

BELLTOWN HOUSING AND LANDUSE SUBCOMMITTEE (BHLUS)
MEETING NOTES
MEETING OF MAY 10, 2010

DATE/TIME: Monday, May 10, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
PLACE: Centennial Tower Meeting Room, 2515 Fourth Avenue
ATTENDANCE: Ron Turner, Elizabeth Campbell, Bill Gilland, Bea Kumasaka, Janis Ford, Lydia Heard, Greg Schuler, Yifei Ma, Diana Benson, Tom Graff, Jud Marquardt
GUEST: Diane Sugimura, Director, DPD

1. Ron Turner called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
2. New Intern Assistance: Ron introduced Yifei Ma and Diana Benson, who are students from the Masters in Urban Planning program at the University of Washington. They will be working as interns to support the BHLUS land use efforts such as the Viaduct project work and the preliminary planning for a possible “pocket library” in Belltown. Catherine McCoy will also be working with BHLUS. She has several years of experience with DPD.
3. Interim Use Agreements: Diane Sugimura, Director of the City’s Department of Planning and Development attended the meeting to discuss proposed legislation governing interim use agreements for undeveloped. She said the main issue is what can be done to activate vacant lots during the “down” economy. One category of activity in the proposed ordinance is 1-year renewable permits for uses such as food carts, horticultural uses, and entertainment uses. They are looking for ideas from the community on this. Another category is principal use parking, which is not allowed by the zoning in some parts of town. This requires a maximum 3-year permit with the ordinance itself expiring in December 2012. The ordinance proposes that parking be short-term only with a 4-hour limit and that there be no early-bird, daily, or monthly parking. Also, 60% of the street front must be dedicated to “other uses” and the owner must meet landscaping, lighting, and drainage requirements.
Comments from the attendees:
 - a. There is a question over what is more attractive – parking lots or abandoned vacant lots such as the lot at Second and Bell.
 - b. One of the issues is liability insurance for possible community uses of vacant lots. One suggestion was to have the City serve as an umbrella organization that would facilitate insurance and initial fiscal sponsorship.
 - c. Another suggestion was establishing a system of credits for not converting a vacant lot into a parking lot – the credits would be used in other developments.
 - d. Ron will obtain a copy of the legislation and send it to BHLUS members so that a response can be organized.
4. Pocket Library: There is some thinking about using the \$1.8 million in community center money that is on reserve to develop a branch library/reading room in Belltown, and a search is ongoing for an appropriate site. The facility would be under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, which would maintain it. One suggestion is that Belltown find a champion on the City Council who would promote this project for Belltown. Ron said that perhaps the work with the Council would start after some preliminary planning work was accomplished. He passed out a “discussion framework” which included several next steps for the preliminary planning efforts. He said he would like to start with Parks rather

- than with the Council, but would be willing to keep the Council in the loop. The consensus was that we should send a letter to Parks with copies to the Council on the initial thinking.
5. Viaduct Lands Study: There were 20 responses to the RFQ for the preliminary study of viaduct lands. Ron anticipates that a half dozen proposals are likely to come out of this group. These will be evaluated and interviews will be conducted if necessary. Ron will be looking for help in reviewing the proposals.
 6. Emergency Planning: An effort to organize the community around emergency planning has been presented to the Belltown Community Council and will be presented to the Belltown Business Association. There is a need for more business volunteers to participate in this effort.
 7. Events: Plymouth Housing will have an open house event on May 13 (this was later cancelled). There will be another Bell Street Park update meeting on May 19.
 8. Seattle Center: Ron wrote letters to Councilmembers Bagshaw and Goddin about the proposed Chihuly development in the Seattle Center. It appears that the City will be going out with RFPs on development of this area.
 9. Olympic Sculpture Park/Selig: There is no update on this at present. Ron doesn't expect significant change.
 10. Third and Cedar: Ron called attention to Lydia Heard's recent article in the PI's Belltown Blog. Ron will be writing a letter on this development and will send out a draft to the committee.
 11. Grant Requests: BCC has submitted a grant request for the renovation and restoration of Regrade ("Dog") Park. A grant request for refurbishment and painting of the cottages next to the P-Patch has been submitted to the City. A grant application has been submitted for artwork on the Bell Street Parkway that will be provided as part of the design.
 12. Next Meeting. Councilmember Sally Clark will be attending the June meeting. The subject of a new meeting place was discussed. It looks like BHLUS will be moving from the Centennial to Plymouth Housing Group's conference room in their Third Avenue facility. This will address concerns over inclusiveness because prospective attendees may feel uncomfortable about going to a meeting in an apartment/condo conference room. As to the meeting time, it was agreed to try for 3rd Mondays from this point onward and to try to start at 5:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM. The next meeting will be 5:30 PM, Monday, June 21 at the Plymouth Housing Group conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Schuler