

Minutes, Meadowbrook Community Council, September 13, 2022

President Pam Bowe called the meeting to order at 6:45. Webex has created some connectivity challenges. We were instructed how to use closed caption function on Webex.

Pam went through the agenda with introductions of topics.

Erik Stockdale introduced himself. He is a Meadowbrook resident since 1992. He is a marine biologist by training (Planning Manager for Snohomish County). He is concerned about the traffic impacts of John Rogers redevelopment project.

Emily Jones, member of NEST (opportunities for older adults) joined the meeting.

Valarie Bunn was introduced by Pam, since her microphone is not in working order. Her blog documents what has happened in the Meadowbrook past, as it affects the future of this community.

Wilma Boyd, treasurer, reported \$2341.15 in the combined BECU accounts. Dues were addressed. Due to the pandemic, dues were suspended temporarily. To be a voting member, members must be paid members. If individuals pay anytime in 2022, their dues will continue their membership through 2023. Pam suggested that everyone move back to payments to keep the organization running.

Board membership was brought up. MCC meets on 2nd Tuesdays of odd-numbered months. Dan Keefe reviewed the process for nominating board members. A slate of candidates will be proposed at the meeting before elections. Individuals can self-nominate. If they choose to nominate another member, please get the approval of the nominee before such nomination.

Membership bylaws were addressed. Some rules need to be reviewed and revised. Changing the election time of board members was mentioned. In terms of bylaws changes, they need to be provided to the membership 20 days or more in advance of a meeting (Nov. 8). Eligibility for membership has been proposed for bylaws changes, as well as other changes. They will be published to members, as well as posted on the web site before the next meeting.

New Board Member Terry Vogel Since we were unable to meet in person, the nomination for a new board member was made in May. Minutes from May 10, 2022 were shared by Pam on her screen.

Several suggestions from Per Johnson to better access the Burke Gilman trail were reviewed. (Walt Bubelis asked that his name spelling be corrected.) The John Rogers name and background was presented, and there is an effort to rename the new John Rogers school as construction progresses. Walt talked about the Nishitani proposal to acknowledge the contributions of the Nishitani family. TCA continued with its e coli monitoring and grant proposal. Dan Keefe will update us on progress since May.

JULY 22, 2022 Minutes: Pam asked for approval votes. None were opposed. Minutes were approved as drafted with name corrections.

Eric Stockdale shared his screen to show the site plan for **John Rogers** and the traffic plan as it will impact the neighborhood. A postcard was sent with 4 deviations from original. The gate off 105th is the current access point to clear out storm water as well as become the primary entrance to the campus.

The traffic that delivers students off 109th is being rerouted mostly to 105th (not a signaled intersection of 35th Ave NE, as 110th is). It can be a scary intersection during high traffic periods. School buses and many vehicles will be diverted to access the school via 105th. The traffic consultant wrote that there would be “no impact” in the traffic study. This is a serious dichotomy to the actual traffic problems that will be created. This was called “disingenuous SEPA double-speak”. It raises stress, etc. What the City of Seattle does about these problems is yet to be seen. There is a patchwork of sidewalks now on 105th. For people south of the park, there are 2 blocks that do not have safe access to safe paths to the school. Erik would like them to revisit the site plan for the redevelopment project. Terry asked about whether there is a mitigation sequence. The first step is avoidance. Erik does not feel that this has happened. He would hate for 105th to be signaled (it does not connect arterials). Short of putting in a signal to regulate access, sidewalks and the width of the road need to be addressed. Eric would like to see some split where buses would go one way and cars another, one change that could be considered. Limiting parking along 35th is also a possibility. SDOT has a new director from LA (Dan Spot). Dan Keefe met him recently. Dan Keefe suggested we might engage Brian Dougherty to review this situation.

Amanda Fulford is the school project manager (with Jeff Deng); they met with Erik via Zoom; they were unaware of the **Safe Route to School** issue. Colleen made several comments, confirming that Safe Routes to Schools is the route to take. Walt confirmed Colleen’s comments. She confirmed that these concerns are valid. The entrance to 105th was narrowed by installation of the wheel chair ramp, so it is really a difficult situation and potentially very dangerous. The traffic study that was done predicts a significant amount of traffic during pick-up and drop-off; and the use of the field and parking availability in the neighborhood creates serious challenges. Colleen offered to connect MCC to the group at the school district outside the SEPA process. There was a limitation within state law that says if citizens don’t bring up issues during the SEPA process, then there are limits what can be done. If citizens don’t provide input during SEPA, then there is limited opportunity to provide further input. Pam Bow reviewed the layers of issues to be explored in the construction planning process. Pam called for volunteers to work with Erik. Pam asked for links for the draft checklist, site plan, which Erik will provide. Erik quoted Pam: It hasn’t been built yet – it’s not too late. There is another opportunity for public comment, when the final SEPA checklist is published. Erik will try to find out how to be notified on the City of Seattle website.

Tree surveys: The Tree Service Provider Registry is available online thru City of Seattle. (Starting Nov. 10) What is of interest is that awareness has been accelerated. A link will be posted in minutes. The importance of maintaining the tree canopy is re-emphasized here. We have visually identified trees that appear to be significant. The intention is to return to obtain more data. We would like to share our results to date with greater Seattle and our data can inform what can be done by surveys city-wide. We have identified 442 trees, 70% of which are evergreen. It is opposite what exists in other parts of the city. We are interested in taking the information to District Rep. Deborah Juarez. The MCC website will maintain this database of tree information. It is worth sharing this information now that we have a regulatory process for tree preservation. This data represents 50% or less of the actual tree coverage; these were not accessible without going into back yards, etc. There are groves that span 3-4 different lots. Pam suggested the development of a compelling presentation to those outside MCC to share the data we have collected.

Nishitani Family Recognition proposal: Pam shared the latest proposal to honor the Nishitani family. We plan to bring this to Debora Juarez and the City Council. This is not an unusual ask in the City of

Seattle. There is an opportunity to rename a portion of Ravenna in this regard. Valarie Bunn has a new post to her blog as well. Walt proposed that the north side of 98th between Lake City Way and Ravenna would be appropriate, as more people would see the renamed street. The Nishitani family helped during the 1918 flu pandemic, bringing food to those who could not get out; donating plants in the area; and we sometimes forget what was here before current developments. The goal is to put together a proposal for recognition; a packet should be ready within the next few weeks, with an update at the November meeting.

Development on 35th NE: more to come on that development at the November meeting.

Dan Keefe updated us about BBC contacting **Thornton Creek Alliance** as part of their film program on Our Changing Planet. BBC is doing a segment on how beavers help a changing planet heal itself. They will start in northern CA to document how beavers can help in restoration following some of the fires. Then they will move to Meadowbrook Pond and also work with the Tulalip tribe, which has a fairly good beaver relocation program. SPI has been notified (as operator managers of Meadowbrook Pond for flood control reasons). BBC will be filming in October; the program will probably be shown in 2023.

The **Community Garden and Orchard** will have a yard, garden, and bake sale on Sept. 24. Someone sent in a RAVE to Seattle Times for the zinnia garden. Many compliments have been received from passersby on the gardens (now in its 12th year).

TCA keeps getting inquiries – a recent one from striking teachers, who want to do some community service rather than just marching. Friday 9/9 Dan took several teachers into the east orchard and near the new benches to pull weeds. TCA stays busy as ever; 9/29 will be a public meeting for the quarter. The presenter will be the author of the book *Chief Seattle and the Town that Took his Name* (David Buerge). TCA had its annual picnic at a member's home recently. The party just about didn't break up, even though the weather was not cooperative. The Jane Addams swale project is going on; a work project scheduled within the next couple of weeks has been delayed due to some SEPA issues. It will probably mean that the planting is delayed until spring. Because water flows year round, it falls under SEPA.

Pam commented positively about the energy that continues and complimented members for their participation. She reminded us to send in nominations for the board, participate in the yard, garden & bake sale, and to clean out our storm drains.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Boyd, Secretary pro tem in the absence of

Mike Reinhardt

APPROVED 11/15/2022