

Belltown Community Council
Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Minutes

1. Call to Order
President Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.
2. Welcome everyone to the new Belltown Community Center!
3. Approval of Minutes
The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Bell Street Park - Patrick Donohue, Department of Parks and Recreation
 - a. The project started in July 2009.
 - b. The park will stretch from one building face to the other. There will be no curb, but there will be a marked, dedicated travel lane. Parking on the north side will be removed.
 - c. There will be 5 full-height streetlights and 10 pedestrian-scale lights per block. All will be LEDs.
 - d. The project has been under a long and arduous process to receive a permit from SDOT, but they hope to go to bid in November and start construction by the end of the year.
 - e. The construction will be done on one block at a time. The avenues will not be modified. The building currently under construction at 2nd & Bell may have an impact on scheduling.
 - f. The budget is currently \$3.5 million, but that may increase.
 - g. There was a question from the floor on the length of the construction. The total project will require 180 working days, 45 on each block.
 - h. There was a question from the floor as to whether there was a website for the project. There is a page on the Parks Department website.
 - i. There was a question from the floor as to what would happen on Bell west of 1st Avenue. Those blocks are out of scope for the current project. However, a recommendation has been made to extend the park to Elliott as part of the waterfront redesign.
 - j. There was a question from the floor as to the impact on the dog park. No major changes will be made. But it's possible the current wooden wall that holds the pea gravel will be replaced with concrete, and that a more substantial entryway be constructed.
 - k. There was a question from the floor as to the impact on the trees. All street trees on Bell will be removed and replaced. The total number of trees will double.
 - l. There was a question from the floor as to whether tables and chairs would be provided. Yes, there is a \$25,000 budget for trash cans and flexible seating. Accommodations were made in the design so that existing restaurants on Bell Street can open sidewalk cafes.
 - m. There was a question from the floor about whether park rangers would patrol this park. Yes, the Bell Street Park will be added to the rotation, but no rangers will be stationed there on a regular basis.
 - n. There was a question from the floor about surveillance cameras. No cameras will be installed. This was tried in Cal Anderson Park, but it proved ineffective and the cameras were removed.
 - o. There was a question from the floor about undesirable characters loitering at the park. Experience from previous projects suggests building a space where people want to be deters bad behavior.

- p. There was a question from the floor about upkeep. There is a budget under the Parks operating budget for upkeep. Parks employees will regularly clean and maintain the park.
 - q. There was a question from the floor as to whether the park would have a curfew. This is a subject currently under discussion. It will probably not have the same curfew as other parks.
 - r. There was a question from the floor about programming. There will be a programming plan under the same manager as the other downtown parks. Food trucks and farmers markets are two options that have been discussed.
- s.
- 5. Belltown Community Center - Trevor Gregg, Department of Parks and Recreation
 - a. Maintenance staff for the community center will be responsible for a 50-foot radius around the building.
 - b. There will be an advisory council of community members to help steer programming and funding.
 - c. Currently the center will only be open 25 hours a week: 9 AM - 2 PM Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and 3 PM - 8 PM Wednesday and Friday. Closed Sunday and Monday/
 - d. There was a question from the floor: when will the programming calendar be available? The programming calendar should be available by Friday. Parks wants to have community meetings about what programs should be available. They currently have lunchtime fitness classes, a divorce workshop, Zumba, aerobics, karate, and toytown. This center is 100% cost-recovery.
 - e. There was a question about volunteers. They would like to have volunteers work at the center, but currently Parks policies prevent it due to cash-handling and union issues.
 - f. There was a question from the floor about community center involvement in emergency preparedness. Parks would be very happy to work with the emergency preparedness group.
 - g. There was a question about having a library annex at the center. Parks is willing to discuss the possibility with the Seattle Public Library.
- 6. Tara Connor - Plymouth Housing
 - a. Plymouth Housing will be building a new facility at 3rd & Virginia. Currently Compass Alliance has a day center there. They are leaving the neighborhood and Plymouth is buying the building. They are doing something different with this building. This is for people who are moving out of "supportive housing."
 - b. It will be a 7-story building with 65 subsidized apartments. There will be a screening process that only accepts people who have been good tenants and have a good track record.
 - c. There was a question from the floor asking how it would be different from 100 Cedar. 100 Cedar was a homeless project. Plymouth recognizes they made a tremendous mistake building so close to residential building. This is not a homeless buliding.
 - d. There was a question from the floor about the criteria for tenants. They must make under 30% of Area Median Income. They must pass a criminal background check.
 - e. There was a question from the floor on staffing, surveillance, and commercial space. There will not be front-desk staff, but there will be staff on site for emergencies. The building will have surveillance cameras. Commercial space will be included on the ground floor.
- 7. Tarsi Hall - City University

- a. City University of Seattle was in Bellevue, but is now moving into Belltown at 6th & Wall. It is a private, not-for-profit university.
- b. They will be having a grand opening in January. They will have food trucks tomorrow.
- c. There was a question from the floor as to what type of programs City University offers. They offer bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees as well as certificates.

8. Jon Scholes - Downtown Seattle Association

- a. The DSA is working with Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle to understand the need and feasibility of a downtown elementary school, either K-8 or K-5. Between 2007 and 2011 downtown enrollment grew 20%.
- b. John Hay Elementary on Queen Anne is at 120% of capacity, and Bailey Gatzert in the ID is at 140%.
- c. The School Board is readying a capital levy for the February ballot. They will be finalizing items in the levy in November.
- d. City University has been very interested in locating in same building as a new school.
- e. The School Board and the City need to keep hearing from members of the community.

9. John Loker - Kroll Maps, Social Justice Committee of First Methodist First United Methodist Church operates a food program on Sundays and is looking for volunteers. Contact the church office if interested.

10. Eric Likkel
There will be an Asset Based Community Development training on September 29.
Register online at <http://www.belltowncc.org>.

11. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.