

**Belltown Community Council  
General Meeting  
Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

**I. Call to Order**

President Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

**II. Neighborhood Reports**

**LEAD - John Hage, Defenders Association**

The program has been going since October. Another program will also be started in Skyway.

So far 27 people have been referred to the program. There are currently 15 people active in the program.

This is a pilot program that will run for 2 years, and is the first program of its kind in the nation.

Question: What happened to other 12?

They are not participating in the program for one reason or another. They could have been screened out by the intake process, or they could have dropped out of the program.

Question: What kind of programs are offered?

There are various programs for chemical addiction. Homeless clients are put up in inexpensive hotel rooms.

**Belltown Citizens on Patrol - Keith Kentop**

Walks this month will be Tuesdays at 7 PM. Walks in March will be Wednesdays at 7 PM.

After many months of effort, the "See It Say It" program is underway. Posters are available to place in storefronts and residential lobbies. It encourages people to call 911 if "you see a situation that does or could pose a danger to life or property; requires immediate response of an officer; or suspicious activity involving a person or vehicle that appears to have criminal intent."

The areas that have the most 911 calls get the most attention and manpower from the SPD.

Sgt. Paul Gracy also brought pamphlets with more details about crime prevention.

Keith was interviewed by KOMO about this program, and has already been contacted by other neighborhood groups.

The FedEx Office at 4th & Cedar donated printing.

Next Tuesday BCOP will be going around talking to businesses about putting up these posters.

**NATS - Christa Dumpys, Department of Neighborhoods**

There will be new LED streetlights installed on 2nd & 3rd in April.

SDOT has finished trimming all the trees that had been blocking streetlights.

SPD is doing early-morning emphasis patrols, and 911 calls are down about 25% since that started.

**Sgt. Gracy -**

Capt. Kessler has authorized additional nightlife patrols.

Every officer generally has 3-4 calls on their list at any one time, and so cannot respond to calls about drug activity immediately, but they will respond eventually.

Copper Cart - SPD met with owners and security personnel and asked them to draw up security plan. The Liquor Control Board is also investigating the club, and other local bar owners are putting pressure on the owner. The City is keeping them "on a short leash."

Question about increase in people carrying firearms: "Gang members are bad at following the rules." They will often leave guns in cars since they may be patted down to gain admittance to the club, but will retrieve them after leaving to continue arguments started in the club. Washington State law requires a permit to carry a concealed weapon, but the Constitution protects the right to open-carry.

#### Disaster Planning Committee -

The grant proposal was denied, but they are making another grant proposal for March. They have a meeting with City employees about the grant proposal tomorrow morning.

#### BHLUS - Lydia Heard

Several people are interested in restarting the Belltown Housing and Land Use Subcommittee as part of the BCC. There will be some land available at the west portal of the Battery Street Tunnel after the Viaduct comes down. There are some ideas for a "Belltown Overlook", and this site would also be a possible location for the community center if the current location is lost at the end of the lease. BHLUS also generally attends design reviews to ensure new projects comply with the Neighborhood Plan.

#### Belltown P-Patch - Elizabeth Campbell

Volunteers will be needed to finish painting the cottages as soon as weather allows. She has already heard remarks that the restored cottages have brightened up the area.

#### Sustainable Belltown - Elizabeth Campbell

This group, which focuses on environmental and sustainability issues, may want to become part of BCC.

#### Belltown Local - Michelle Hippler

Michelle is a marketing consultant by trade, and is starting an online newsletter specifically focusing on Belltown to market local businesses. Her Intent is to build a great email list of people who live, work, and play in Belltown. If you have any ideas, send her email at [mhippler@belltownlocal.com](mailto:mhippler@belltownlocal.com).

#### III. Belltown Community Center - Suzanne Rockwell, Seattle Parks & Recreation

The old Zum building at 5th & Bell has been leased. The gray paint on the exterior will be removed, showing the underlying brick. There will be seismic improvements made to the interior. The main entrance will be moved to Bell Street, and the 5th Avenue entrance will be kept locked. There will be a catering kitchen, one large room and two smaller rooms.

The project was approved in Community Center Levy in 1999. \$1.8 million was allocated at the time. The City originally wanted a condominium interest in a larger building, but ended up leasing. The City Council has approved the lease.

How to justify opening new center when reducing hours at other centers?

Parks is working with partners: Associated Recreation Council, which has had a long partnership with Parks, and also the Y, which operates the center in Magnuson Park and is now operating the Cascade People's Center.

There will be a dedicated desk for the police, but it won't be staffed on regular basis.

The Associated Recreation Council is a non-profit, and runs a wide portfolio of programs

including everything from yoga to rowing & sailing to Japanese gardening. No decisions on programming have been made yet, and they are very interested in input from the community.

Question: how can you have two operators?

Neither operator has enough resources to operate the center by themselves. The intent is to have the two operators cooperate seamlessly.

Question from Elizabeth: Would it be possible to utilize local talent to provide programming?

Absolutely. Parks is always looking for providers from local community.

There is 1% allocated for art. A local artist has been selected, and the piece will be movable in case the community center has to move from this location when the lease is up.

#### IV. Announcements

The Belltown Business Association is hosting a town hall meeting with Mayor Mike McGinn Friday at 5 PM at the Millionair Club, 2515 Western Ave.

#### IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.