family zones, while simultaneously encouraging/focusing added density along arterials and near bus stations.
 4. Prioritize infrastructure upgrades in CHUV *before* increasing density
 5. Encourage commercial spaces to be built and leased to support small, locally owned businesses.
- The CHUV Committee for Smart Growth requests that WHCC make a formal commitment to participate as a member of the committee.
- Contact : CrownHillVillage.org or info@crownhillurbanvillage.org for more info

4. WHCC Committee Reports & Participation Discussion:

The attendees at the meeting were all reminded of the work undertaken at the January 11, 2016 meeting, which led to the formation of four committees. Each of these committees has met one or multiple times since the January meeting. *Each of these committees needs more members; please contact us at info@whittierheights.us to join a committee.*

- Growth & Development: probably the most active group so far; meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at Grumpy D’s, meetings are open to all. Updates are posted on the WHCC website: www.whittierheights.us
- Social Events: this committee would very much like to begin planning events for neighbors but simply does not have volunteer resources at this time and REALLY needs to recruit new participants. Possible events include an adult mixer and/or a neighborhood family festival. Please contact WHCC to become involved in helping the committee.
- Traffic/Pedestrian Safety: Concerns are expressed over speeding on 80th, discussion about getting crossing flags and or blinking crosswalk lights, etc. Brent mentioned the Ballard District Council has been involved in annual Neighborhood Street fund matching grant program project ranking process. Whittier Hts. should look for future City of Seattle grant opportunity projects.
- Crime Prevention: The Whittier Heights Patrol Association is in its 2nd year of service. Contact Brad Renton (director) for more info: whittierheightspatrol@gmail.com.

5. Sound Transit 3 (ST3) proposal and implications for Ballard-Whittier Heights/Crown Hill:

Information and Q & A with Ben Broesamle, Northwest Seattle Coalition

- Northwest Seattle Coalition is comprised of 14 organizations, largely focused around the central Ballard area and in the 15th Ave corridor, which advocates for “more reliable, safer, higher quality investments in transit infrastructure that the entire region will have to use for the next century”.

- Main concerns surround the Ballard-Downtown corridor are:
 1. 22-year timeline
 2. At-grade line vulnerable to collisions
 3. Drawbridge over the ship canal subject to delay
 4. Elevated station at 15th & Market
 5. Removal of lanes from Elliot and 15th Avenues
 6. ST3 will be on the November ballot
 - For more information: <http://nwseattlecoalition.org/>
- 6.** The WHCC discussed the two primary issues on the table during the meeting: (1) proposed zoning impacts to Whittier Heights from current city planning processes; and (2) the ST3 proposal for connecting light rail to Ballard and areas north. Members discussed the process and merits and liabilities for considering two possible motions to become more politically involved in the CHUV committee for Smart Growth, and to join in the Northwest Seattle Coalition regarding Sound Transit.

A motion was made and seconded that WHCC formally join the CHUV Committee for Smart Growth, and that WHCC's Growth and Development Committee serve as the primary liaison to that organization and represent WHCC there. The motion was passed unanimously by approximately 15 voting members.

A motion was made and seconded that WHCC formally join the Northwest Seattle Coalition (NSC) and agree to have its name included in publicity materials related to the NSC. At the time of the vote, 12 members were present at the meeting, and the motion carried 8-3 with one abstention.

The meeting was then approximately 15 minutes past scheduled agenda and was concluded and adjourned.

Meeting notes prepared by Gina Frank, WHCC Vice President.