

## **West Edge Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes**

### **April 24, 2017 6:00 PM at Friends of Waterfront Seattle Space**

Meeting was called to order by President Leigh Valentine at 6:08 PM.

- Leigh thanked our retiring President, Jo Vandersnick, and informed the membership that she had been appointed association treasurer.
- Leigh announced the return of food served at our meetings (pizza) and asked members to think about contacting potential donors of meeting snacks.
- Leigh thanked our hosts, Friends of Waterfront Seattle.
- Finally, Leigh encouraged anyone present to help pay for pizza by becoming a member.
- M/S/P unanimous approval of the March 2017 minutes

Panel Speakers:

- **Eric Magnuson** of Atlas Obscura introduced his organization and gave a presentation on the history of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, the 1905 Great Northern Tunnel, 1936 Seawall, and the political history of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century through today. He also explored the future of the tunnel, including through more modern analogues (such as Barcelona) of cities that have undergone similar projects.
- **Scott Lindsay**, Special Assistant to Mayor Ed Murray, presented on downtown crime and security concerns. He started by addressing the recent officer shooting on Western Avenue. He also addressed efforts in “the Blade” (the 1500 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue), and remarked on problems including the “human camouflage” created by high pedestrian traffic related to bus service. He reported that was little success with property owners in improving the retail environment during the 9-1/2 Block strategy in 2015. Much of the drug traffic and property crime in the last six years has been driven by the opioid epidemic. He took questions relating prosecutions after the 9 ½ Block Plan, as well as criminal justice angles for addressing the epidemic.

The following members paid dues at the meeting:

- Virginia Dolan (Newmark)
- Tanya Fribeg (business owner, paid as individual)
- Linda Lamar (Watermark)
- Marcia Sill (Watermark)

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.