



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

**September 14th, 2016.**

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

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

### **Announcements:**

#### **Betty Winfield, Friends of Art on Pier 86:**

They are raising money to install temporary illuminated art. Elliott Bay was once surrounded by 300 ft cedars. They are all gone now. The plan is to project pictures of cedars onto the grain terminal. \$20,000 is needed for the project with the projector and lenses being the most expensive part of the project.

<http://www.fap86.com/>

#### **Jane Savard:**

**Library Program** - In need to re-stock books. Over the summer, they have lost hundreds of books. A local artist designed the carts, which will be stored in the Belltown Community Center over the winter. If you donate books, there will be stickers to put on the front cover, then you can put them on the book cart. Thanks to everyone who brought in books tonight, filling 2 shelves. **Gardening Class** - Available on 9/18 in Bell Street Park between 2nd and 3rd Avenue, from 2pm to 3.30pm.

<http://mybelltown.com/free-gardening-classes-coming-bell-street-park/>

**Alley Art Project:** We are at the end of Phase 1, going into Phase 2.

**Park(ing) Day:** Happening this Friday, where people take back some parking spaces and turn them into temporary parks for the day. There are 3 spaces in Belltown: 209 Bell St; Steve Hall is at Friends of Historic Belltown, 2222 2nd Ave; Urban Racks, 2327 2nd Ave. It will be from 10am - 4pm.

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/seattleparkingday.htm>

**Question:** Can everyone introduce themselves?

### **Introductions:**

Dean McColgan, President; Keith Kentop, Vice-President; Liam Hallihan, non-officer position (communications); Tracy Roberts, Secretary; Terique Scott, non-officer position; Evan Clifthorne, Treasurer; David Levinson is not here tonight.

**Announcements:**

Keith:

'Spice Up' provided the food tonight. David Leong is the owner. The place looks great, has great food. They brought over chefs from the Szechuan district. Thank you to David for supporting us and the Belltown community.

Dean:

The best way to reach the BCC is on facebook. If you have any proposals, issues, comments we will share information with you. If you don't have facebook, [www.belltowncc.org](http://www.belltowncc.org) is our website. We're having problems with the server right now but working on it.

Evan:

Project Belltown - He is the lead of Project Belltown. There's an effort to bring together the various groups in Belltown to try and address the challenges as a community. It's a non-profit and it's focused on neighborhood and business advocacy, retail, safety, marketing and promotion for the neighborhood. If there are problems, will help to give a voice to the neighborhood. PB (Project Belltown) is based on the Pioneer Square model. The goal in Pioneer Square is effective in getting needs of residents and businesses met. Representatives from employers and community activists have met at two meetings so far, in July and August. They are raising money and focused on community projects. Need to preserve Belltown's identity, need housing, allowing us to continue living here. Looking at public spaces - art, music, sidewalks and streets. If interested in getting involved, come to the meetings. Would love more support. The next meeting is hopefully at 6pm on 9/22/16 at Tune Kitchen, the building where Belltown Billiards used to be, but need to confirm tomorrow. PB is not trying to replace any groups. They have set up a bank account, applying for non-profit. Members of the BCC board have been coming to meetings. In August, BBA committed % of their bank account to this effort because of their belief in it. Any questions, contact Evan.

Dean:

Need a voice for Belltown. There are 10,000 residents and 20,000 jobs. A lot is happening and need someone who has a full time voice . BCC supports Project Belltown.

The BCC has approved three committees:

1. Health and Safety - Responsible for public safety, human services and work with SPD.
2. Transportation and livability - Calvin Goings is Chair.
3. Parks and Arts.

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Please consider getting involved in sub-committees. If interested, contact us through our website and facebook page.

Calvin:

BCC is involved in lots long term, as well as the day to day things (short term). If interested in the Transportation and Livability committee, it meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at Uptown Espresso on 4th Avenue and Wall Street. Members are Calvin, Sandy, Anton, some public, BCC board members. The next meeting is on 9/28/16 at 7pm. There will be presentations on commute Seattle biking and City Arborist. As far as livability goes, BLHUS, Historic Belltown. Liaise with these organisations. Copies of the 9/28/16 agenda handed out. FYI: 10/26/16 meeting at 7pm will have a Seattle Street Car presentation.

Parks and Arts - Deal with all parks and art related issues. Jane Savard will chair the committee but it's not been set up yet. The main thing is grant writers are needed. You don't need to have written a grant before. We will help you out. Need and want to activate the park (Bell St) all the time. Need volunteers. There are no set meetings yet but will probably be monthly.

We want the community to get involved. If interested in any, indicate on the sign-in sheet.

There are lots of issues coming up. Please let us know what you would like us to address, contacting us on facebook.

**Speaker: Laura Jenkins, 'Find It Fix It' update:**

Copies of the Find It Fix It post walk updates were given out and Laura went through it. There's a letter from the mayor, Ed Murray, issues addressed, project updates and contact addresses included. Laura gave out small pieces of paper to everyone to complete, that was a survey of the FIFI walk. It was an opportunity to give feedback of what was good, what can be improved and they were collected on conclusion of her presentation. There is a video posted of the walk: <http://www.seattlechannel.org/Mayor?videoid=x66126> and there is a Post walk update report posted here:

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/find-it-fix-it-community-walks>

FIFI was amazing. Issues were addressed, lights changed, foliage cut back. Still having issues with 3am people hanging out. FIFI app was recommended.

**Comment:** (Volunteer) grant applications were open a very short time period and was hard to do.

**Speaker: Captain Mike Teeter, West Precinct:**

Terrie Johnston, Crime Prevention Co-Ordinator for East/West Precinct, SPD was introduced. She's available to come by and talk to groups and help address their concerns.

Mike Teeter has been on the job for about two months now. He's been in the force for 24 years. He grew up in Seattle and graduated from UW with degrees in computer science and electrical engineering. He then earned his master's degree in engineering. He worked in computer programming for 6 years. He wanted to make a difference in the community and joined the SPD. He's worked in DUI/traffic enforcement. He was a watch commander on the night shift and learned to appreciate the work that SPD officers do. It's an honor to do the job. He then became Captain and was in charge of a team investigating SPD officers, developing a new way of investigating them. Every 2-3 years, captains are rotated, so now he is here.

He's impressed by the participation of the community in the West Precinct. People care and want to make things better. Police can't do it all and need help from community partners. Looking at ways we can activate plans. Chronic nuisance issues to be dealt with. Crime is down this year. Car prowls top priorities because of the numbers victimised. He has had his car prowled and realised it's a serious thing. They take it seriously and have made good success. People's involvement makes a huge difference. The police are the most successful when they see something happening. They were aware of drug dealing happening in a location. They went inside to observe, then went outside to arrest the drug dealer.

Terrie Johnston was invited to talk. She is part of the Community Police Team that's based at 8th and Virginia. Terrie is a resource for you. She will tell you how to report drug activity, as it's prevalent here and how to report suspicious activity. People are hesitant to report suspicious activity on 911. Please call 911. In real time, it gets someone to come to the area and maybe their presence deters something from happening. If you have a bad experience calling, get in touch. They can look back at calls and can learn from those calls. Please call Terrie. She also does free home security surveys, looks at the building.

The Chief of Police lives in Belltown and is very aware of what's going on.

'Smart 911 Cards'. Register with <https://smart911.com/> Many countries have it. If you call 911 and can't speak, they will have all information that you put in. It's saved lives. Put in where you live and work.

They are on Nextdoor.com, online neighborhood mapping. There's a map on the back of the information sheet that was handed out. It gives sectors where you live. They are on twitter too.

Her contact details are: [terrie.johnston@seattle.gov](mailto:terrie.johnston@seattle.gov)

From June 1st to yesterday, there have been 7 reported residential break-ins. Down here, break-ins are not very big. On Cedar St in an Airbnb, someone rented a condo and took some items when they left. Four happened on the 2200 block of 4th Avenue. The victim suspected someone, so installed hidden cameras in the apt. She

recognised the woman and they are linking other break-ins. Someone who was being taken by ambulance gave the medic the key to lock their door. It's believed a neighbor overheard that prescription meds needed to be locked up, broke in and took them. A lot of crimes are preventable.

**Q:** Someone was shot in 76 Cedar Street and they didn't hear what happened.

**A:** Officer Sam Cook and Terrie did a follow up at the building. A bullet was found after sweeping up glass. No arrest was made and agreed it was very scary.

**Captain Teeter:** Calls are not happening for shots fired like it used to happen. Most times, they don't have a witness or a victim, so it's hard to solve.

**Q:** There was a story about heroin houses seen where there's free needle exchange, narcan given and they have a roof over their heads.

**A:** Captain Teeter is not familiar and not heard talk about it.

Someone with Councilor Sally Bagshore's office answered the question. Only thing that is being talked about is the safe consumption site. The person who asked the question said it was definitely a housing issue. It was noted that the LEAD offers housing and people still use on the program, but there's nothing new.

Captain Teeter made a comment. As an officer, you go down to 2nd and Yesler, arrest a drug dealer, you return the next day and arrest another and so on and there's more and more drug dealers. Is there a way to address the drug issues and get a different outcome? That's why LEAD works. That's kind of the philosophy. Creativity in social justice.

**Comment:** SPD are doing a great job. The drug situation is different. It's a very, very difficult situation.

**Q:** Asked about employing officers. How many are on board?

**A:** They are hiring new officers. They are being diligent in their search. They are very selective with who they hire. They have to hire for attrition and growth you want for the department. It's slow. Over the next two weeks, they are adding 2 officers to downtown. Each month they are getting new officers.

**Q:** Question about drug dealing on Vine Street. They have taken photos and taken them to the precinct.

**A:** Captain Teeter said to send the pics to him at: [mike.teeter@seattle.gov](mailto:mike.teeter@seattle.gov)

**Dean:** Getting more people out in the area will help.

Meeting adjourned by Dean McColgan, President .

Minutes taken by Tracy Roberts, Secretary, BCC.