

ENACT BOARD RETREAT NOTES

March 2, 2009

Board members present: Jesse Hart, Bill Mattox, Lisa Miller, Becky Fontaine, William Weatherby, Sahera Chea, Natalie Dam, Jane Dudley, Jeremy Villareal, Kimberly Lelli, Laura Rodriguez, Lynette Scheidt, John Puryear, saray Yuom. Sally Perkins, facilitator.

Purpose of the Retreat:

- To review the Committee structure and make any needed changes
- To review the TMC provisions governing Neighborhood Councils
- To orient new Board members
- To review accomplishments from 2008
- To identify priorities for 2009

Committee Structure. The Board determined that six Committees were needed for 2009:

- Bylaws
- Budget and Finance
- Communication and Membership
- Executive
- Land Use and Economic Development
- Safety and Cleanup

Committee members are listed below.

Review of TMC. It was noted that the provisions of the TMC allow latitude in what Neighborhood Councils set as priorities. It was also noted that the City Council is seeking additional accountability from NC's in the form of budgets and plans. Much of the discussion around the TMC focused on Communication and Membership and is written up in the 2009 Priorities section of these notes.

2008 Accomplishments. Board members identified the following accomplishments for 2008:

- Sent four people to NUSA
- Adopted a grant-giving process
- Developed and implemented a budget
- Held a Forum on economic development
- Participated in the Hillside Heights planning committee
- Provided a representative for the naming of the new school
- Participated in community-wide events such as Salishan opening, McKinley Avenue Festival, etc.
- Participated in the Mixed Use Center discussions
- Participated on Stewart Heights Park steering committee
- Dealt with Rogers Elementary property zoning issue
- AIA was implemented
- Crosswalks, speed bumps, roundabouts completed
- Participated in the Safety Summit held at Blix
- Worked on revitalized McKinley business district

- Community cleanups

2009 Issues: Board members identified the following issues for 2009 (note that these are also organized by Committee later in these notes):

- Infrastructure—roads, crosswalks, potholes, curb repair, paving, traffic calming
- Concern re: vacant properties negatively affecting property values (foreclosures), community image. Also litter, graffiti and other issues that make our neighborhood look run-down.
- Walkable community—stairs at 34th Street need repair and cleanup. Link this to the Business district and sponsor an event (like a run) related to the stairs.
- Complete review of Bylaws—this is an internal project, they need to be more nimble and reflect the actual Committee structure we use.
- Uses of existing Sector 4 space when the new substation is built—could be MUC anchor for McKinley business district
- Economic development—we need to follow up on the Forum and keep their feet to the fire. Work with businesses whose physical appearance is poor, approach positively (City has funds to help).
- Get the Portland Avenue business district going again. The Incubator helps us get businesses here, and they need to move out of the Incubator in 3 years so let's keep them in the community. They also hire local people.
- Funding to support small businesses in their marketing
- Mixed Use Centers—transportation, parking, views
- Set up a youth group, a youth ENACT, they have good ideas, for youth 12-18, or high school age youth.
- Gault Middle School—monitoring the uses, welcoming the Stewart students (many of whom are from our neighborhood), help neighbors see that it is important to be visible when school gets out
- Attend events at our schools, such as events for parents and children
- Longer-term use of Gault as a community resource—work with Migel Villahermosa at TPS, can ENACT take the lead?
- Activities for youth, to reduce crime—Board members show up at Friday night youth activities to meet youth and get to know them
- Work with other neighborhood groups such as First Creek, Dome Top, go to their meetings and events as well as invite them to ours.
- Have one Board meeting where reps from all of the neighborhood groups are gathered to discuss what we are all doing
- Dog park, increase the visibility, marketing, care and clean-up—be a voice to the Park District
- Dome area—how will the upcoming changes (car museum) affect us? Link to New Tacoma NC around transportation-related issues
- Street cars
- Monitor how economic downturn is affecting development projects
- Tie to other neighborhoods around gang issues, etc.
- McKinley Apts—how to get ground level retail and commercial—critical mass for economic development
- Scope and scale of new buildings (fit with neighborhood)
- Protection of historic properties
- Beautification, street trees

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, MEMBERS AND POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR EACH

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Becky, Bill M., Jesse, John P. Becky is convenor.

BYLAWS: Becky, Weatherby, Jeremy

- Complete review of Bylaws—this is an internal project, they need to be more nimble and reflect the actual Committee structure we use.

COMMUNICATION AND MEMBERSHIP: Jane, Saray, Bill M, Laura, Jeremy, Natalie, Lynnette (convenor).

- Communications with neighbors—provide a list of issues—if people are experiencing any of these, come to our meeting
- Link to City services
- Provide agenda content, hot issues, topics of information (like Mixed Use Center info)
- Have a consistent contact at the NC who monitors all of the neighborhood groups and makes sure they are invited and communicated with
- Develop a register of who wants to be contacted, who attends meetings
- How do we stand out? Be more visible? What questions do groups ask and how do we make sure that ENACT pops up when they ask?
- Develop a flyer with “hot topics”—eye-catching, then show them how to follow through on that topic. Series of flyers with different topics.
- Keep it simple
- Track response to efforts to communicate—what is working, what isn’t working?
- Door hangers (Dome Top)
- Make sure we communicate in different languages. In the Hispanic community, this is relationship-based—people will take information from someone they know. Laura is starting with the Hispanic parent support group and then work with and through them to reach neighborhood groups. Word of mouth and grass roots leaders will work in SE Asian communities. Utilize Tacoma Community House language bank for translation services if needed.
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LAND USE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Jane, Jesse, Sahara, Jeremy
(convenor)

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- Protection of historic properties
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- Streetcars

SAFETY AND CLEAN-UP: Bill M, Saray, Lisa M, Kimberly, John, Natalie, Lynette
(convenor)

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Grant-giving, status of policy. The Board briefly discussed the issues related to liability and bookkeeping (fiscal agent) both for grant-giving and grant-receiving. Elton may need to provide additional information.