

Roosevelt Sustainability Group (SRG)

Date/Time: January 19, 2010 7:30-9 pm

Attendees: Christopher Campbell; Holly Matter, Paul Wiesner, Ellen Stoecker, Joan Heald, Bill Dunning

Information/Updates

- Note taker and agenda additions – Holly taking notes, no additions.
- Tree decision; policy related to trees and development – Paul Wiesner has written a summary of actions related to the big cedar, with his opinions and recommendations for RNA follow up. The citizens' appeal failed and DPD decision was to support the developer's request to remove tree. In Paul's piece, he is speaking for himself, not as a representative of RSG or the appeal committee. He discusses three lessons he has learned in the appeal process. Lesson 1: act vigorously earlier. Lesson 2: informal surveys can be dangerous (re: straw poll). We need principles and protocols for doing such surveys and using information from such surveys. Lesson 3: you can't fight city hall. Paul recommends vigilance and activity in such matters. Christopher Campbell suggests Paul talk to the RNA Board about this process and how it can inform future protocol/process. Bill Dunning suggests there's another lesson, i.e. picking your fights.
- RNA Board or Land Use reports: Christopher Campbell
 - 1) There will be a hearing on the proposed zoning changes on February 8 at City Council (need to find out time). RNA proposed changes as in Warren Report but some additional changes/areas were proposed by Mark Troxel at DPD. There is some controversy in neighborhood regarding some of these additional areas. Land Use C. is working on it, will discuss these proposed zoning changes and input to hearings again at February RNA meeting. There will also probably be an article about it in the Roosie.
 - 2) Cowan Park Committee is under discussion. Bill: RNA owns it and is responsible for it. (History from Paul: Penny and David have done phenomenal work on Cowan Park but don't have time for it any more. Jim McMurray would clean up the park daily. He died Thanksgiving Day 2009.) Penny will do a presentation at the January 26 RNA meeting. Agreement that owning and promoting that park is a good activity of RNA and RSG may be able to help, tho there is a need for an organizer. Could continue a Cowan Park committee or expand to a general park committee to include Froula Park. Christopher will ask Peter to raise the need to carry on the tradition at the upcoming memorial for Mr. McMurray.
 - 3) RNA board is discussing inviting the Mayor to an RNA meeting.
 - 4) RNA is supporting a community radio show that is looking for stories. We might be able to do a story about sustainability.
 - 5) Christopher attended the Roosevelt Site Council (group of parents, alumni, and staff), who meet to support and further the interest of the school. We have invited them to have a member in the RNA to build connections. And RNA Board will continue to send someone to their meetings. They talk about some sustainability issues. The school levies are coming up Feb. 9th. Service learning students could work with RNA. Liz Dahl is our contact there currently. Christopher suggested that Roosevelt student(s) join the RSG.

Discussion Items

- **Update: Neighborhood Design Guidelines/DPD meetings** Lorne McConaghie– not present

At last communications, the public hearing comment meeting was set for January 21, 3:00, at City Hall. Ellen Stoecker will double-check with Lorne tomorrow. Paul and Bill will be able to go. Joan Heald and Ellen may go. Questions and comments about purpose of meeting and speaking at the meeting: We, as RSG, can say that we're in favor of the proposed guidelines. Can we go as far as to say that the Roosevelt Neighborhood is extremely interested in this movement and that we are excited that the City is moving in this direction? Need more input from other committees to RNA Board. We can ask, "What are practical steps that a small neighborhood can take (e.g. small grants)?" Paul, Bill, and Lorne can discuss talking points/questions before the meeting. Paul: our purpose ought to be to get Roosevelt on the map from the point of view of sustainability, and what better place to do it? New light rail station, rich in potential for development, lots of small businesses that need support, etc.

Will these guidelines support what we need for our neighborhood? Do these stay guidelines? Christopher: How do they connect with our current neighborhood design guidelines? Do these take precedence over our guidelines; are they on equal footing? If guidelines are approved on city level, how do we incorporate them into our neighborhood plans? Do they have the strength of land-use codes if adopted city wide? When will these guidelines go into effect? At what scale and size does this kick in? Christopher encourages this group to bring Land Use along.

This meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 9 with open viewing from 4 – 6 p.m. and DPD presentation and discussion from 6 – 8 p.m. at City Hall, Bertha Landis Conf. Rm.

- **Business group & sustainability**

Ellen, Bill, Paul attended Jan. 4 business group meeting: The business group hopes we would write about the businesses and things they are doing related to sustainability. It was hopefully a starting discussion but no other specific plans were formed. Sustainability metrics for businesses could be discussed. Bill and Christopher note that we need to get on the radio show. Not enough time to give businesses more than an infomercial. (2 interviews a month.)

- **April 27th RNA meeting: Sustainability Group plans – “earth day” in April**

We think we have an hour of this meeting to plan. Ellen: we had discussed doing something more home & neighborhood oriented – e.g. wildlife habitat for yards. Would locals be part of a presentation? Mickey talk about her Asian garden? Joan's neighbors who are urban farmers? Or use a group like Seattle Tilth? Or Wildlife Federation's wildlife program?

Christopher mentions that we need a topic or presentation that will get people to come out on a Tuesday evening. Make it a big thing: hand out seeds, have a chicken person, Seattle Tilth will answer your questions, rain barrel people, Zoo doo people. Have plant starts to sell. "Roosevelt Spring Garden Festival." Something that will draw people in. Then we must publicize it.

Or do we want to address topic that's broader or community wide, such as the new report on the health of Puget Sound? Or how to start a new P-Patch.

We want a presentation, then a Q&A session. Publicize topic /title, then names and titles of presenters, give 10 minutes apiece for speakers with 5 minutes apiece for Q&A, then let/get people in audience to share what they are doing. We decided on *Bees, Bats,*

and Bugs: Sharing Gardening Secrets for Sustainability. Joan will find a speaker on bees; Holly will do bats; Paul will do bugs.

- **Propose Sustainability Festival as part of Bull Moose Festival?**

Promote alternative energy efficient transportation: Electric vehicles; Bikes; NEST trails; Undriver licensing. Promote personal food/home/yard changes? Promote a sustainable home and garden tour? This will be the weekend of July 17. Think about ideas. Bill or Christopher report that here is not currently a coordinator for the festival.

- **Articles for The Roosie – Feb. 2010, due Jan. 31.**

Joan is doing a sustainability hints article. The submitted January article encouraged neighborhood community discussion on proposed city neighborhood design guidelines. Not out yet.

- **Future RSG Meetings:** 2/16; 3/16; 4/20

Notes by Holly Matter and Ellen Stoecker