



## **Belltown Community Council General Meeting Minutes**

**June 8th, 2016.**

**Belltown Community Center, 415, Bell Street, Seattle, WA. 98121.**

Meeting called to order by Dean McColgan, President. He appreciates everyone's involvement and the attendance numbers are continuing to grow.

### **Introductions:**

Dean McColgan, President; Keith Kentop, Vice President; Liam Hallihan, Non-officer position 1; Terique Smith, Non-officer position 3; Tracy Roberts, Secretary; David Levinson, Non-officer position 2.

Dean: For elections, By-laws indicate you have to attend 4 meetings, including tonight, in order to be able to vote.

Minutes approved. [www.belltowncc.org](http://www.belltowncc.org)

### **Announcements:**

#### **Calvin Goings:**

Representatives from SDOT were here at last month's meeting. Due to concerns raised about the bike lanes extension along 2nd Avenue, SDOT have scheduled a walk and talk on Tuesday 6/14/16 from 5-6pm. Meet at Bedlam Coffee on 2nd Ave and Bell St.

[http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/2ndavepbl\\_belltown.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/2ndavepbl_belltown.htm). RSVP by emailing [ccbike@seattle.gov](mailto:ccbike@seattle.gov)

#### **David:**

\* Tomorrow from 1230 - 1830 there is a Blood drive here at the Community Center. Number of people who have signed up are low and we need more.

\* Thanks for attending the Alley Gallery Art meeting earlier. On 7/8/16, during First Friday Artwalk, you can see the results about what happened tonight.

#### **Keith:**

\* Seattle Pride Parade is on 6/26/16, starting at 11am, along 4th Avenue.

<http://seattlepride.org/events/parade/route/>

\* Seattle Rock 'n Roll marathon and half marathon is on 6/18/16. The route will be a little different this year.

<http://www.runrocknroll.com/seattle/>

<http://cdn.runrocknroll.com/wp-content/sites/17/2015/04/SEA-Road-Closure-Grid-Final5.pdf>

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Dean:

Starting this Friday will be Art Activation in Bell street. There will be lots of activities, including music in the evening.

**Elections:**

Dean: Vice President, Treasurer and Non-officer #2 position are available. Those elected are involved with issues that affect us and are driven by those who live in Belltown. Will read out the list of nominations and then ask for any other nominations from the floor.

Vice President - Keith Kentop

Treasurer - Evan Clifthorne

Non-officer position 2 - David Levinson

Other nominations from the floor?

Gabe Nelson nominated himself. He has recently moved to Seattle, 3 1/2 weeks. A renter in the community and from Minneapolis. He was a board member there as well as holding positions as Treasurer and Secretary. He is hoping that the council opens up more positions on it's board.

Dean closed nominations and this was approved.

Keith Kentop:

He has been in Belltown since 2008. He met Daryl Bunce who started PBR, picking up trash in Belltown. He met with Ann Marie Hitchcock too. He realised that he could make a difference. It's a small enough area to make a difference. Elizabeth Campbell has taught him a lot, as well as other board members. He's more community minded.

No questions from the floor.

Evan Clifthorne:

He's running for Treasurer. He lives in the Charlesgate Apartments building and has been here for a couple of years. He has a background in public policy and worked with State Legislative. He's currently working on a project in Belltown. He's on the Executive Board for local Democrats and has served as a treasurer previously. No questions from the floor.

David Levinson:

Running for non-officer position. Wants to serve on the council, work on ideas. He likes and wants to serve the community.

No questions from the floor.

No-one running is unopposed, so will move a motion approve candidates for the positions. All I's, no nays. All positions filled.

**Speakers: Laura Jenkins and Hilary Nichols, Find It Fix It Program Coordinators:**

The Mayor, Ed Murray and public directors will be on the walk. The route is made up based on community input. The plan is to talk as the route is being walked. The Find It Fix It walks were started in 2014 and it's now in it's 3rd year. At the end of the walk, there's the opportunity to apply for a Community Project Grant. Each neighborhood gets up to \$5000 for a project. There have been murals, garden improvements in the past. The walk is on June 28th. There will be refreshments at 5.30pm at the Belltown Community Center and the walk will start at 6pm.

**Q:** Where will the route be and where can it be accessed?

**A:** There will be a walk action team. Will get contact details to people who want to be involved in the walk route.

It's rare to get the Mayor and all department directors, Chief of Police and the Fire Department together. This is an opportunity to walk and talk with them. We want to design what we want the Mayor to see. The fastest way to do this is by the Input Survey. A tour was taken recently with Laurie Ames and a handout given out shows a list of things that need addressing in the community. Everyone was invited to take 5 minutes to put a check mark in the boxes against issues addressed by Laurie and if there were any other issues, to write them in. The second part of the form is contact information, additional meetings that will be held and information about help with community grants. The handouts were then collected.

The walk will be about 1 mile and will take 1.5 hours, from 6p - 7.30p. This allows for accessibility by keeping it at or less than 1 mile.

The Find It Fix It app is available for iphone and android use. You can report graffiti, trash among others for example. It's easy to do. Take a picture, use the phone location or add it, give a brief description and send it. You can report on public and private property. If it's a private property, the owners are given notice and can take a little longer to address the issue. Public property has a quicker response rate. We will be using the app on the walk and there will be people to help you download it and use it if you've not already done it. The app is not available for Windows.

Finance and Administration services run the app. If anyone needs to talk, business cards are available here. Please promote this walk. We want it to be a family event, a community event.

**Matthew Lynch, Manager, Street Bean Company:**

Matt is part of a local Non-Profit. He moved here in November from L.A. He's dedicated to provide job training to homeless youth in Belltown. New Horizons is a bigger organization that supports them. Street Bean provides life skills to kids, soft skills, like time keeping and customer service. They are located at: 2711 3rd Avenue, Seattle, 98121.

<http://streetbeanesspresso.org/>

**Speaker: Noel Frame, State Representative:**

Noel was appointed 5 months ago by the King County Council as there was a vacancy mid-term. She stands for election this fall to serve the last month. She's running unopposed so she can do her job rather than campaigning. She's getting out to Community Councils. She has 3 major priorities:

**1. Comprehensive Tax Reform.**

Need to fund education next year and tired of cutting funding for it. State funding has been cut in half, families can't afford to go to U.W as charges have gone up. She's advocated for income tax reform, reforming B & O (Business and Occupation) which is hard on small businesses. There are 650 tax exemptions attached to it. Small businesses are being taxed high and Boeing Company isn't.

**Q:** About tax reform when it comes to freelancing. Don't start paying until >\$100,000.

**A:** Committed to principles. Don't hit with B & O and income tax. We pay 16%. Large corporations pay about 5%. Need to invest in SBO (Small Business Owners).

**Q:** Belltown is one of the densist SBO's and we don't have a voice. Thoughts of how to address discrepancy of representation.

**A:** Large corporations are represented more. The same people who represented SBOs, also represented Walmart on the minimum wage issue. Small businesses file in multiple areas, taxes are really hard.

A study is to be done to see how to tax. The city is worried about enforcement.

**Q:** As a bookkeeper, taxes are different. Selling food, law services, gadgets, etc, all different. Can't really call them SBO.

**A:** 43 states have income tax. We don't and we need reform.

**Q:** Is Amazon getting an unfair deal?

**A:** She doesn't know.

**Q:** The big corporations in Seattle are high tech.

**A:** She needs to check that out, doesn't know.

Since tax breaks have been given, there have been a lot of lay offs at Boeing.

Film industry. There's incentives given to the film industry. It's given tax breaks as it generates money in the state. The film industry has to spend the money before the remit to get some back. She is not supporting an increase in funding as the city needs to cover cuts to education next year.

British Columbia has a higher cap and a government funded film program as well as in Oregon.

We used to be 16th for tax burden, now we are 33rd.

She has a district office on Westlake. There are legislative assistants there. She tends to do meetings in coffee shops.

**2. Increasing access to American dream.**

Income equality is bad in this country. There's student loan debt, people are putting off buying homes, starting families, filing bankruptcy earlier and have medical bills. In today's economy you need a 1 year certificate or degrees. Maybe we should include post High School promise proposal, offering 2 years of free tuition to give

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people a better start. If you are from low income families, let's tell the 8th graders, 'college bound', if you maintain a certain grade or above you can go to college and it's paid. Need bold ideas to change inequality.

3. When transferring documents between schools if someone has a disability, there's barriers to go through. School can be delayed by weeks. Reduce barriers of race, color and disability.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken by Tracy Roberts, Secretary, BCC.