

belltown

community council

Belltown Community Council General meeting minutes

November 9th, 2016.

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

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

Introductions:

Dean McColgan, President; Liam Hallihan, Non-Officer position; Terique Scott, Non-Officer position, David Levinson, Non-Officer position; Tracy Roberts, Secretary.

Apologies: Keith Kentop, Vice President, is unwell.

Announcements:

Dean:

There aren't any minutes posted as a laptop was stolen, but will post them as soon as we can. There will not be a December meeting. The BCC is planning a holiday celebration which is tentatively scheduled for December 1st.

Project Updates:

Andy Peck:

Belltown Emergency Hub - Anders Maul will be the Hub Captain. About a year ago, Dean asked Andy to establish an emergency hub. He worked with Cindi Barker. Last week, Dean signed the MOA with the Seattle Art Museum to use an area of the upper level park for the Hub. There were no other acceptable locations. They will store the equipment in a building garage. He would prefer that it was not underground but this was the only option. So, now that there is an official place for the hub, he's able to submit a funds request to purchase equipment.

Q: Asked what an emergency hub is.

A: The City had an idea that there should be an area(s) where people can come together and share needs, match with people who can help. It's a communications place. There's a huge list of disasters that the city has

documented, but the top of the list and most well known is earthquake. Others are wind storm, snow storms, mass shootings like the one in Paris. Bill Thomassen was introduced.

Bill Thomassen, Amateur Ham Operator:

He's a ham radio operator and licensed for personal and emergency use. It's great when nothing else works as communication lines are down. You can buy a license and talk all over the world using the radio. It's only for non-business and is low cost to replace the battery. There is the ACS (Auxiliary Communications Service) which you can volunteer with. When communications are down, the city calls of amateur ham operators to help support the city with emergency communications. If there's no electricity and cell phones aren't working, it would be great to be able to talk with emergency services and the city. You can buy an inexpensive radio, get your license and it's very useful to everyone. Hams pay for their own equipment and don't need a giant tower. If they have repeaters on buildings they have the ability to talk with people a long distance away. Asking for there to be a couple of hams in the city. Whenever he's away from home, he carries everything in his car, so that in an emergency he has everything he needs. Visit seattleacs.org for information about the group.

Anders Maul, Chair, Belltown Emergency Hub:

The next step is setting up the hub, being prepared. They are looking for volunteers, someone willing to help for a month, three months, to get things started. Once the platform is set up, will use community outreach, for people who want to help who are either passing through (work, etc) or who live in Belltown.

Dean:

Appreciate the leadership in getting the Emergency Hub started. Please talk with Andy Peck or Anders Maul if interested. Please step up, give your time and get involved.

Andy:

Andy thanked Dean for his hard work. After two and a half months of waiting for things to be approved, Dean was able to move things forward and got the MOA signed.

Apres Gipson:

Belt drive - Ayres has been a resident of Belltown for about 7 years. He has a project called 'Belttown'. He's collecting belts for New Horizons which supports Seattle's homeless youth. He plans on collecting between Thanksgiving and a week before xmas. He is collecting new or gently used belts and can be something you hold dear and want to pass on, from the heart. Please give him your email address and he will be in touch regarding where to drop off.

For information about New Horizons: <http://nhmin.org/>

Speaker: Reuven Carlyle, State Senator, Democrat.

We are all decompressing from the election and shifting gears. Whatever we talk about, impacts the community. Results at both the State and Legislative levels are divided, 25 - 24 (Republican - Democrat). In the House of Representatives, Democrats increased by two votes to 52 or so to 49. (Records state this is 50 - 48). Both chambers are very close. The central issue is the Washington State vs McCleary lawsuit that came about due to the State failing to fund State education, with levies paying for basic education. It's estimated that \$3.5 billion is needed to be found for staff costs. This coming year is traditionally a budget year and a lot of private money was matched up. ST3 just passed. Guns, legislation, environmental protection strengthening. Ultimately have made progress on gun safety, minimum wage. We are 41st in the nation for High School graduation rate. We are not living up to our potential, including career and college readiness. There are lots of opportunities for community colleges and life long learning. When kids miss out on early learning, they never catch up.

They have eliminated the death penalty. Kids in foster care used to have a 29% graduation rate which is up to 50% now. The policy has changed so the value of tax preference is available to everyone. He's working on the budget, tax issues and K- 12 public education.

Q: Does there need to be a bigger focus on foster care?

A: Foster care is an important issue. There is a direct line, lineage to incarceration, teen pregnancy. Need to make meaningful improvements to Children Family services. Touched on opioid use, mental health. Need to lean on these programmes, provide a quality of life.

An increase of state revenue of \$125 million in the last budget was unprecedented (for 2017-19).

There is data available from the Allen Foundation, which shows what is needed. There is a direct connection to the criminal justice system. If money had been invested in early years, it would have made a difference.

Q: What is expected with a loss of funding with the election of Trump?

A: Concerned. Recognition of the new administration and Congress, there is an effort to repeal Obamacare. We have close to 90% federal match and it's unsure if that funding will continue. There would be huge unintended costs. Great concern that partnership with the Federal Government is affected. If the Federal partnership implodes, regarding cannabis laws specifically, Trump has said mentioned it is a state policy.

Q: Foster care laws terrible for reunification. Have any improvements been made?

A: The number of foster families have dropped from 6,000 to 4,700. There are serious problems regarding not enough case workers, budgetary and training problems. His passion is education, but the infrastructure is a failure, inadequate. Trying hard as this is a high value need.

Q: Is there a law that says that a child has to go to kindergarten?

A: It is law for them to go to kindergarten.

Q: Tax reform and a divided government.

A: Some type of pricing mechanism, like Capital Gains has generated interest. Excise tax bonds over a certain amount are very high. Need to think responsibly about options. Important to engage and have responsible policies.

<http://sdc.wastateleg.org/carlyle/contact/>

Dean: Thanked Reuven Carlyle for coming tonight. State Representatives are very approachable and can be easily reached. Encouraged everyone to contact them for any questions or issues.

Speaker: Jane Savard, Parks and Arts Committee.

Jane was introduced by Dean. She has a passion for Parks and Arts and involved in lots of programs including park activation.

Jane is here to give a presentation and giving a big pitch for volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet if there's a project that you are interested in. We work closely with Seattle agencies.

Parks and Arts Partners:

Urban Parks Partnership

Seattle Parks and Recreation

MID (Metropolitan Improvement District)

Dept. of Neighborhoods

artSEA - artseaproject.org

Belltown businesses

Seattle Art Institute

Project Champions

Volunteers

BBA

Project Belltown

SDOT

Office of Economic Development

Partners continued:

Office of the Arts and Culture

Metro King Co. Buses

BCC

Belltown Parks:

Bell Street Park, P-Patch cottages, Regrade Dog Park, Tilikum Place Park, Headwaters Park. Headwaters is a new, temporary park being set up between Denny and 5th Avenue.

5 year plan from 2015 - 2020

Events:

Belltown Crush

National Night Out

Belltown Beats

Kids and Dogs

Park Stewardship

Artists workshops in the park

Food Events - Jazz Brunch, Taste of Belltown

Running of the Bells

St. Patrick's Day and Octoberfest

Parades - Torchlight, Pride

Amenities:

Physical and Interactive Art

Interpretive Hub

Wi-Fi

Outdoor Reading Room

Wall Activation

Signal Box Painting

Alley Gallery

Proposed:

Bell St Park Chalk art festival
Picnics in the park
P-Patch tea parties
P-Patch/Tilth classes
Tilikum Place Park Native American events

2016 Parks and Arts Programs:

Belltown Artwalk
Belltown Beats
Artists workshops
Dancing (greater than 500 people at events)
Fire Festival
Park Buskers
Books Ala Cart
Pianos in the Park
Games in the Park
Dog Days in the Park
Torchlight Parade
Pride Parade
Belltown Crush
Movies in the Park
Gardening classes
Find It Fix It walk
Park Stewardship - planting thousands of daffodils in the park
Bow Wow Bippty Boo
Winter biking class.
Winter lights - xmas lights in Bell St Park and Tilikum Pl Park, November to February

Will get banners for the park from Find It Fix It community project grant. The Beaconettes will sing in the park on December 9th and Dickens Carolers on December 2nd.

Upcoming event in 2016: Belltown Sparkles - Xmas lights decoration competition.

2017 Proposed Projects:

Tree Holidays

Multi-year projects:

Alley gallery/Name our alleys

Belltown Parks Banners

Bell Street Park Sculpture

Bell Street Park Electronic Kiosk

2018 Bell Street Park Daffodil festival

Bell Street Park Extension to Waterfront

Bell Street Park - Market to MOHAI

Bell Street Park Extension to Denny Park

Growing Vine Street/Cistern Steps

P-Patch/Cottages Activation

Headwaters Park Activation

Tea and Garden parties in the P-Patch

Running of the Bells

Regrade Dog Park

Picnic in the park

Bell Street Park Chalk Art Festival

Belltown Pan up - Root Pie day

Native American events

Bell's Tour: Hit the bricks - Explore the legacy

2018 Bell Street Park Daffodil Street festival - Thousands of bulbs have been planted each October

Cardboard Challenge

2017/18 Marketing Plan: Belltown Social Media/Public Engagement Project

Looking for volunteers to get involved with Stewardship of the park, writing grants, projects, to join the committee. There will be monthly meetings. Also looking for donations.

If you want a copy of the 2016 BBC Parks + Arts Activation in Review presentation or want to get involved, please contact Jane at: jane@janesavard.com

Speaker: C.J. Holt, SDOT City Center Connector Streetcar Project Manager:

CJ Holt is in charge of design and construction. SDOT is about delivering a high quality streetcar system, connecting people. Downtown is growing and we need to meet the demand. The plan is to connect with the existing system, the SLU (South Lake Union line), up 1st Avenue, up Stewart, making it affordable.

It all started in 2012, a master plan was made and grant was approved in 2014. The FTA (Federal Transit Administration) announced inclusion of \$75 million in the fiscal year 2017 budget. September 16 - submitted to cover local match.

Once connected, it will connect the major hubs and move 20,000 - 24,000 people per day during weekdays. There will be an exclusive transit lane on 1st Avenue and a streetcar will run every 5 minutes on it during peak hours. They are adding seven streetcars which will increase service. They will connect First Hill and SLU streetcar lines, build five new station platforms and there will be pedestrian improvements.

The streetcar will run in the center of the street. It will be a hybrid car. New wire will be added in some areas. It will seat more people but is narrower than buses. There will be a level platform which is good for wheelchairs. Will add covered shelters and benches. Some will be double covered, some single. Trees will be added. Still working on a system design to minimize impact. Will work on smaller areas at a time. Doing 2 - 4 blocks at a time will make it usable and once it's completed, will move on to the next area. Currently doing an environmental assessment. Construction will start in 2017, doing utility relocations. Likely working from the south to the north. In 2019, the viaduct is coming down. Will try to avoid conflict. Should be wrapped up in 2020. As there will be reduced parking spaces, including loading spaces, working with garages to provide lower parking charges. Looking at alley access, working with businesses and their needs.

Q: Doesn't paid parking, park and ride go against SDOT?

A: Park and Ride is very powerful. They don't see an issue with parking and using the streetcar. There are no streetcar rules. Will follow up.

Comment: Concern raised about loss of parking.

Q: Question about routes during construction.

A: Working closely with King County Metro. Some areas will need to move during construction. Concerned about revenue loss routes. Will make sure the east - west routes are maintained. Some buses don't carry many people in some areas.

Q: Will it be one system?

A: Yes. Cars will do a shorter loop, but will be one system.

Co-ordinating with construction schedules to make sure they work with everyone. The next step is:

Community briefings

Tabling events

One on one.

Information at: <http://seattlestreetcar.org/centercity.htm>

Sign up to receive project updates at: <http://seattlestreetcar.org/contact.htm>

Contact via facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/seattlestreetcar>

Existing 1st Hill Streetcar in partnership with SDOT and Sound Transit to build streetcar at expectations.

Looking for it to grow. SLU is on track. As they build out and add center lines, can only see it growing.

Q: Outreach. 2nd Avenue bike lane was already made, so can things be changed? How is outreach working?

A: Project is moving forward, funding is secured.

Q: In the Mayor's budget, not expecting issues and it's not 100% in the bank. Concerned about how secure money promised is due to changes in elections.

A: Partners are behind it, moving forward. Nobody knows what will happen in Washington (DC).

Q: What conversations have been made regarding tourists, money and how easy it is to get on/off it?

A: With existing system, educating what it is, how to use it, will do free rides to promote it and have ambassadors available. Streetcar itself is intuitive, can see where it is going as you can see the rail. It's very intuitive, rider friendly. Ticket machines will take cards and cash, all on station. There are no ticket enforcers, or gates. It's straight forward. There is a cost trade off. How much money do you gain by having enforcers? Really trying to educate.

Comment: Light Rail - Way they pushed new light rail through was to delete express bus routes. Other bus routes were removed. There are dark areas to walk through.

Q/A: Asked about contract for cars. It's a transparent process for who builds the cars.

Evan: Project Belltown had it's 4th meeting at Mama's Cantina. They had some good conversations, had break out sessions. Talked about important aspects of building Belltown.

Discussed Belltown as a community, what makes us, our heart and as a destination. Public Spaces and investment in parks. Workforce Housing, affordable housing.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 30th. Location to be confirmed.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes taken by Tracy Roberts, Secretary, BCC.

