

Jackson Place Community Council Quarterly Meeting

3-9-09

Meeting convened: 7:05 pm

Note for summer meeting: Annual BBQ and elections. BBQ at 6pm, Meeting at 7pm

- See the JPCC website for a link for self-nomination for the board
- Ballots will be sent out in the summer newsletter

An Introduction to Café Weekend and Christa Thomas, co-owner

- She and her partner, Nin, own a design studio and moved into the neighborhood with the intention to have more community involvement through their café
- They're interested in evolving, growing, and changing the business to meet the community's needs, as well as allowing their baristas to learn and excel
- The café serves as a creative outlet, a place for meetings and connections
- Hours: 8am – 3pm, 7 days/wk – to change as needed
- They serve espresso from Café Vita, good tea, MorningGlory chai, and a selection of local products combined with international travel
- They have a selection of books and media to share
- They serve pastries on the weekends, have Japanese confections, and Theo chocolate—but their main focus is a beverage bar
- See the newsletter for an ad; bring a friend and buy-one, get-one free
- Note: almost everyone present got a copy of the newsletter

Claude Zervas presents on Transit-Oriented Development

- Sara Nikolic of Futurewise and Doug Cargill of Columbia City are available for comment
- Sara comments on where the bill is now – a bill stemmed from 2008 Legislation, Climate Change Considerations, and the Growth Management Act
 - To maximize environmental and social benefits around light rail stations
 - Original bill had specific language, but was flexible for local districts on design
- Due to community concern about the density requirement, that language was stripped out of the bill
- The current language is a starting point; it gives communities leave to plan for their own parks, sidewalks, etc., around the stations
 - No loss of low-income housing
 - The “station area” is left up to the locals (1/4 mi., 1/2 mi., etc) – it changes for each neighborhood

- Doug Cargill points out that most everyone in the room is already conscientious about the environment
- The Senate version of the bill has the 50 units/acre – but the house bill (without that language) is the live version
- Doug comments that the current bill states that, if there is a transit station, communities should plan for that: “encourage development along transit lines...”
 - It was pointed out that there will be a transit station along I-90, between Rainier and 23rd Ave.
- How is this new language different?
 - The original language was proscriptive
 - What was lost was language that would have encouraged other, outlying cities to take steps to increase low-income housing, etc. (Seattle is already doing this.)
- How should Jackson Place balance between multifamily and single-family housing?
 - Doug says that single family homes are on their way out
 - But there are community concerns about forcing people out of their homes due to property taxes increasing due to a zoning change
- Concerns about the surplus land...
 - Sound Transit puts their price on the surplus land, then the first offer is given to the housing authority or nonprofits for mixed income housing
 - Then goes to a private developer
 - One guess is that the city will take the property (but that’s not in the bill)
- Futurewise is only working on the House bill, not the Senate bill
 - If people like either version, they should contact their representatives
 - The House bill is scheduled for a floor vote within the next few days (first week of March)
- You can find the status of all bills through the Seattle Neighborhoods site – www.sngi.com

Jill Moe presents on choosing a school for your children

- The open enrollment period for Seattle public schools is upon us
- For kids going into elementary school, parents list the top three schools and submit to the district by the end of March, then the district will assign schools. If kids don’t get into their selected schools, then there is a default (“reference”) school that is in their neighborhood
- There are major changes this year (see the newsletter article by Jill). As there are some schools closing, kids have been moved around. The AP Program was

transferred to Thurgood-Marshall

- Criteria for the selection depends:
 - Some schools are lottery schools only
 - If you pick your neighborhood school as your first pick, then you get it
 - If a sibling goes to a school, then you get in
- The differences between the area public schools are large. There are, for instance, alternative schools, foreign language schools, AP schools... There are a huge range of programs.
- Seattle has the highest transportation cost for schools (in the country?) – and it is reported that 25% of morning traffic is for schoolkids.
- During the 2010-2011 school year it will be changed so that all kids must go to their reference schools. However, currently enrolled students won't have to leave their schools.
 - Someone mentions the “Walking Bus” idea for neighborhood schools – a neighborhood volunteer core of parents who take turns walking kids to school, stopping along a set route to pick up other students
- Another option was brought up as an alternative to public and private schools – Home Schooling. It was reported that the Seattle Home-School Group is about 350 families strong, and that the Seattle public schools have a home-schooling resource center for parents.

Landuse Committee Report

- Goodwill Update by Maura:
 - It's a process through the City Council
 - In October 2008, the Hearing Examiner recommended to the City Council that they approve the rezone
 - Feb. 6, 2009: Many issues from the CBA conditions were deferred to the street vacation issue
 - The Council wanted to reserve decision on conditions to get more public information
- The life of the rezone was shortened from 10 years to 5 years
 - Rezone will not take effect unless the street vacation is approved by the City Council
- Next phase is the Street Vacation issue unless someone appeals in Superior Court
 - Definition of “street vacation” : the city vacates, or yields, the street to a private contractor
 - It goes through SDOT, which gives a briefing to the Council
 - The Council advises SDOT on conditions they'd like to see, then SDOT

makes a recommendation

- But someone pointed out that the developer may not have funding? The project seems to be 4-5 years out
- There is a community meeting on Saturday, 3-14, at Artspace about the Goodwill project – led by the group CARD.
- Other landuse issues:
 - No new info on the Rainier billboard
 - There is a new pet store on Jackson & 17th; has dog and cat treats
 - New “Rice n Roll” (Seattle chain) sushi restaurant where Stan’s used to be on Rainier
 - It was reported that there are some businesses in Little Saigon that are leaving. Bill reports that some are leaving because of the Goodwill development.
- Question: are we part of North Rainier Valley?

Outreach:

- There is a new newsletter out!
- Deb reports that the outreach committee can always use help – write an article or place an ad! ads@jacksonplace.org

Treasurer’s Report:

- At the end of 2008 there was a \$3,000 balance – most goes to the newsletter, which costs \$380/issue to produce and mail. Good news! The most recent newsletter was the first one that paid for itself through ads.
- We got a small grant of \$480, and are waiting for another small grant.

Traffic:

- Work on 18th was completed today
- No firm dates yet for the work on Charles & Lane
- Another grant request is being submitted for work on 20th and on 16th through the Neighborhood Street Fund.
- Watch for a Traffic meeting in April

Crime:

- The East Precinct has lost Michael Yasutake due to budgetary restrictions
- Officer Chris Kelly is the new neighborhood officer
- The crime committee is looking into drafting letters to the neighborhood marts/gas stations that are negligent and thereby harbor crime on their properties.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50pm