

The Roosie

Roosevelt Neighborhood
Association Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2012
<http://rooseveltseattle.org>

Final Outcome of Roosevelt Rezone

On January 30th the Seattle City Council voted to approve the Roosevelt Legislative Rezone. This ended a five-year effort by the neighborhood to determine patterns of future real estate redevelopment in the blocks surrounding the future light rail station.

The final stages of this process have been challenging. There has been disagreement both on City Council and in the neighborhoods as to whether the rezone proposals would be good for our community. The flash point has been the blocks south of Roosevelt High School, and especially, the "fruit stand block" at the northwest corner of NE 65th St. and 15th Ave. NE.

The neighborhood had advocated for 40 ft. building height limits on the three high school blocks. Our position was primarily in deference to the landmarked façade of Roosevelt High School, and our intent to preserve views of and from the school. Support for 65 ft. buildings came largely from outside the neighborhood, from folks who felt that greater density was appropriate near the station. The Roosevelt Development Group (RDG) who would build on the fruit stand block, also advocated for 65 ft. heights and said that they could not build at all if the zoning were limited to 40 ft.

In the end Council agreed to allow 65 ft. zoning on the high school blocks. Their logic seemed to rest primarily on the argument for density near the future light rail station. This was a difficult decision for several councilmembers, and the final vote was split, 7 to 2. Councilmembers Bruce Harrell and Jean Godden voted to oppose the rezone legislation because of the greater heights on the high school blocks.

Councilmember Nick Licata offered an amendment to delay final approval while the neighborhood and developer worked to agree on specific details in a

"memorandum of understanding", or MOU. RDG indicated that they could not sign the MOU because it would leave them vulnerable to lawsuits. The Licata amendment was defeated 6 to 3. The MOU draft is reprinted in this issue of The Roosie to inform the community of issues for which we will continue to advocate, even without a fully executed agreement.

It is important to remember that the Roosevelt Legislative Rezone governs more than the three high school blocks. Other provisions are largely consistent with the neighborhood's recommendations for where future growth should be located. Council included measures to mitigate the imposition of taller buildings on the high school blocks, and pledged support for updating our neighborhood design guidelines and planning for a network of greenstreets. You'll be hearing more about these endeavors which will help to refine our vision for a more livable urban village.

Jim O'Halloran



Next RNA Meeting
Tuesday, February 28 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Room #242
Roosevelt High School

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

Leading Ladies

In this hilarious comedy, two English Shakespearean actors, Jack and Leo, find themselves so down on their luck that they are performing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose Lodge circuit in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. When they hear that an old lady in York, PA is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long lost English nephews, they resolve to pass themselves off as her beloved relatives and get the cash. The trouble is, when they get to York, they find out that the relatives aren't nephews, but nieces! Romantic entanglements abound, especially when Leo falls head-over-petticoat in love with the old lady's vivacious niece, Meg, who's engaged to the local minister. Meg knows that there's a wide world out there, but it's not until she meets "Maxine and Stephanie" that she finally gets a taste of it.

March 1 – 7:30 p.m.

March 2 – 2:45 and 7:30 p.m.

\$8.00 Students

\$12.00 Adults

Everybody Wants to Be a Critic

Have you ever wanted to write restaurant reviews? Is there a place in Roosevelt that is dying for notice for its wonderful food, great ambience, etc? We would love to have a local eating/drinking establishment written up for each Roosie. Please give the address, and indicate the price range. Reviews must be anonymous, so give yourself a pen name for publication, although give us your real name for submission. They must also be generally positive – no slams needed. Articles should be 200-300 words and are subject to standard editing.

The first Roosevelt Neighborhood

Business Community meet and greet will be held on Wednesday 2/29 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at Umpqua Bank on the corner of NE 64th and Roosevelt Way NE.

The purpose of the gathering is for business owners to meet and discuss ways to promote and grow the Roosevelt business district; a more detailed agenda will be available later on the RNA website. Questions about the meeting can be emailed to:

BusinessCommunity@rooseveltseattle.org



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Dear Neighbors,

Well it is a new day...

For my part I see no way other than forward.

I even have a little news although it is not a grand pronouncement. Today Councilmember Nick Licata called me. He expressed gratitude for the work we all have been doing in the engagement process and encouraged us to continue our efforts. He also said that he would be composing a letter to RDG that would let them know he was expecting them to continue the process. I was grateful to the Council member for his time and effort on our behalf. We should expect to check in Councilmember Licata in the future to update him on our progress.

I also briefly spoke to Jon Breiner at RDG. RDG did restate their desire to move forward with the engagement process. I will be meeting with RDG over coffee in the next few days to just recap and hopefully outline some next steps.

standing aside. Additionally, we have to compose our new neighborhood design guidelines. Geoff Wendtland at DPD spoke to me yesterday and reiterated DPD's eagerness for us to get started on that project. The design guidelines which inform the Design Review process will be our greatest tool in directing new development toward quality and compatibility with the neighborhood.

Finally, we need to come to grips with the new GreenStreet designations; those streets will impact our design guidelines and the RDG projects.

Again I see no other choice than to move forward. There may be a brief respite but there is still good, critical work in front of us. Please stay tuned.

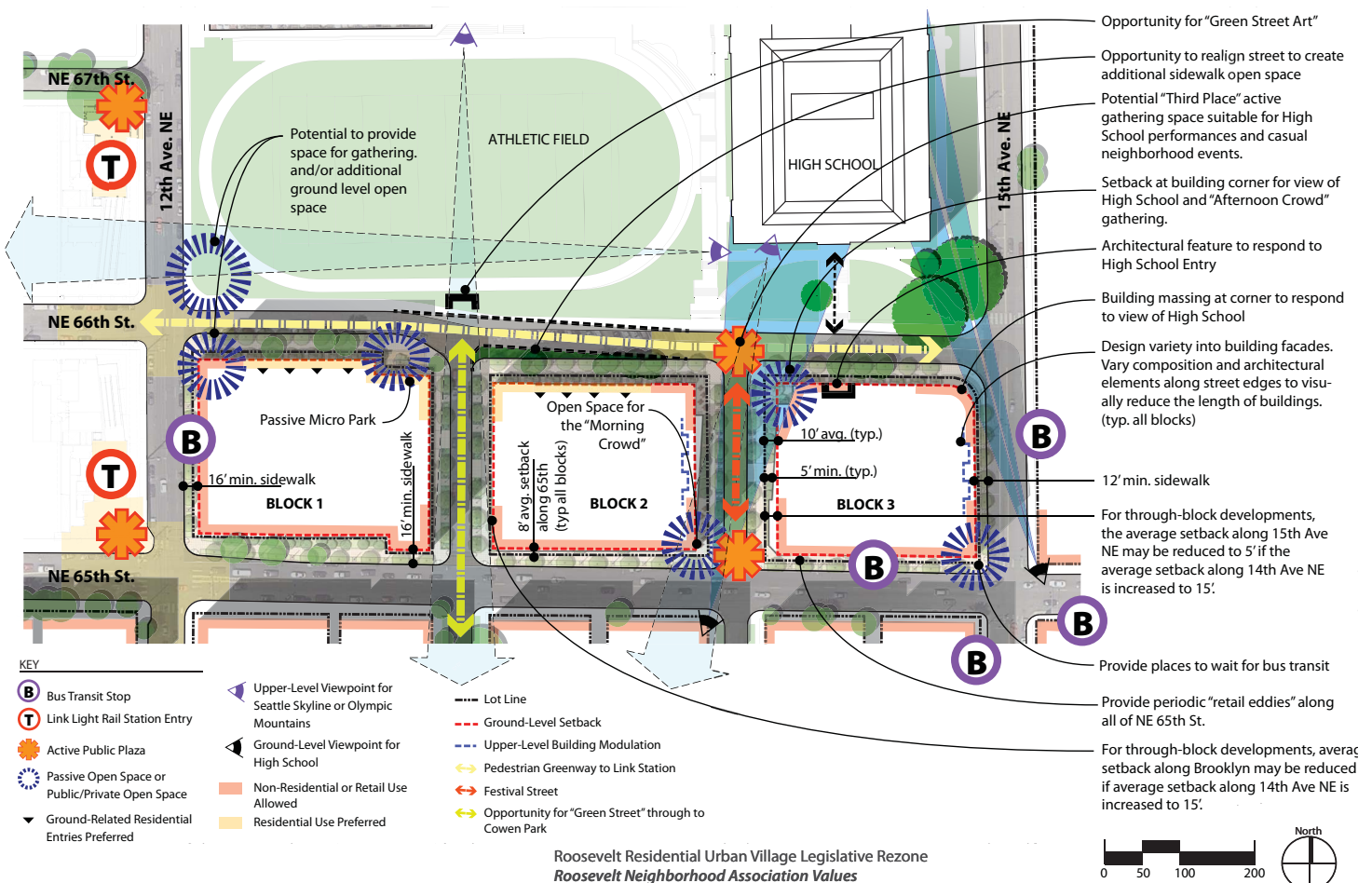
All the very best and thank you so much for everything you have done.

John Adams

Vice President

Roosevelt Neighborhood Association

Roosevelt Neighborhood Values: The High School Blocks



January 26, 2012

Roosevelt Development Group

600 University Street, Suite 2018

Seattle, WA, 98101

Roosevelt Neighborhood Association

Ravenna Bryant Neighborhood Association

Letter Outlining Points for Memorandum of Understanding with RDG for the Block Facing Roosevelt High School along NE 66th St.

Preamble

The purpose of this letter is to establish a foundation of agreement and trust upon which a lasting partnership between the Roosevelt community, represented by the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association (RNA), the Ravenna-Bryant community, represented by Ravenna Bryant Community Association (RBCA) and the Roosevelt Development Group (RDG) may be built and maintained. In freely entering in to the process define by this letter, all parties agree to proceed in a spirit of openness, collaboration, and respect, with the final aim of producing a new built environment within the confines of the High School blocks that meets the interests and needs of the development group as well as the values of the neighborhoods.

The Roosevelt Neighborhood Association (RNA), the Ravenna Bryant Community Association (RBCA) and the Roosevelt Development Group (RDG) affirm a commitment to continued collaborative design related to the re-development of parcels within the three blocks south of Roosevelt High School. We expect mutual benefit from this agreement. For the RNA and RBCA, neighborhood values will be substantively represented by practical specific real-world solutions outlined below in the expected outcomes. The likelihood of these outcomes being implemented will be furthered as a result of this agreement. For the RDG, neighborhood design experts will supplement the professional talents of RDG's design team and the potential for wider community support of proposed projects during the official design review process will be maximized.

Mutual limitations also exist. For RDG, expectations regarding outcomes must be reasonably limited to those parcels for which they have direct control (through ownership or contract) or have indirect influence through partnerships. For the RNA and RBCA, it can be responsible only for its official actions, including outreach to explaining its actions to the community, but cannot limit contrary expressions from individuals within the community.

This engagement process outlined in this letter has no date of expiration; it will cease when all parties formally agree to its termination. While participating in this process, all parties agree not to cause actions that will intentionally weaken or undermine the collaborative process, nor participate in actions that are hostile towards the public or political position or reputation of other parties. In entering into this process, all parties also recognize that not all goals can be met; that compromise will be required; and that parties may break this agreement and proceed independently if genuine and sincere efforts to resolve disputes in a satisfactory manner fail.

Elements of this process may be modified at any point during the life of this MOU provided that they are done so freely in a spirit of collaboration and mutual benefit.

For indepth information on the following topics, please refer to the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association website at <http://bit.ly/y13oCT>

Roles

Process

Design and Development Goals

Define Publically Accessible Areas within Setbacks

Greenstreets

Facade Modulation and Massing

Significant Corners-Scale and proportion

Views

Shadows and Light

Material Scale and Context

Landscaping

Sustainable Construction

Pedestrian Experience

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Public Open Space

Mitigate Loading and parking access

Transportation/Construction Mitigation

The RNA and RBCA share their enthusiasm for this process. We feel that significant progress has been made as of late to outline these principals and areas of concern.

With this good work established, the next phase is actually beginning the design of a project that will be critical to finding real solutions to these issues.

Sincerely,

John Adams AIA, RNA Vice President, RNA/RBCA Design Team Chair
Christopher Campbell Ph.D. RNA Board, RNA/RBCA Design Team
Jay Lazerwitz AIA, RNA/RBCA Design Team
Lorne McConachie AIA, RNA/RBCA Design Team
Andrew Miller, RBCA Land Use Chair, RNA/RBCA Design Team
Jim O'Halloran, RNA Land Use Chair
Sarah Swanberg, RBCA President
Tony Provine, RBCA Vice President
Diane Haddock, RBCA Board

The Memorandum of Understanding can be read in its entirety on the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association website: <http://bit.ly/y13oCT>



NE 66th Street Greenway/Green Street Concept Plan Is Being Studied

According to the City of Seattle, Green Streets are officially-designated roads that improve pedestrian safety, that "green" the road with landscaping, and that improve road infrastructure and mitigate water runoff through stormwater management infrastructure. Greenways, on the other hand, focus on connecting inter- and intra-neighborhood amenities for bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

As a part of the CEP 460: Planning in Context course in the UW Community, Environment, and Planning program, our team has been working on finding a vision of what a Greenway/Green Street might look like in Roosevelt. We have been working with Jim O'Halloran, Ellen Stoecker and John Adams from the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association.

The Roosevelt Neighborhood has many opportunities for supporting the creation of a Greenway/Green Street. These include the recent Legislative Rezone, the incoming Light Rail Station, and the growing Neighborhood Greenways movement in the City of Seattle. Considering the incoming Light Rail station, our aim is to combine elements of both Green Streets and Greenways by incorporating aspects of stormwater management, bicycle mobility, pedestrian safety, place-making, and connectivity into the NE 66th Street Concept Plan.

The full Concept Plan can be found linked on the RNA website, along with three Reports: 1) Overview of Greenways/Green Streets, 2) Neighborhood Asks, and 3) Educational Opportunities. The Concept Plan aims to incorporate the Neighborhood's values as they are outlined in the Neighborhood Plan, to examine educational opportunities with Roosevelt High School, and to promote environmental sustainability and stormwater management, place-making opportunities, and connections to the new Light Rail Station. The full Concept Plan and reports can be found on the RNA website.

People interested in getting involved with the Roosevelt Greenway/Green Street planning process can learn more on the RNA Website or from the RNA Sustainability Committee.

Nico Martinucci, Katie Stultz, Libby Valluzzi

UW Students - Community, Environment, and Planning

CLOUD 9 CONSIGNMENT CLOSES AFTER 53 YEARS IN ROOSEVELT

On May 13, 1959 the Churchwomen of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church established a consignment shop whose first location was on the corner of 15th Avenue NE and NE 65th. In May, 1962 it moved its present location on the corner of 66TH Street and Roosevelt Way.

The building was in disrepair and had been last used as a gymnasium before it opened as Cloud9 Consignment in 1962.

The building had a grander past. It was built in 1923 to house the Hollywood Theater and updated in 1938 in the Arte Moderne style fashionable at the time. Its entire storefront was clad in a still visible elaborate pattern of vitrine tile. If one looks carefully, one can imagine its days of glory, and can also see the letter H above the simple marquee.

Sadly, after over fifty years of business, the Churchwomen have decided to close the Cloud9 Consignment Shop. The decision was a hard one, but it has been difficult to find 75 + volunteers necessary to run the store.

Local residents greeted the news with sadness. One had bought the dress, a designer original, that she wore to her daughter's wedding. Another said that her mother had often taken her to the store when she

was a little girl, and that she had fond memories of looking through its treasures. On perhaps a higher level, another said that the store had had a prominent place in his family's moral development. It seems that when one of his sons was a little boy he had stolen a toy gun from the store. When the theft was discovered by the family, he was made to return it to the store and apologize to the various ladies working there, a lesson his father says he and his siblings never forgot. The building will be for sale, and proceeds will be used to continue the grants the church has made over the years to community and world concerns. Since 1959 the group has donated over \$3 million to various organizations. As soon as a price is established, it will be publicized.

Meanwhile, until it closes on March 15, the store will be well-stocked and featuring huge sales on their already hugely discounted bargains. Its hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00-4:00, Tuesday 10:00-6:00 and Saturday 12:00-4:00.

The Roosie would love to hear from people who have memories of shopping at Cloud9. Please contact the Roosie editor on the website. We also have some information about the mural on the north side of the store, but would like to add to it for a future article.

Nancy Wiesner

The Roosie thanks Sharon Sack, from St. Stephen's, for her help with this article

Handy Man Needed

The ladies who staff the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop on Roosevelt need a strong person to volunteer approximately 4 hours a week to help with maintenance tasks. Contact Clarice Preston at 206-523-9756 if you are willing to help.



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Bull Moose Plans for Rampage in July

Planning for the 2012 Roosevelt Bull Moose Festival is officially under way! I will be this year's event planner and am looking forward to building on what we put together last year. We are considering July 28th as the date for this year's festival which should not coincide with any of the area's large festivals or events.

This year we will be expanding to include more family activities and arts. Fund raising events will be held to try to defer some of the expenses and open the event up to more people. We're hoping that by getting an early start this year we'll be able to make this the best year ever!

I will be looking for volunteers to help coordinate in different areas, such as :

Arts & Crafts

Family Activities

Music & Entertainment

Roosevelt Businesses: Publicity & Promotion

Green Team

Traffic Control

Set Up /Clean Up

If you are interested in volunteering or participating please send me an email at bullmoose@rooseveltseattle.org. More to come next month!

Michele Cole

Bull Moose Festival Coordinator

We Need a Few Good Persons

At the May General Meeting on May 22nd we will have our annual election for the RNA Board. The Board meets once a month to plan General Meetings, plan Roozie content, deal with current issues on our agenda, and strategize on things we can do to help Roosevelt develop as a great place to work and live. At any one time there are probably ten issues that we are actively dealing with.

Currently the Board consists of seven members: several have indicated that they will be stepping down at the end of their current term.

So it is time to find "new blood." If you value our neighborhood and care about how it develops over the next ten years, if you like to know what is going on and be part of shaping what happens, and if you can commit to giving five plus hours a month. . . . please consider becoming active in the running of the board. The roles of each member change over time and can change again to suit individual interests.

Currently we have President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Business liaison, Communications and Committee liaison.

To find out more or talk to any existing Board Member (contact info on RNA website www.rooseveltseattle.org), e-mail me at mapeter@comcast.net Thanks

Peter James. President RNA.

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About 2,000 copies of this newsletter are published in the months September through May, with special editions possible in June and July.

"Blockheads" are volunteers who deliver the newsletter to their blocks in the neighborhood. You can also find a copy of The Roosie in many local businesses, including Whole Foods Market, Starbucks, Dakota Arts Store and more.

Local advertisers help pay some of the cost of publication. Your membership and your tax-deductible donations help cover the rest. The Roosevelt UPS store is also generous in its support for the production.

Please select the "Write the Roosie page" to contact the Roosie Editor to:

- Advertise in the newsletter

Deadline: last Sunday prior to month of publication
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- Suggest or write an article about a topic of interest that relates specifically to the Roosevelt neighborhood
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