



2017 Ratepayer Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21, 2017

Location: Swedish Conference Room – Cafeteria

Present:

Tom Malone, CKM Associates
Jim Riggle, Olympic Athletic Club
Lanne Stauffer, Ballard Square Representative
Brian Livingston, Swedish Medical Center
Mike Anderson, Compass Housing Alliance
Davis Carvey, NOMA HOA
Michelle Rosenthal, Veris Law Group
Legh Burns, re-soul
James Lechner, Bastille Café/Stoneburner
Eric Nelson, Nordic Heritage Museum
Barry Blanton, Greenfire Campus, Commons of Ballard and Keelson
Mike Kahrs, Central Ballard Residents Association

Absent:

Stephanie Carrillo, Equity Residential
Jeannie Liu, Miro Tea

Via Conference Call:

Tom Paine, Hjarta Condominium
Scott Koppelman, AMLI Mark24

Observers/Presenters:

Phil Lloyd, Mike Stewart, Devin Reynolds

1. Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Introductions

All present gave brief introductions.

3. Mike Stewart & Phil Lloyd Presented on the Financial Report

Mike Stewart & Phil Lloyd covered the Financial Report and explained that the Ballard Alliance (BA) has underspent due to the ramping up of projects and contracts that began mid-year. They also briefly explained that the Ballard Alliance spends money on projects and then submits a bill to the City for reimbursement. Because of this, there may be a delay in the reporting of income.

The meeting was briefly interrupted to bring up a needed agenda item – Approval of the Minutes.

Tom Malone suggested that the RAB add Approval of the Minutes to the agendas of all following meetings. Malone then asked the RAB to take a minute to review minutes from the previous

meeting. Malone then motioned to approve the minutes. Barry Blanton seconded. All voted to approve.

Operations Report

Clean Streets and Alley Program

Stewart discussed the Millionair Club's efforts to date which include the collection of 596 bags of trash, the removal of posters from 14 telephone poles, 148 sanitary cleanups, removal of 2 animal carcasses, 73 sharps picked up, and over 1,200 hours logged by the Millionair Club crew. As of recently, a third day of service has been added. Stewart also mentioned that the Ballard Alliance plans on treating the Millionair Club crew to lunch soon.

Barry stated that the Millionair Club workers have been great ambassadors for the neighborhood so far.

Homelessness and Mental Health Outreach Program

Stewart mentioned that Nick Sciarrone of Reach was hired on in July to begin the Homelessness and Mental Health Outreach Program. So far, 32 unduplicated outreaches and 38 referrals have been made, with 26 receiving care. On average, 7 contacts are made daily. These numbers are believed to be low, not reflecting true totals. Sciarrone has been invited out to speak at a Ballard Merchants Group meeting and will be asked to speak at a RAB meeting in the future.

Holiday Lighting Plan

Stewart stated that a new holiday lighting provider has been selected this year for just over \$42,000 and that they will be lighting the tree canopies instead of the tree trunks. This is a one-year contract with the option of extending for four more years. There will 152 trees lit in total with the breakdown being: 65 trees on Market Street, 66 trees on Ballard Avenue, 12 trees on 22nd Avenue, 7 trees in Marvin's Garden, and 2 trees in Bergen Place.

Michelle Rosenthal mentioned that she was pleased with the balance of lit trees between Market Street and Ballard Avenue, the total coverage, and the cost for the coverage.

Marketing & Promotions

Stewart encouraged all RAB attendees to submit their businesses and events on the VisitBallard.com website. Stewart then covered that the BA engaged with over 1,500 potential users during this year's SeafoodFest.

Stewart also mentioned that the BA was granted a \$10,000 grant from the City for destination marketing.

Stewart stated that the Ballard ArtWalk was going strong with more businesses on-boarded than ever, showing strong Facebook metrics, and that the BA is actively reaching out to residential buildings to secure their involvement.

Ballard Avenue Lighting Design Plan

Stewart stated that the BA has \$25,000 from the Department of Neighborhoods to begin the Ballard Avenue Lighting Design Plan. There will be a kick off meeting at Bastille Tuesday, September 26th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There is also a \$50,000 grant through the Only in Seattle program to go towards Phase I.

Jim Riggle mentioned that if there were issues getting a lighting design plan approved by the Historic Landmarks Board that Seattle Department of Transportation can supersede them.

Resident Engagement

Stewart informed the RAB that the BA would be hosting a Meet and Greet for multiple apartment and condo community managers within the BIA at the Commons at Ballard on Thursday, September 28th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The BA is hoping to create a pipeline to the community residents in hopes they will get involved in the Ballard ArtWalk, the After Hours and Luncheon events, SeafoodFest, etc.

Mike Kahrs recommended that the BA look beyond the Business Improvement Area (BIA) when thinking about engaging the residential community.

Advocacy

Stewart informed the RAB that a forum was held with Sound Transit regarding the alignment and design of the Ballard line of Sound Transit 3 (ST3). He also stated the BA's desire to obtain a seat on the advisory board for the Ballard line of ST3. The streamlined Sound Transit work plan (find preferred alternative first to speed the process up) was also covered.

Stewart mentioned that he was currently sitting on the Burke-Gilman Trail Design Advisory Committee and is actively working to preserve 160-180 public parking spaces along the Southside of Shilshole. Riggle suggested that the BA consider how the CD Stimson parking lot may be used to off-set the projected loss of parking along Shilshole and that his company could manage the parking lot, if used as a public parking lot when not in use by the Stimson employees.

Stewart stated he was still chairing the Nicklesville Community Advisory Committee and that the 2-year contract the encampment has for the current site expires on November 8, 2017. The encampment is currently looking for a new location.

Stewart mentioned that both Seattle mayoral candidates have accepted an invitation to come to a luncheon hosted by the BA on October 20th. An invitation for a meet and greet has been extended to Carry Moon but has not been confirmed yet. A meet and greet has already been hosted by the BA with Jenny Durkan.

Stewart also updated the RAB with respect to the Vehicular Living Working Group and shared a letter the BA crafted in response to Councilmember O'Brien's resolution regarding amnesty for RV dwellings throughout the city.

Ballard Commons Park

Stewart stated that the Seattle Police Department (SPD) bumped up their patrols around the park this summer. He also mentioned that the BA has been working to remove illegal encampments from the park and was successful in doing so. The BA has requested the park be named the eighth emphasis zone in the city, which would result in increased police patrol.

The meeting was briefly interrupted by Malone to request that more time be giving to Stewart to cover the Operations portion of the agenda moving forward. He suggested that the Operations portion be increased from 20 minutes to 30 minutes due to the important nature of the agenda topic. At this point, Malone ceded 10 minutes of his upcoming agenda topic to Stewart.

Open discussion about Ballard Commons Park continued:

RAB members mentioned that they noticed less people sleeping in store front doorways since the BA started the Clean Streets and Alley Program and the Homelessness and Mental Health Outreach Program.

A suggestion that 9-1-1 be called when illegal activity is noticed was made.

Eric Nelson mentioned that some of the work crews working on the new Nordic Heritage Museum have had their vans broken into and equipment stolen.

Stewart advised the RAB members to give the BA a call if they needed help with anything relating to the above issues.

Riggle stated that he was impressed with the work of the BA thus far.

Malone stated how pleased he was at the BA for developing and maintaining longitudinal relationships across the city with other BIA's etc.

Kahrs asked that the Millionair Club be sure to compost when they collect all the fallen leaves from the sidewalks this fall.

Barry Blanton encouraged the BA to keep good metrics relating to the outreach performed by Reach and then stated his approval on the job the BA is doing thus far.

An RAB member asked if there was an accurate count of the homeless in Ballard. This number is unknown to the BA at this time.

Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) & Public Records Act (PRA)

Sunshine Laws

Kahrs discussed the Sunshine laws with the RAB members. These laws are designed to shed light in dark areas of the government. Kahrs believes that the RAB is under the OPMA and PRA purview and stated he believed it would be better for the RAB to act in compliance just in case. Kahrs stated that this meant that the RAB members emails could be subject to the Public Information Act and would therefore be disclosable. Kahrs strongly encouraged the RAB to be careful what they email.

Types of Meetings

Kahrs stated that there are different meeting types: special meetings, emergency meetings, serial meetings, and virtual meetings. He went on to say that any official discussion should be conducted when a quorum is present and in a public setting. This means that when riding together or sharing a meal together official business should not be discussed.

Voting

Kahrs stated that all final votes must be made in a public setting.

OPMA & PRA Enforcement

Kahrs stated that enforcement can be costly to the offending party if found guilty of violating the OPMA and PRA in terms of having to pay the plaintiff's attorney and court costs in addition to potential fines.

Lanne Stauffer suggested that a re-education for RAB members on this topic be conducted on a reoccurring basis. Stewart suggested creating a binder tab for this topic in the RAB members' binders.

Ballard Commons Park

Activation

Stewart stated the need for more activation in Ballard Commons Park to encourage a more family-friendly environment. He went on to say that the BA is well underway in brainstorming on ways to do this for next year.

Capital Improvements

Stewart discussed a Capitol Improvement Grant of \$50,000 for the park has been granted and that The West Studio has been retained for \$12,000 to begin the Ballard Commons Park Redesign Plan and that Max Genereaux would be chairing the Steering Committee. RAB members are encouraged to email Max if interested in joining the Steering Committee.

A question regarding the approximate total cost of redesigning the park to make it more family-friendly came up. The approximate cost was stated to be somewhere between \$150,000 and \$175,000.

Public Loo

Stewart informed the RAB that a Portland-style public restroom will be installed in Ballard Commons Park by the City of Seattle. It will be paid for and maintained three times a day by the City of Seattle. The BA is requesting the City go back out and conduct public outreach regarding this, as the previous outreach was conducted a few years ago and may not be how the public feels now. Stewart has suggested that the Millionair Club be hired to clean and maintain the public loo year-round in addition to acting as an ambassador in the park during the non-winter months.

Davis Carvey suggested making the public loo kid-friendly so it can be operated by a child.

Karhs and Malone suggested that the BA reach out beyond the BIA footprint when engaging the public on potential park activation.

Sound Transit

Accelerated Process

Malone stated that Sound Transit is working on an accelerated process to regarding the Ballard alignment and station plan. Malone issued his desire to bring someone on to advocate for Ballard's desired alignment, tunnel, and station plan and that this may mean that the BA needs to hire someone for this express purpose.

Closing Comments

Comments

Davis said, "Keep up the good work!"

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.