

**Belltown Community Council
General Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2013**

Minutes

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. Approval of the Minutes
The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
3. Neighborhood Reports
 - a. BCOP - Gina Alexander
 - i. BCOP has been trying to get access to the community center to retrieve their equipment box for walks, but has so far not had any success with Parks.
 - ii. Elizabeth will follow up with Parks.
 - b. BHLUS
 - i. Met last week along with Friends of Belltown Gardens to review plans and variance requests for the new apartment building to be constructed at Western and Vine.
 - c. WestPAC - Dean McColgan
 - i. As part of Center City Initiative, an outreach subcommittee has been formed and is gathering information on services provided to the homeless.
 - d. Younger City Floral - Karen Younger
 - i. Approached by Elizabeth about marketing the community center for events
 - ii. On February 26th will stage the community center for a photo shoot and make a brochure
 - iii. Community center has a good layout, but it requires imagination to see how it could work for weddings and other events
 - iv. There are some unanswered questions regarding regulations - e.g. can you have candles on tables?
 - v. There was a suggestion of giving the names in the community center more creative names.
 - e. Asset Based Community Development Training - Eric Likkel
 - i. This has been in the works for a while, and has been scheduled for March 9.
 - ii. City University is donating the use of their facilities at 521 Wall Street.
 - iii. Jim Diers will be the trainer. Asset Based Community Development focuses on collaboration, building relationships, seeing the neighborhood through the lens of what skills and resources are available in the community, and what it means to be a neighbor.
 - iv. Registration is online. Looking to have about 40 people.
4. MID Expansion - Jim Miller and Brian Scott
 - a. The Metropolitan Improvement District is a service district that provides cleaning, security, and marketing services.
 - b. It was created by the City Council at the request of property owners. It is governed by a ratepayers board composed of those property owners. Started in 1999, it covers most of downtown but excludes almost all of Belltown.
 - c. The MID is up for renewal, and as part of the renewal they want to include

Belltown.

- d. They need 60% of owners throughout the district to sign a petition in favor of renewal, which has been achieved. However, they would like to sign on as many property owners as possible. If you live in a residential condo building, Brian would love to talk to your HOA board and get them to sign on if they have not already.
 - e. Jim offered the Millionair Club for meetings if access issues for the community center persist.
 - f. Jim takes the bus in from Renton most days, and in downtown the streets are clean and there are ambassadors. But past Lenora there is trash on the streets and open-air drug dealing.
 - g. For the past two years Jim has sent Millionair Club clients out to clean streets in Belltown, at a cost of \$20,000 a year.
 - h. For the cost of a couple cups of coffee a month, Belltown can join the MID and get cleaning, security, marketing and hospitality services.
 - i. There is an opt-out clause that would allow Belltown to exit the MID if we feel we are not getting the services we're paying for, but Jim is confident that we will.
 - j. The renewal will go before the City Council in March, and public meetings will be held. It would be good to have members of the community come to these meetings and speak in favor of the expansion.
5. Tom Graff
- a. The current designs for the waterfront have some dubious proposals.
 - b. The city wants to sell a 6000-square-foot parcel at Blanchard and Western for development. Tom does not believe it is large enough to be useful, and that it should be kept under public ownership.
 - c. The current planning doesn't include Broad Street or acknowledge the Vine Street Green Street.
 - d. Tom asked for and received BCC support for a letter to the city stating these objections. SDOT is asking for such a letter, and Tom feels that if Belltown doesn't speak with a unified voice on these issues, James Corner out of New York will end up making decisions for Belltown.
6. Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.