

**Belltown Community Council
General Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2013**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

3. News Article

There was a recent news article about certain alleys in Belltown. There are efforts underway to improve the safety and security of these alleys.

4. Patrick Donohue, Seattle Parks & Recreation

- a. Every alley entrance on Bell Street will be renovated up to the face of the building with new drainage and improved lighting.
- b. They anticipate starting construction of the Bell Street Park Boulevard in March.

5. Introductions

President Campbell introduced Seattle City Councilmembers Sally Bagshaw and Tim Burgess.

6. LEAD – Lisa Daugard

- a. LEAD is Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion.
- b. The City Attorney, Mayor's office, Council + King County Prosecutor, King County Sheriff, Executive, Council, Department of Corrections, Defender Association, ACLU, DSA all collaborate on this project.
- c. There is also a Community Advisory Board.
- d. LEAD is privately funded and an innovative way of dealing with low-level drug crime and prostitution.
- e. LEAD's clients have been through the criminal justice system several times, but it has not been effective in changing their behavior. LEAD instead provides them with services to help them get their lives on the right track.
- f. Police still apprehend offenders, but those who are eligible and choose to accept an offer of help immediately seek a case manager who sets them up with their immediate needs and creates an individual intervention plan, targeted to the individual's needs and motivations.
- g. This approach reduces both the impact to the community and harm to the person.
- h. Funding came from the Ford Foundation and other private foundations.
- i. This program is only serving offenders in Belltown.
- j. This program grew out of a 2008 meeting at the Labor Temple with more than 150 people in attendance. People were frustrated with the amount of drug activity in the neighborhood. LEAD was presented as a possible solution.

- k. Belltown Community Council was supportive of the program.
 - l. The goal of the program is to reduce the criminal involvement of the individuals who participate.
 - m. If this program is not working for the Belltown community, it can end.
 - n. Initially, they did not know how much services would cost. They currently have about 80 people in the program, and have determined they have the resources to expand to about 200.
- 7. Ian McHugh, deputy chief of staff for Dan Satterberg, King County Prosecutor
 - a. Ian started in the prosecutor's office in 1999, prosecuting drug cases.
 - b. He prosecuted hundreds of those cases – “Like shooting fish in a barrel”
 - c. In 1990s, the Legislature ramped up sentencing of minor drug crimes: 2 years on first offense, 4-5 on second, 10 on third, 15-20 for fourth
 - d. But there was still drug dealing in Belltown despite tough sentences.
 - e. Satterberg came to him 4 years ago and asked him to work on LEAD. Why? At time motivation was litigation over the constitutionality of drug prosecutions over racial bias.
 - f. Is there something different we can try? Tough sentences were preventing those individuals from engaging in crime, but not solving the overall problem. Weren't sure if LEAD will solve the overall problem, but wanted to try.
 - g. 86 individuals have been referred. Started small. Set reasonable expectations of preventing those in the program from engaging in crime. Why shouldn't goal be to reduce overall activity? It's too small at this stage to make significant difference.
 - h. Starting in 2003, the Legislature slashed drug sentences. 0-6 months for first offense. They used to have active probation. Don't have that anymore. The crime lab also doesn't have resources to test for drugs. Most sentences cut in half to save money. Also no longer have drug unit in Prosecutor's Office since 2009 cut of deputy prosecutors.
 - i. What happened in Times Square? Giuliani identified 200 people chronically causing problems. Assigned resources to intensively manage those 200 individuals.
- 8. Seattle Police Lt. Deanna Noette
 - a. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.
 - b. The previous catch-and-release wasn't working for anybody.
 - c. This program has not changed law enforcement. Still have cops out doing the same work, buy-busts, surveillance, etc.
 - d. The only difference is after they are arrested and taken to precinct for evaluation.
 - e. The police are doing more than they have ever done in narcotics enforcement.
 - f. Before LEAD, the only option was taking offenders to King County Jail, where they would be released within 24-48 hours.
 - g. The philosophy behind this program is to treat addiction more as a public health issue than criminal justice issue.
 - h. They hope to see less recidivism and street-level crime.

- i. Keeping people out of jail also saves money.
- 9. Ron Jackson – Evergreen Treatment Services
 - a. Evergreen handles the case management for LEAD.
 - b. They work interactively with police who hand off offenders to Evergreen
 - c. Every two weeks prosecutors, police, and case managers get together to discuss cases.
 - d. It's a process – don't relocate everyone, meet them where they are
 - e. Kathy:
 - i. 86 referrals, 52% men, 48% women
 - ii. 66% African-American, 24% white, 1-3% other
 - iii. 70 arrest diversions, 16 social contact referrals
 - iv. 76 actively engaged
 - v. 50% housed
 - vi. 13 have gone into sober/transitional housing
 - vii. 8 in permanent housing
 - viii. 10 in motels as a transitional measure
 - ix. 42% have engaged in chemical dependency, 40% of those are on methadone
 - x. 5 employed, 12 have become employed or gone into job training
 - xi. In one instance a 45-year-old man was addicted to crack, living on streets for many years, and in and out of shelters and treatment programs. He did not feel was LEAD was worth his time, but the case manager was very persistent. He went through an inpatient drug treatment program and now is in housing and employed.
 - xii. In another case a woman was successful until she got addicted to crack. She went through drug treatment and into housing, and got a job. Unfortunately, she relapsed. She didn't go back to clean and sober housing and was back on the streets. She avoided her case manager for a while, but has finally come back and wants to make another attempt to get clean.
 - xiii. Question: what about the “frequent fliers”? Are they participants in LEAD? Yes, some of those individuals are in LEAD through social contact referrals. Now that they have determined have the resources to expand the program, they have compiled a new, prioritized list of individuals who police have identified.
 - xiv. If you know of someone who may be eligible for the program, contact Lt. Nolette.
 - xv. Question: What's the timeframe for evaluation of success? 2-4 years.
 - xvi. Question: What is the purpose of “green light” nights. This is necessary to have a control for statistical analysis of the results of the program.
 - xvii. Question: have there been any incidents where someone asked to be a part of the program? Yes, it happens all the time.

10. Announcements

- a. The Belltown Community Center now has “Imagination Playstation” thanks to Parks and the Downtown Seattle Association.
- b. Petitions have been sent to apartment managers and HOA boards in Belltown asking for their support of the expansion of the Metropolitan Improvement District to include Belltown. If approved, it will bring street cleaning, graffiti removal, extra police patrols and homeless outreach to Belltown. An ambassador would also be stationed in the Bell Street Park.
- c. WestPAC - Dean McColgan
 - i. The West Precinct Advisory Council meets monthly to discuss issues in the West Precinct.
 - ii. There is a privately-funded program under consideration to put up memorial signs where police and firefighters have died in the line of duty. If approved, there would be signs for two police officers and three firefighters in Belltown.
 - iii. The police stepped up patrols during the holiday season and achieved an 18% reduction in incidents over last year.
 - iv. The police are preparing to hold a gun buyback.
- d. Tarsi Hall – City University of Seattle
City University’s Grand Opening at 6th and Wall is on the 25th. Tom Douglas Catering will provide hors d’oeuvres and the Mayor will make some remarks.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.