

West Edge Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2016 at Friends of the Seattle Waterfront Space

Meeting was called to order by President Jo Vandernick at 6:07 PM.

Jo thanked our restaurant sponsor, Vonn's Gastrobistro for the pizza. She announced that was collecting annual membership 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:

Sergeant Paul Gracy and **Officer Kevin Oshikawa-Clay** of the Seattle Police Department's West Precinct gave an update on the downtown 9 ½ Block Strategy. Sergeant Gracy reported that the effort seems to have been successful, with crime rates in the area below the initial baseline, and that other neighborhoods have requested similar programs. He spoke to staffing issues, and encouraged residents to report crimes.

Dave Willard of the Metropolitan Improvement District (MID) spoke about different roles of the MID, including public safety and social service outreach. He also shared about other services the MID offers, like pressure washing and strategies for reaching out to the homeless.

Andy Wattula from Beacon Capital Partners and NBBJ Architects presented on the redevelopment of the Maritime Building (911 Western Ave between Marion, Madison and Alaskan Way). They plan to get it cleaned up, doing a full-size retrofit, including seismic reinforcement. They emphasized creating a design that respects the neighborhood, including adjacent Federal Building and the upcoming Waterfront Park, while maintaining the fundamental lines and personality of the original building. The residential entry will face onto Western Avenue, while the office area will be addressed onto Alaskan Way.

Committee Reports:

- Linda Mitchell reported on the Downtown District Council, which continues to input into the City's review of the neighborhood council boundaries and how they work vis-à-vis city council districts.
- Linda also reported that the WENA emergency community hub group had an initial meeting and asked anyone interested in learning more to contact her

Jo Vandernick reminded the membership of officer elections coming up in March, and announced that the second half of the March meeting will be devoted to committee meetings, both for established committees and committees in need of leadership. Guest speaker will be Seattle Councilmember representing District 7, Sally Bagshaw.

Jo announced that, beginning in April, the WENA monthly meetings will move to the fourth Monday of the month.

Good of the order:

- Kevin Teismann announced that the Federal Reserve Bank Building's municipal historical landmark status is coming up for review on March 2nd at City Hall and recommend WENA members attend.
- Linda Mitchell announced that the Belltown Community Center is hosting an exhibition of Cuban art.
- Karen Sutherland recommended the current show at SAM.