

Belltown Community Council meeting minutes

April 8th, 2015

Belltown Community Center, 415 Bell Street, Seattle, WA. 98121

Meeting called to order by Keith Kentop, Council board member: Marketing and Branding.

Minutes for March, 2015 meeting were approved.

A huge thank you to Belltown Insurance Group, commonly known as BIG, for providing the food this evening.

<http://bigseattle.com>

Announcements and Neighborhood reports:

Continuing to work with Block 21. No new improvements.

Reminder that PBR group meets every Sunday at 3pm outside the Rabbit Hole bar on 2nd Ave between Blanchard and Bell Streets on the east side of the street. Bags and gloves are provided and the group removes trash for an hour. Look for Daryl Bunce who runs it.

Zhanna Kachurina is working with the SPD to help implement micro community policing plan, based out of the West Precinct. She can be contacted at: Zhanna.Kachurina@seattle.gov.

Liam Hallihan, Belltown Council Board member announced Slide the City is coming to Seattle this year. There are different sites proposed. Will follow up next month. www.slidethecity.com

Laurie Ames, Neighborhood District Coordinator, announced Spring Clean is happening April - the end of May. It provides opportunities for residents to keep the city tidy. For more information, please contact the Spring Clean hotline at (206) 233-7187.

Also, announcing the People's Academy for community engagement (PACE). It is a year long civic leadership program dedicated to teaching hands on engagement and empowerment skills to emerging leaders in a multicultural environment. You will learn how to work with city government. The 2015-16 PACE Application deadline is May 29, 2015 at 5 p.m. <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/peoples-academy-for-community-engagement>

Board Reports:

Elections: President, secretary and two non-officer member positions are available. Need names putting forward. Also need people to sign up for the nomination committee.

The community asked that all buses be re-routed off Bell Street. Signs were posted, instructing traffic other than buses to turn off Bell street and not use it as a through street. This was observed for 3 months. Victor Obeso (King Co. Metro) and Dongho Chang, City Traffic Engineer (SDOT) are here to present.

Speaker: Victor Obeso, Dept Manager for King County Metro):

Regarding Bell Street traffic through the park area from 1st Ave to 5th Ave. SDOT worked with the community following a request to re-route the buses. They removed a third of the through buses from the Bell St route and put them on Lenora. This equates to about 200 trips during peak times, carrying about 5,000 people (the average being about 25 cars/bus). There was a request 4 weeks ago to remove all buses from going through Bell St, June to August from 6pm Friday to early Monday morning. Buses will most probably be re-routed through Lenora. Streets would be open to cars but no parking signs put out. This would be a trial.

There are usually changes to services about 3 times/year. Since February, buses going through Lenora are taking 30 seconds longer than through Bell St path (average time). Services on Bell St are operating 20 seconds quicker from 6th Ave and Bell St to 3rd and Bell St.

Metro buses operates 7,000 buses through downtown daily.

Speaker: Dongho Chang, City Traffic Engineer (SDOT):

Seattle is the fastest growing in the nation, with 11% increase in population, 40% increase in need for transportation. 27% of the city are streets. We have to be good stewards and think about doing multiple things with streets.

Safety: Seattle is the 2nd safest city for pedestrians and cyclists.

In 2009, there was a ordinance dedicated portion to parks (multiple purpose).

Before Bell St park construction, there were 4900 cars on Bell Street. After construction, the number of cars decreased to 2500.

Feedback since the changes show decreased speed and volume of cars. Turning restrictions were added for through traffic. Car volume has decreased by 13% since the turn changes were implemented.

The Park was opened in March and Dedicated in April 2014 and there have been no collisions on the street in the last year.

As residency increases, there's a need to look at how we use the park and park spaces.

It's been noted that there needs to be more clarity about turning suggestions.

There has been a lot of positive changes. The Neighborhood Greenway goal is 1500 cars/week through Bell St. Right now there are 2,000 cars/week. Also looking at 20mph. Would appreciate feedback.

Questions from residents:

- Problems with buses running lights - Advised to write down bus number, time and contact Metro.
- Dongho addressed questions about signals and signs. All-way walk intersection like the one close to Pike Place market may not work as the intersection's so short but will look into it.
- Dongho explained the Bell St park is supposed to be used as a park where cars and pedestrians use the space openly, but residents have explained that SPD will give jay walking tickets if you cross anywhere other than the crosswalks. This needs to be addressed, clarified as residents want a legal right to cross the street.
- A resident took a photograph of cars blocking buses on Bell St.
- Questions were raised whether you can close streets down, including alleyways for the weekends, to provide park space.
- A resident asked if there could be signs for the bus tunnel.
- Thanks were given for the follow up.

Amanda Bailey (Programming and Management for Parks Dept.):

Bell Street Park Art and Activation Plan. Volunteers are needed to sign up to lead or help with projects so that they can move forward with them.

Curation process and getting artists will take time.

On Friday April 10th, 2015 in Belltown Community Center, there will be information and sign up sheets available for selected projects for the next 5 years.

Sandy Chalk (Public Realm Study):

Talked about Lake 2 Bay.

First step is to draw in community activity and ideas.

Facebook is a quick way to get ideas out. (Liz Campbell, President of Belltown Community Council has been posting information on the BCC facebook page already.)

On April 19th there is a Public Realm Exploration Walk from 3-4pm. Meet at Regrade Park, 2251 3rd Ave. Dogs are welcome. There's a public celebration afterwards at the Belltown Community Center from 4-5pm.

www.belltowndennytriangle.wordpress.com

Meeting Adjourned.

