

BELLTOWN HOUSING AND LANDUSE SUBCOMMITTEE (BHLUS)  
MEETING NOTES  
MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2009

DATE/TIME: Monday, January 11, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
PLACE: Centennial Tower Meeting Room, 2515 Fourth Avenue  
ATTENDANCE: Ron Turner, Elizabeth Campbell, Tom Eanes, Sara Wysocki, Bill Gilland, Maddie Heins, Melissa Bennett-Cumming, Kristin Jensen, Kerry Wade, Janis Ford, Lydia Heard, Greg Schuler  
GUEST: Layne Cubell, DPD

1. Ron Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
2. New Community Coordinator: Sara Wysocki announced that she will be moving on from her position as Community Coordinator for the Downtown neighborhoods into a position as coordinator with the newly formed Office of Sustainability and Environment. She introduced Kerry Wade who will be stepping into the role of Downtown neighborhood coordinator.
3. Interim Use (Parking) Agreements: Tom Eanes reported on research that he has accomplished on the interim use parking lot developed by Martin Selig on the corner of Third and Battery. An existing building was torn down and the area was paved and striped for 51 stalls. He said that he hasn't been able to find a permit for this lot. It doesn't appear to be in violation of SEPA, but may be in violation of the grading and drainage code. It is not clear if this is principal use parking. Tom said there is probably not much that the community can do about this one.  
Diane Sugimura, Director of Planning and Development, has promised a meeting with the community to talk about problems with the proposed interim use ordinances. The meeting will probably be attended by Tom Graff and Tom Eanes.
4. Belltown Park Boulevard: Ron announced the second public meeting, which will be held on Wednesday January 13 at the Sculpture Park. He expressed his concern that the architects did not provide much contextual material at the previous meeting. Security and safety issues are still paramount community issues with this development.
5. Viaduct Lands Study: Ron has submitted an application to the City for a Small and Simple Grant to study uses for land that will be opened up once the Viaduct is demolished, particularly in the vicinity of Belltown. Ron said that he hoped the study would allow the community to be well-informed and in a position to negotiate its interests as future planning develops.
6. Bridging the Gap: Ron has also requested Bridging the Gap funds to complete sidewalk work on the east side of Fourth Avenue and to address tripping hazards in Belltown. He said that a full survey of these hazards is required.
7. Seattle Center Development: Layne Cubell, Senior Planner with the Department of Planning and Development, who is involved with the Seattle Center Redevelopment Office, gave an interesting presentation on the Century 21 Master Plan for the Center, which was adopted by the City Council in August 2008 and which will occur over the next twenty years. Some interesting highlights pertinent to Belltown.

- Interest in the Lake to Bay Trail (a.k.a. the Potlatch Trail) continues. The Center completed improvements along their portion of this trail in Spring 2009.
  - The planning for the Center needs to put focus on making the Center an attraction for young families, which is a matter of concern to the Belltown community.
  - There is potential for development of an elementary school as the result of a possible property swap between the City and the Seattle School District: the Mercer Street garage property could be swapped for a large portion of the Memorial Stadium property, which the School District owns. The School District then could hold the garage property in reserve as a possible site for a new school.
  - Ron said that there is a need to show the plan in the context of surrounding neighborhoods such as Belltown. Layne Cubell said more of this can be found on the website describing the plan.
  - Layne said that there will be much emphasis on developing the Seattle Center as a demonstration of sustainability.
8. Post Disaster Presentation: Ron said that there will be a presentation on post-disaster (primarily seismic) planning at the February BHLUS meeting. The effort will have to be a joint program of many community groups. BHLUS will start the process.
9. Community Plan Assessment: Work is starting on this to provide a quick “state of Belltown analysis.” Ron will be spending more time to determine what will be involved.
10. Future Leadership of BHLUS: Ron said he will be “hanging in” at least until the Viaduct planning is underway. He’d like to convene a small subcommittee to discuss future leadership.
11. North Sculpture Park development: BHLUS participated by letter in an appeal of the permit for Martin Selig’s proposed development north of the Sculpture Park. The BHLUS position was strictly on “due process” issues because the zoning for the development is already in place.
12. Involvement in BHLUS: There was talk about getting more involvement from a broader and more diverse group more representative of the community in community meetings such as BHLUS. There was some thinking that some residents may not be comfortable attending meetings that are held in condominium meeting rooms.
13. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 2010, 6:30-8:30 PM, at the Centennial Apartments, Second Floor Lounge, 2515 Fourth Avenue. Among the topics for the meeting will be the Post-Disaster organization and assessment, progress on grant applications, and planning for redevelopment of the Waterfront Park.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Schuler