

West Edge Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2016 at Friends of the Seattle Waterfront Space

Meeting was called to order by President Jo Vandersnick at 6:13 PM
M/S/P – approval of the December 2015 meeting minutes.

Jo announced that WENA would begin collecting annual dues this month. Amounts are \$25 for Individuals/Households, \$50 for Business, and \$100 for an Institution. Only members in good standing will be able to vote on West Edge Neighborhood Association matters.

She introduced speakers:

Ethan Melone, Project Manager for the SDOT Center City Connector Streetcar updated on the project. The Connector will “connect” the SLU line with the about-to-open First Hill line at Jackson St. It will primarily run in an exclusive lane down the center of 1st Ave. He spoke about transit grid integration, design options, and next steps, including a public comment period when the Environmental Assessment is released in the next month or so, final design, securing federal and local matches, and early utility work on First Ave. The expected start date is mid/late 2017.

Ken Johnsen, consultant on the Seattle Seawall Project gave an update on that project. He walked the group through the details of the construction process, including the excavation process and salmon protection (including light-penetrating sidewalks). Crews are currently working on the Pike to Madison (65% complete) and Madison to Yesler (55% complete) portions. The project is complex and has experienced some delays.

Planning & Land Use Committee – William Justen, Committee Chair, spoke about plans to add over 1,200 residential units planning alley exit/entrances and the impact of overcrowding in alleys, particularly in the area between Pike and Virginia. William will work with his committee, and the WENA transportation committee chaired by Brian Estes, to develop potential solutions to share with SDOT and DPD. He announced that Beacon Development will share plans for renovating the Maritime Building on Western Ave. at the WENA February meeting.

Public Safety Committee – Gene Burrus announced that Captain Chris Fowler of the Seattle Police Department’s West Precinct will present and answer questions at the February meeting.

Downtown District Council – Linda Mitchell gave an update on the Downtown District Council meeting. Guest speaker was new Dept of Neighborhoods Director, Kathy Nyland, who talked about the City’s increased investment in personnel, budget and outreach for the department. The City has hired a consultant to look into options to better align community council boundaries with new city council districts. The DDC has formed a task force to recommend a position on the proposals.

Laurie Ames from the Department of Neighborhoods announced the availability of Neighborhood Park & Street Funds and Neighborhood Matching Funds, and advertised the Department’s weekly e-news.

President Jo Vandersnick announced the election dates for WENA officers based on bylaws. At the annual meeting in March, the position of vice president and treasurer will be up for election. Current interim officers will run for re-election, nominations will be also be taken from the floor.

Good of the order: Linda Mitchell announced the first meeting of the WENA earthquake community HUB group at 5 PM, February 9th, at the Cristalla.

Adjourned at 7:22 PM.