

**Belltown Community Council
General Meeting
Wednesday, March 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. Belltown Citizens on Patrol - Gina Alexander

BCOP has been dormant the last two months. They still have not been able to get access to the community center for their walks. They're going to consider moving the starting point back to Seattle Heights.

b. Asset-Based Community Development - Elizabeth Campbell

The ABCD training was held on March 9th. Lots of good ideas were generated, including to get volunteers to help staff the community center. This is possible but requires process.

4. Announcement - Elizabeth Campbell

Many Belltowners received another mass mailing from the "Downtown Neighbors Alliance," a small group of people with a lot of money. What the mailing says is not true. Elizabeth presented a map, made by Kroll Maps, of actual service provider locations. There have been 3 meetings on this topic already.

5. Metropolitan Improvement District Expansion - Brian Scott

a. Not a lot of news to report, but the expansion is moving closer to fruition.

b. The MID was created in 1999. The proposal is to renew the MID for another 10 years and to expand it to include Belltown. The requirement is to have a petition from ratepayers representing 60% of the total assessments within the new area. They currently have about 65%.

c. The renewal bill will be introduced in City Council next week. It will be considered Wednesday morning at the Government Performance and Finance Committee. It will then go to Full Council which will pass a resolution to call a public meeting.

d. If approved, services would begin July 1.

e. Question: what could derail this? It is possible Belltown property owners could fight it. 75% of the current MID has signed the petition, but only 35% of the area of Belltown to be annexed.

6. Ballard High Capacity Transit Study - Karen Waterman, Sound Transit; Michael James, Seattle Department of Transportation; and Rebecca Deehr, Office of Mayor Mike McGinn

a. The City of Seattle and Sound Transit are working together on a study looking at rail options between Ballard and Downtown. Study area includes a wide area that goes up to 85th and includes Queen Anne, Fremont and Interbay.

b. Seattle already looked at part of it as part of Transit Master Plan update. One of

the corridors with most potential was up Westlake to Fremont and on to Ballard. Sound Transit is doing a good job connecting the region.

- c. Sound Transit will be looking at light rail, Seattle looking at “rapid streetcar” which would be faster than South Lake Union streetcar – wider stop spacing, some exclusive lanes, and more signal priority.
 - d. Only money for the study, none for design or construction. However, Seattle is committed to moving forward on streetcar projects, and Sound Transit board has ordered staff to put together a package for a potential public vote in 2016.
 - e. Question: what about Queen Anne? It is part of the study area and hasn’t been ruled in or out.
 - f. The Sound Transit Board is very interested in going to the ballot in 2016. All of the corridor studies approved in Sound Transit 2 have been moved up to this year.
 - g. There is a survey at soundtransit.org/ballardstudy that will be open until Friday.
 - h. The draft report should be released around the end of the year.
 - i. Question: why not just fix RapidRide? It’s important to fix the problems with RapidRide in the short term. This study is looking at a longer timeframe. This study is the City and Sound Transit, RapidRide is Metro.
7. Walton Lofts
The Schuster Group representative was not able to attend tonight.
8. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.