

Roosevelt Sustainability Group (SRG)
Date/Time: December 15, 2009 7:30-9 pm

Attendees: Bill Dunning, Lorne McConaghie, Holly Matter, Ellen Stoecker, Joan Heald

- **Information/Updates** Introductions
- **Note taker and agenda additions** Holly
- **Review of November minutes**
- **Cedar Tree decision:**

Paul absent; Bill Dunning reports that appellants lost appeal. Some appellants are considering an appeal to Superior Court. Paul Wiesner will write an overview/summary of the issue/outcome to be posted on the RSG web site. Want to explore further issues around trees in the neighborhood. Peripheral discussion of rezoning of that property and need to verify/understand what rules and design guidelines go with overlay of the Sound Transit station. John Adams probably knows.

- **January RNA meeting on “transportation and parking”**

Potential speakers about: bus routes for future station, parking options with transit oriented development and business interest in parking, converting conventional vehicles to electric vehicles. Ellen also encouraged presentation about planning for electric vehicle infrastructure. Other group discussion included looking at “walkability” of neighborhood, encouraging “Undriving,”

Also want to remember larger issues and systems when looking at sustainable transportation and development (watershed, energy, utilities, storm water). Allow natural patterns to re-emerge for neighborhood health. Ellen suggests a story of Roosevelt reflects geology, topology, that includes the holistic environment.

- **RNA Board or Land Use reports:**

See projects below. Ellen said Christopher suggested passing money to the committees for work on projects. (Bill is trying to get the board to put together a budget and would like to see money go to committees.) Committees can also pursue grants via the City. Ellen says deadline for Small and Simple grants is January 11 for \$20,000. Can apply for \$1000 grants at any time. Land Use committee is meeting next week and Bill attends.

Discussion Items

- **Updating Neighborhood Design Guidelines and LEED for Neighborhoods**

Lorne was unable to connect with Catherine Cornwell but Vince Lyons at DPD provided both proposed updated Citywide Neighborhood Design Review Guidelines that incorporate sustainability perspective and related DPD contacts. Lorne reviewed and reports proposed city design guidelines are much less technical than the LEED standards and don't have measurement guides. Factors covered in LEED for Neighborhood standards but not in City guidelines include: compact development, diversity of uses, local food production, neighborhood-wide energy efficiency in existing buildings, adaptive reuse, historic reuse, heat island reduction, district heating and cooling. We as a neighborhood can perhaps have input into these guidelines as there will be public comment on them in January. Our neighborhood could adapt something like this, and ask how does it fit Roosevelt? – as a number of elements would be appropriate for our design review guidelines as a neighborhood.

Bigger issues for neighborhood need review too, e.g., How does development impact the watershed leading to Ravenna Creek and dealing with storm water in Roosevelt?

Education of group on use of design review guidelines. The documents are basis for the dialogue for design review when a project comes to the city, be it a neighborhood review design session or a city-wide design session. If an element is not in the design guidelines then it can't be addressed, pushed. Project must be of a certain scale but we were not sure if that meant L5 and up or others. Land use members would know. Lorne believes there is opportunity to expand the scale (of design review, since we were exploring LEED for Neighborhoods). Bill asks how we can take the broader neighborhood vision to look at proposed projects. We need to think about it as a neighborhood as the "Roosevelt Urban Village Design Guidelines" (RUVDG) is our basic document. We could suggest modifying RUVDG with concepts from final city design guidelines or could suggest adopting final city design review guidelines if final fits for Roosevelt. But think those in neighborhood doing review need more specifics since city design guidelines don't have a rating system. Believe there's a need to adopt something that has a minimum threshold to maintain the type of neighborhood the residents want, including style and connection between buildings and having open space.

Plan: We as a group think it's important to continue work on this. 1) Ellen requests that we all read the draft city design guidelines from Vince Lyons for January meeting. 2) Lorne and others may go to January 21 public comment meeting to learn more and or provide comments. We are all interested in what other neighborhoods (Northgate, QA, GreenLake) are doing about sustainability in their design guidelines and if they are giving input to the city DPD; 3) Lorne will try to contact names provided by Vince Lyons. Lorne thinks if our group says we want to put something forth, then we put it forth to the RNA on a larger basis, and then they need to ask if this is a neighborhood-wide attitude. Thus, how would we/RNA get this info out to the neighborhood to encourage discussion? The Roosie? April meeting? Bull Moose Festival? RNA blog or discussion forum, other ways? The Seattle PI.com has asked us to participate in a neighborhood blog, this may be a good forum for events, business information, person and could include sustainability information within those topics. Ellen is adding . . . Having communication within the neighborhood about important topics will need other strategies.

- **Board request for increased membership and community projects**

Peter James hopes the group will pick projects and bring more members in. People don't participate unless something really grabs them. Lorne perceived broad interest in gardening aspects of sustainability. Joan says it's helpful to tell people something relatively simple they can do. Bill mentioned final Cowan Park project. Labor to do job is not problem. Ellen says that Sustainable Northeast Seattle members were digging up lawns, putting in gardens. Wildlife habitat. Joan says the big jump is to get people used to untidy yards instead of lawns. Specific projects: Native plant garden at Froula Park? Roosevelt High School clean up and weeding – would we be able to? Bill suggested garden tour, and Ellen suggested winding up at Joan's house for look at sustainability projects she and Em have undertaken. Spring or summer or fall. There are master gardeners in the neighborhood!. Ask master gardeners to help organize a tour and if any would be willing to help others/ garden mentors. Holly will talk with Susan, Joan will talk to Micky. Be inclusive in multiple kinds of gardens. Maybe offer multiple tours. Wait until January to contact people.

- **Business group & sustainability**

Pete Armstrong has invited RSG to attend Jan. 4 business group meeting. Ellen talked about meeting with business group to see what they are doing or are open to re: sustainability. Bill says radio program, Sunday, noon to 1:00 (Soul of Seattle), does five-minute interviews

with businesses in the Roosevelt Dist. Progressive Tech. How to promote sustainability in the neighborhood. Lorne talks about sustainable metrics being developed for business use: e.g, related to employee or business transit, kind of copy paper used, etc. Lorne and Ellen will look for info on these metrics. Bill will go to this meeting with Ellen. Holly suggested a recurring space in the Roosie for sustainability stories for businesses or individuals (tie in with businesses who have ads). Ellen suggested using the PI blog for this as well.

- **Planning for April RNA meeting**

?Theme? Ellen wonders if the April meeting could combine sustainable 'things you can do yourself in your own home or yard', then a bigger piece about the urban village/bigger picture. We invite others' ideas. Work on this more in January.

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

NMFund small grant applications due Jan. 11 for use through September

?Transportation ideas: Electric or other non-petrol vehicles; Bicycles; NEST trails; Undriver licensing from Sustainable Ballard.

Be thinking about these possibilities. Idea to not have car show at all. Or have alternative energy cars. Lorne suggests calling various auto dealers, asking them to bring in concept cars, electric cars, hybrids. Joan suggests inviting walking shoes vendor. Lorne says do it as Bull Moose.

Other suggestions for presence at Bull Moose: identify the veggies game for children; chickens. Ellen wonders about another venue aside from the church parking lot. Cowan Park?.

- **Important viewing: Watch Frontline program, Poisoned Waters of Puget Sound, Sunday, Dec. 20th at 6:30 p.m. KCTS Channel 9**

- **Future Meetings: 1/19; 2/16**