



Belltown Community Council General Meeting minutes.

January 11th, 2017.

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

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

Introductions:

Dean McColgan, President; Tracy Roberts, Secretary; David Levinson, Non-Officer position; Liam Hallihan, Non-Officer position; Keith Kentop, Vice-President; Evan Clifthorne, Treasurer.

Food provided by Wasabi Bistro this evening.

Approval of minutes. www.belltowncc.org

Announcements:

Amy Voros, Belltown Community Center Co-ordinator:

Welcomed everyone to the Center. Classes available at the center are on sheets, please take one with you. The city has eliminated some costs. There are Bollywood, pilates, lunchtime yoga, cooking classes to name a few.

Steve Hall, Friends of Historic Belltown:

Next Wednesday, the Mama's building is up for vote for landmark status at City Hall. Information can be found at the website: <http://friendsofhistoricbelltown.org/wp> and on facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/friendsofhistoricbelltown/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf

Please contact Steve if you need more information or want to help/volunteer. The group looks at the importance of the place, the importance of the building to Belltown.

Dean: Please become a friend of the BCC on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/belltowncc/> Please sign in on the sheets provided at the back of the room. We want to make the meetings more engaging, so if you have any information, please contact us.

There have been a few changes with the DON - Department of Neighborhoods. Introduced Tom.

Speaker: Tom Van Bronkhorst, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods:

There have been a lot of changes. District Councils are alive and well with some going through rebranding. Many community groups are coming online. North Beacon Hill is looking at boundaries. A lot of changes in the department and community. The neighborhood street and parks fund - Participatory budgeting way to see how they would like small amounts of money to be used in the community. Very successful in bringing a simpler way to apply for the grant. Next week there will be changes to the program. The Mayor wants to encourage more community engagement, so Community Involvement Commission was established. Laurie Ames, who is currently the Neighborhood District Coordinator for Belltown will be leaving the position. The role of the commissioners is to advise the mayor. Goals are to make participation easier and accessible to everyone. There are three parts/goals of the Commission:

1. Provide advice in City decision making and initiatives/proposals made by the city and the Commission.
2. Provide feedback on plans and identifying new ways to engage more people.
3. Develop a work plan and amend it as needed in order to move things forward.

Q: Find It Fix It (FIFI) program was great. Who's idea was it?

A: Department of Neighborhoods with the Mayor.

C: Laura Jenkins with FIFI is outstanding to work with.

A: Her term is up in February.

Contact details: <https://www.facebook.com/vanbronkhorst>

Speaker: Tristan Cook, King County Metro; David A. Cantey, Supervisor Transit Route Facilities; Jonathan Dong, SDOT:

David Cantey: Jonathan Dong is running a little late. The City are proposing bus access, transit lanes on Blanchard Street. There will be an increased number of bus routes. Six buses layover on Blanchard will need to be relocated. Will need to stage buses during peak periods, waiting to start service between Western and 1st Ave on Eagle, 2 - 7am and 3 - 6pm. Have sent letters out to neighbors. There is an increased demand for bus service.

Tristan Cook: They are notifying property owners in 1st Ave and Eagle Street. Sent letter out in November about the project about changes, where they will occur, the times of day in the afternoon and evening, to

downtown groups, DSA, etc. They will follow up with site visits, adjacent to layover spaces. Outreach will wrap up at the end of the month and go from there. Business cards left if anyone wishes to contact them.

Q: Will the C line north stop on Blanchard?

A: Excellent question. Think it will.

Comment: Thrilled to be able to download pdf copies of routes/schedules.

Q: Are you involved with issues on 3rd Ave, between Pike and Virginia?

A: There's a big project on 3rd Ave, an improvement project, making it pedestrian friendly. It will last 2 years. There will be more sidewalk space, around 4 bus stops, then will expand from there.

Q: Will Sound Transit be out of the tunnel?

A: There is a challenge how to get to I-5. The tunnel will be closed to buses.

Jonathan Dong arrived.

During peak times in the am/pm, there will be restricted parking on the right side of the street of Blanchard. Parking stops on 6th and Blanchard, by the bike store Velo, will be added there.

The C-line began in 2016. Finishing up the C-line extension. At Amazon, there's a blocked lane while making improvements. Buses have been delayed 4 minutes due to being held up by traffic.

Comment: Thank you for coming before decisions have been made.

A: Please comment on the email address which is on the Agenda handout.

<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/up/scvchange.html>

Speaker: Patricia Gray, Capital Campaign Manager, Pike Place Market Foundation:

You're neighbors. This is an exciting moment in market history. Prior to the market opening, farmers sold their goods to wholesalers who sold the goods at commission which meant the farmers didn't make much money if any and food was too expensive to buy. The City Council created the market to allow farmers to sell directly to the consumers, cutting out the wholesalers. 8/17/1907 was opening day for Pike Place Market. There were 10 farmers and thousands of customers and food sold out by noon. Within a week, 70 wagons were coming to the newly named Pike Place each day to sell. In the 20's and 30's, many buildings were built at this time, Refrigeration was not readily available in homes. In the 50's and 60's, Downtown Seattle experienced decline. Buildings in the market were closed up, not being taken care of. The buildings were going to be torn down and put skyscraper up where the market was. Everyone wanted it. Architect Victor Steinbrueck created Friends of the market who collected \$55K to get the initiative on the ballot. It was voted on and passed in 1971. It was the only city in the USA that saved it's public market this century. The market supports 250 businesses, 220 artists, 80 farmers. Above the market are 400 units of housing, mostly seniors.

The Foundation was formed in 1982. The main job is to take care of the market. It's known for pigs at the market. There are two named Rachel and Billie. They raise \$20K to support the foundation per year (people put money in them). At the Pike Market Senior Center, they provide free lunch and breakfast. It's a place to connect with social services, home and healthcare. There's a Food Bank. They get things from the market, serving 500 families a week. At 1st and Virginia, is a neighborhood health center that serves under-insured and uninsured. Pike Market child care and preschool helps families in the market and also families downtown. The market is busy, bringing in \$14 million a year. It's the number one destination in the Pacific Northwest. Businesses will not survive without locals, not just tourists.

In the area is a vacant site that needs to be built on. In 1974, the Municipal Market building burned. Market parking has been there for 40 years. It's an expensive site to build on. The tunnel goes directly underground, Burlington Northern, West coast shipping line.

Pike Market first piece is done. This adds 300 more stalls for parking, as when the viaduct comes down, will lose parking. The park gets built up to the market after the viaduct comes down. Construction has been going on since June 2015 when it broke ground. Right now, pouring the plaza. Main designs, main visuals to waterfront will become new portal to waterfront and access new commercial spaces too. They are building a new neighborhood center. Go to pikeup.org and help us raise the final \$2 million to complete the new market front. Have already raised

\$7 million. It's a \$73 million project. Need the community to be a part of this, feel ownership of the space. They are removing the tiles off the floor to celebrate the new waterfront. They have 2" laser cut steel charms, 14,000 of them on railings surrounding the plaza. \$180 to get your name on a market charm. If you buy multiple ones, will keep family of charms together as promised. There were 100 hoof prints allowed in 1986 in the market. On December 16, workers put wings on the Billie (girl) piggybank, and moved her with a crane to her new spot on the waterfront. Hoofprints will be \$5,000 a piece. The deadline is March 1st. There will be a grand opening in June 2017.

Comments: Local shops were open late in the market on Wednesdays, but disappointed in the lack of people there as well as types of vendors.

A: Will make it worthwhile, and may change to the waterfront.

Q: What will the hours be?

A: 5 - 8pm.

Q: How long did it take to save the market?

A: Officially saved in 1971. It took about a decade.

Q: Any way to get better bus service to the market?

A: Don't know. Need to talk to SDOT about that.

Comment: The 99 bus in the summer would run 6.30 - 9.30a and 3.30 - 6.30p M -F. Originally the replacement for the trolley. Have to go to 3rd Avenue now.

Liam: Talked about Wasabi Bistro who provided the food. If you have a group of more than 6 people, you can get a bottle of wine for 1/2 price. On social media, if you tag them and show your server, you get 10% off.

Neighborhood reports:

Feb 2nd is Groundhog Day, also known in Belltown as Root Day. Root Pie Day starts at 4pm at the Dog Park. Chefs from Cyclops, Local 360, Whiskey Bar, Mama's, Pintxo and Cursed Oak will be in Bell St Park providing samples of their recipes, at no charge. 4 - 6pm.

Speaker: Evan Clifthorne, Executive Director of Project Belltown:

Project Belltown (PB) will unite different voices in Belltown. Want to make it a better neighborhood. Want to make sure that Belltown is always part of the conversation, to be at the table.

Short presentation given. What is Belltown? There are fuzzy edges, and get different answers from people. A map of Belltown was shown. We have BBA, BCC, Growing Vine Street, Friends of Historic Belltown here. Could we have more leverage if we pulled together, collectively have more power? We need to be accountable to the community, have a working vision, large scale community planning process.

PB's vision: It is a non-profit working to retain and build a culturally rich and economically vibrant community through advocacy, business development, marketing and promotion, programming, and strategic investments in our public space. It is informed by the values of equity and inclusiveness.

The plan is to establish a professional, non-profit organisation with the capacity to implement a community driven plan. Coordinate community planning and advocate for Belltowners.

<https://projectbelltown.com/vision/>

Now that there's a staff person, can tell someone to do something and not rely on volunteers. Provide support to Belltown businesses and recruit more local business. Work with owner to put in a local business, rather than a subway or a bank going in a building space. We need to help tell Belltown's story through marketing and cultural promotion. We work to develop sustainable strategies for public and private built environment. How do we get better parks and safer areas? Need a better strategy to take to the city. Educate and empower

the stakeholders and our community as a whole. Give people the chance to advocate for us. The Viaduct is coming down, after a delay of 2 years.

In Pioneer Sq, they have the Alliance. Pioneer went to the city to say, you need to pay us, to mitigate effects of the viaduct going down, due to the impact on the area. In Belltown, we are seeing nothing, No-one is demanding on our behalf on the table, standing up for us with the disruption.

How we will pay for it: \$50K grant from the City, BBA, Belltown stakeholders.

Q: What experience are you bringing?

A: 3 years in Belltown at the Charlesgate, working for Seattle as a Legislative aide, in non-profit and independent too. Excited to get back to advocacy, non-profit. If you have follow up questions, he will be around at the end of the meeting.

BCC supports Project Belltown. It's important to have a voice and if not advocating, you are overlooked. The BBA is already a supporter.

The website is: www.projectbelltown.com

Office: Makers, 92 Lenora St, Seattle, WA. 98121. Between 1st and Western Ave.

Long term plan:

- Sustainable funding.
- Pursuing a business improvement area, like Capitol Hill, MID and Pioneer Square. Pioneer Sq is a very different neighborhood. It has <5,000 residents. In Belltown there are >15,000.
- Requires supermajority of ratepayer support the City Council put in place but never implemented. Getting $\frac{2}{3}$ of Belltown to agree to something is going to take a while.

How to get there?

- Secure local seed money.
- Complete community plan, hopefully before the summer.
- Secure City investment. It's the first time in 4 years that the city has earmarked money for neighborhood.
- Build and grow a coalition.
- Implement key projects.
- Pursue long term funding.

Next meeting is at 6pm, Thursday, January 26th. 4th Thursday of the month.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by Tracy Roberts, Secretary, BCC.

