



## **Belltown Community Council General meeting minutes**

**July 13th, 2016.**

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

Meeting called to order by Dean McColgan, President, BCC.

### **Introductions:**

Dean McColgan, President; Keith Kentop, Vice-President; Terique Scott, Non-officer position; Tracy Roberts, Secretary; Liam Hallihan, Non-officer position; Evan Clifthorne, Treasurer. David Levinson is out of town.

Dean: Thanks to El Gaucho for the incredible food tonight. Staff from the restaurant talked for a few minutes about the food that they brought tonight: Braised tenderloin sliders, salad, chocolate and baileys bread pudding.

Dean: The BCC are here to listen to everyone. If you have any concerns or issues, contact us. You can reach us at [www.belltowncc.org](http://www.belltowncc.org). Everyone was asked to sign in. El Gaucho provided 25 gift cards tonight which were handed out on sign in.

Approval of June minutes- moved, seconded, all in favor. If interested, the minutes are published on the website. We also have a facebook page where you can contact us:

<https://www.facebook.com/belltowncc/?fref=ts>

### **Speaker: Kira Zylstra, King County All Home Project.**

[www.allhomekc.org](http://www.allhomekc.org)

There have been increases of homelessness over the years. The coalition to end homelessness was formed in 2005, with a 10 year plan in place that ended in 2015. What was the 10 year plan about? 8,000 units were created and 40,000 people were housed. Despite this, they are still seeing a tremendous need.

In 2015, more than 500 stakeholders, non-profit providers, etc, had a say in how to move forward. A new 4 yr plan to address the crisis was made. There was a need to address the solution, devise a new strategic plan. The name was changed to All Home. They felt the old name, Coalition to end homelessness, wasn't reflective of what they are about. They have a vision for everyone having a home. They outlined a plan and have a new

website. The old name had six different websites. They want an easily accessible site for the community to help and be engaged in.

One Night Count: Posters given out. It is done at the same time each year. It gives them a better sense of who are homeless and their needs. A visible count was done on January 29th between 2am and 5am. 4505 people were counted on the street which is a 19% increase from last year. The numbers would have been higher, but due to a shooting in an area that they normally count in, the police would not allow them to enter.

97% in the community who are homeless are from Washington State.

87% are from King County.

Native Americans are 7 times more likely to experience homelessness.

African Americans are 5 times more likely to experience homelessness.

Core objectives for the 4 year plan:

1. Community aware.
2. Homelessness is rare, brief and a one time occurrence.
3. Community to end homelessness.

Cannot rely on affordable housing to be created to end homelessness.

Need to address root causes:

- Create opportunities to find shelter and understand why they are homeless and prevent homelessness.
- Public Health
- Criminal Justice System

Need a co-ordinated entry, a way to access housing, one place to go to. Right now, if you're homeless, you go to the DHS office, get list of shelters, make phone calls. It's a long, complicated process. With the new co-ordinated entry, it's one path. There's one waitlist for housing instead of multiple places. It's much simpler. They are in the midst of doing this. It's in place for families and young adults. They are broadening it for everyone now. They want libraries and community centers to have information available, so that they can direct someone to access services.

**Q&A, Comments:**

\* Modifying screening criteria, felonies, etc, which are barriers to housing. This is a slow process, and they are working hard to make changes in affordable housing.

\* Job Assistance Ordinance. Put measures in place that criminal history is not known about on an application. There's no box to check. It is now banned. It only comes up if it's related directly to the job. Landlords cannot use that as a reason to deny housing.

\* Comment about racial disparity.

**A:** Discrimination has been proven to happen with housing.

\* Mental Health. This is a significant issue. Washington is 47th in the nation for access to medical care. People need to be able to get housing as well as treatment.

**Q:** Is there someone helping with navigating the path?

**A:** There's 5 regional areas: One in Seattle, N.Seattle, East King County and two in the South. Assessors are there for the initial orientation. There is a housing navigator. Once the assessment is done, housing is not usually available immediately. When housing does become available, all is in place to move forward immediately.

\* Comment about banning certain behaviors in housing.

**A:** She believes everyone wants to be housed. Places aren't open 24/7, can't take pets, be with a partner. Still have barriers, need to change so that places stay open 24 hours.

**Speaker: Tom Graff, Land use zoning in Belltown.**

Very involved with the community. He gave a presentation at the historical Belltown meeting and was asked to present it here.

What are the legal boundaries of Belltown? Officially: To the north, Denny Ave, Stewart to the south, down to piers to the Edgewater, splits the Westin parking garage. It used to be called Denny regrade. In 1985, the city committed to being residential and zoning changed. Primary use (residential) hasn't changed. 5th and Bell St office building is a much lower building. Insignia at 5th and Bell, across the street, is 400ft. Primary zoning - downtown mixed residential - DMR/C.

DMR/R - Required to do residential.

DMR/C - Required to do commercial.

There are five different kinds of zoning on height.

Most buildings don't go higher than 7 stories, 85ft. (DMR)

Belltown is wrapped by 125ft zoning, the first layer around the heart of Belltown. The next zoning is 240ft, Centennial Tower, Harbor Place, 24 floor towers.

The way that zoning works is they have to have a lower rise building on the same block as the high rise.

Other zoning in Belltown is more aggressive, Escala for example. It allows you to go up to 500ft. Closer to the center of the city, not much zoning. Harborfront zoning, zoning steps down (height drops), towards the water.

DMC - 240 - 290 special zoning. Up to 40 storey building, doesn't have footprint restriction.

3rd and Lenora - Up to 400ft.

There's no code requirement, so can build without parking.

Talked about rental values, both retail and residential.

A tower can have a small footprint despite being 42 stories high.

**Q&A, Comments:**

**Q:** Question about Potala.

**A:** A judge has allowed someone to take over/bid on it.

**Q:** Question about the Maquire.

**A:** Avalon is permitting a 8 story midrise, 24 story on the block. It takes about 18 months to get a permit for towers.

**Q:** Question about the Franklin building and it's future.

**A:** Developers want to demolish, proposing a residential tower. They are now negotiating. They propose keeping the facade, gutting inside. The community want to keep the building.

**Q:** Spagetti House. Owners/developers will build a 1-2 story above the shell of it and build a 7 story where the parking lot is. It will likely happen in the next 5 years.

**A:** Vine and 2nd Ave. Will be a tower and mid-rise.

**Speaker: Cindi Barker, Belltown Emergency Preparedness Project.**

Andy Peck is here to introduce Cindi. Andy has been interested in the project and was asked about Belltown being a hub by Dean McColgan, President. He's attended meetings. He introduced Cindi.

After Nisqually earthquake, we are going to be alone for 3 days as Seattle Emergency services will be helping people elsewhere.

A hub is a place where you can go after a disaster, where people will have practised what to do in this scenario and know how to help each other. The city wants to find a place for hubs.

Queen Anne, Magnolia, other neighborhoods like these, are single family homes and have already got hubs going. Belltown is different.

If you work in a different area from where you live, you may need to go to a hub where you work. You may need help with getting someone out of a building, first aid, etc.

This is all communication down, 9.0 rupture, affecting the community, region. The National Guard will be helping on the coast. We may be alone for about 2 weeks. If we're in an area that's ok, send help to where it's needed. A hub is a public place.

Look out for each other, a couple of blocks, 2-3 floors in a building.

Come to the hub. Can they cook? How to get info. Track team/runners - send to hospital, come back and write on white board, how to get there.

10-15 hubs in the city. Walk through, matching need with help. Where in Belltown do you put a hub? A hub cannot be inside a building. A hub matches needs and resources.

You need to make plans if away from home or a child is in childcare.

Go to a hub. The hub needs to know information.

A lock for the hub needs to be accessible by all hubs.

Website: [www.seattleemergencyhub.org](http://www.seattleemergencyhub.org)

**Q&A, Comments:**

\* Every high rise building should have a plan.

\* They have monthly meetings at each hub. One person wrote the guide.

\* Dean - Home owners association should have an emergency plan in place. The association guild is very good.

\* Andy - Belltown really needs this. Twice as many people work than live here. A.M. Hitchcock and Tracy Roberts are interested in this.

\* Dean - If interested, get Andy's contact details.

Dean: There is no meeting in August. We will answer questions on the website and facebook page.

Meeting adjourned by Dean McColgan, President .

Minutes taken by Tracy Roberts, Secretary, BCC.