



Approved 2019 Ratepayer Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes

Date: June 13, 2019

Location: The Commons at Ballard – Over the Park Room

Present:

Tom Malone, CKM Associates
Lanne Stauffer, Ballard Square Representative
Christine Ackerman, Hjarta Condominium
Davis Carvey, NOMA HOA
Legh Burns, re-soul
Mike Anderson, Compass Housing Alliance
Mike Kahrs, Central Ballard Residents
Jim Riggle, Olympic Athletic Club

Absent:

James Lechner, Bastille Café/Stoneburner Association
Jeannie Liu, Miro Tea
Barry Blanton, Greenfire Campus, Commons at Ballard
Michelle Rosenthal, Veris Law Group
Stephanie Carrillo, Equity Residential
Scott Koppelman, AMLI Mark24

Via Conference Call:

Eric Nelson, National Nordic Museum

Observers/Presenters:

Phil Lloyd, Seattle CFO
Paige Killinger, REACH
Andres Mantilla, Director, Dept. of Neighborhoods
Thomas Whittemore, Dept. of Neighborhoods
Mike Stewart, Devin Reynolds, and Kiana Ballo

1. Welcome and Introductions (Tom Malone & Lanne Stauffer)

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. and all present (and those who called in) gave brief introductions.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Finance Report (Phil Lloyd, Mike Stewart)

Phil Lloyd presented the financial report. Things are tracking well right now and we are slightly underbudget which accommodates increased expenses during the holiday season.

Tom Malone asked about the prospects of growing future revenue with the completion of new apartment buildings. Mike Stewart responded that there will be a reassessment this fall with Ballard Blocks II, the Valdock apartments and other new construction in the BIA. By late September, we will have a better read on the reassessment.

Malone mentioned that collections and expenditures are on point.

Mike Kahrs asked if surplus of funds at the end of the year roll over to the next year. Lloyd confirmed that funds are rolled over from year to year.

Kahrs asked if there should be an emergency fund incorporated into future budgets. Stewart stated there is nothing formal in place now but if that is something the board would like to implement it would be a simple vote to get that motion approved. Kahrs responded that he would like it to be considered. Christine Ackerman agreed that an emergency fund could help clean up the budget.

4. Review and Approve March Meeting Minutes (All)

Tom Malone requested that the March minutes be adopted. Davis Carvey motioned to adopt the minutes "as is." Christine Ackerman seconded this motion and a vote was held. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Operations

Clean & Safe

Paige Killinger presented updates from her work as the Outreach Case Manager with the Ballard Alliance and REACH. Starting in May, there has been an uptick of police presence due to the Mayor's initiative for emphasis patrols in designated neighborhoods. Killinger has been working to get people housed and to get people connected with their case managers and with services in a realistic way, she can then focus on people who do not have cases managers.

The Ballard Commons Park will have construction of the loo this summer which includes replacing the concrete in the area and trenching through the park to connect the loo to water and electric service. Paige speculates that the activity in the park will be reduced with construction despite the usual trend of increased activity during summer months. Additionally, with the police visiting more frequently, activity in the park and in Ballard may be influenced as well. The police came to the park Thursday and Friday mornings of last week. An increased presence has been noticed, as well as improved response times to 911 calls.

Killinger stated that in her normal routine, she starts mornings at St. Luke's breakfast service, then moves to the park. The Bridge also provides services and will be adding an additional day to be open to provide services.

Killinger was unable to retrieve her notebook from TSA when she took a trip to Alaska recently which is why the numbers for May are underreported. Additionally, she has been spending more time with individual clients. Now that she has a reputation in the area, people who need services regularly turn to her for help. People with section 8 vouchers have a difficult time finding housing especially since the vouchers can expire so she has been focused on assisting with the process of people redeeming section 8 vouchers for housing.

Ackerman asked if the city tracks unused vouchers. Killinger responded that yes, the city tracks them, but the city does not necessarily have the resources to follow up with those people. Mike Anderson asked if there is any opportunity to connect community managers with Paige to fulfill section 8 housing? Killinger responded by saying housing for section 8 comes from either King County or the City of Seattle but only King County does housing vouchers in Ballard.

Malone asked if she has noticed a difference with the increased police patrols.

Killinger stated that with increased patrols in Ballard, people are moving more toward the industrial areas where the police are not emphasizing as much. People are moving around a lot with the police asking them to move. According to Killinger, this can result in folks losing their documents and belongings which complicates their lives and her ability to provide services.

Malone mentioned that he has heard some people say that they have not noticed a difference and asked the board if they have noticed anything.

Ackerman responded by mentioning that Gilman park users must check the baseball fields for sharps before kids can play a game. She also stated that people have been sleeping at the top of the ramp to Hjarta's parking garage and that she is afraid someone will be hit one day.

Malone stated that many people know the Ballard Commons Park is a problem, especially with loud and obscene activities.

Lanne Stauffer said that she is nervous for her store on Market Street with the construction in the park pushing people out this summer. Killinger added that King County Metro needs to be a part of the conversation. Devin Reynolds indicated that he calls King County Metro when he sees issues in and around the bus stops and they are usually good about addressing the problems. Additionally, Metro has scheduled a renovation for the problematic bus stop on Market Street.

Killinger stated that response time from police has improved and helps with dealing with these issues.

Devin Reynolds shared the 2019-to-date Millionair Club Charity (MCC) cleaning stats with the board:

- Collected 220 bags of trash and recycling
- Collected 9 bags of leaves
- Performed 10 public can overflow clean-ups
- Reported on 19 graffiti tags
- Performed more than 30.5 telephone pole cleanings
- Performed 243 sanitary clean-ups involving biohazards like human and animal waste
- Picked up 46 sharps
- Reported on 80 stolen shopping carts
- Logged 482 hours of work

Reynolds announced his initiative to get rogue grocery carts returned to their rightful grocery store. In 2019 alone, the Alliance has filed 140 reports with the city and has been regularly contacting King County Metro for issues with bus shelters. Additionally, the Alliance has been meeting with other BIAs to discuss clean and safe issues.

Reynolds added that numbers for trash, bio waste, and sharps have increased. Since implementing the grocery cart program, less carts have been found on the streets. Kahrs asks if there is a known reason on why trash has increased.

Reynolds responded that the cause is unknown, but our crew size & frequency have remained the same. It could be speculated that the increase is a result of more encampments overall in recent months.

Stewart announced that city wide collaboration with the prolific offenders report will continue. Many offenders have reoffended since the report. As a result of the study we successfully advocated for more patrols, a task force to address the issue, a new public safety advisor in the mayor's office and a refocus of the navigation team to address obstructions in rights-of-way. The obstruction removal process is a good step in the right direction although it is creating an effect of bouncing people around and only moving when police are present.

Stewart added that a new policy from Mayor Durkan will help remove RVs with serious public health risks from the streets and from the action market. Many have insect, rodent, biohazard and other public health issues. We continue to use the study to get media coverage and we are seeing strong results from keeping the pressure up on the city.

Stewart mentioned one example of a prolific offender, a man who has been booked three times for assault and indecent exposure in Ballard. He has been released for his crimes due to mental illness and reoffended multiple times and again his charges are being dropped. Malone added that, when the man is released from custody, he will come back to where his drug connections are and there is a reason he comes to Ballard, and he will reoffend again. We need to make sure our officials know this is not a solution.

Kahrs mentioned that the root of the problem is the lack of resources to deal with these issues. Malone stated that leadership owes it to us to come forward with a plan and present a real solution.

Marketing and Promotions

Stewart discussed the continued growth of the Visit Ballard brand. The Visit Ballard website remains on the first or second result when you search Ballard on google. The brewery passport has been greatly successful and contributes to traffic on the website and facebook pages. The shop & dine guide is at the printer now and we have a few key locations for distribution secured. Summer events in the park are going great.

Advocacy / Urban Design

Stewart stated his continued efforts serving on the light rail stakeholder advisory group pushing for a tunneled option paid off and the below grade station will be studied in an EIS. The EIS will be publish in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Stewart added that the District 6 elections are underway with 13 candidates filed. It is important to keep safety and criminal justice as election topics.

Business Development

Reynolds announced that AJ Cari the Small Business Advocate from the City of Seattle Office of Economic Development and Scott Plusquellec the Night Life Advisor for the City have come out to present at the monthly Ballard Merchants Group meetings. Also AJ Cari now holds office hours twice a month in Ballard for businesses to use as a resource.

Reynolds also announced that the Ballard Mural project finally found a wall to host the mural; AMLI 24 has agreed and will be meeting tomorrow to discuss.

Kiana Ballo announced that the Ballard Utility Box project has received grant funding and is currently in the design process. The designed wraps are projected to be installed by the end of August.

Ballo also announced a new event, the Ballard Wine Walk. This event will be by October 19th, from 6 to 9 and will feature 10 local businesses each hosting a winery. Tickets will be \$25 dollars and include 10 tastings. This event could be a great addition to build funds for the Alliance and to fill a gap with wine events in Ballard.

Reynolds stated that he has conducted two safety assessment walks and one public safety meeting with the North precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator Mary Amberg for residents in apartment and condo buildings in Ballard.

Reynolds mentioned that the summer events in the Park will include 12 work outs, 5 movies and a dog show in the park.

Presentation from Andres Mantilla, Director of Dept. of Neighborhoods

Mantilla announced that the Department of Neighborhoods has recently transitioned into a central role and have been trying to elevate the things they hear from the community to inform the mayor. One example of this is the new police patrols in the emphasis zones around the city. In addition to this, infrastructure improvements like lighting and crosswalks have been improving since conducting a walk with the mayor. The Customer Service Bureau has recorded RV complaints as the number one complaint for the Ballard area.

Some of the other things Dept. of Neighborhoods has done is: increase SPD interactions and engagement with people, improving communication between departments, more bike corral maintenance, signage is being replaced, removing fliers, improving ADA access, attending to overgrown vegetation, bus shelter refurbishment, pot hole patching, improving crosswalks, improving lighting in Ballard Commons Park, and better alley lighting are some of the things the city is working to address. What we need to do is establish a concrete feedback loop and we are working with the Customer Service Bureau to see the effects of our efforts. Through community walks and discussions we are adapting and improving.

Mantilla added that they are beginning a weekly pilot to collect and return shopping carts. Bobby Lee the director of OED working with Dept of Neighborhoods to team up and take on these problems at different levels.

Malone asked if emphasis patrols are the best solution to these problems and suggested some revision may be necessary to get people to more hot spots.

Mantilla responded that protocol for cleanup is very specific.

Stewart asks if there is an end date to the emphasis patrols. Mantilla responded that there is no end date to his knowledge but they may shift patterns eventually.

Reynolds added that the transit authority is helpful for bus shelter issues. Stewart stated that it may be better to remove the troublesome bus shelter on Market Street all together.

6. Closing Comments

Jim Riggle announced that there is a proposed Pebble Mine Project being established by a Canadian company and the army corps of engineers that could detrimentally damage the health of the Alaskan water ways and oceans. This could ruin Alaskan fishing and seafood industries. According to Riggle, there has never been a pebble mine that hasn't failed to keep their harmful chemicals out of the environment. The public comment period for this project ends on the 30th of this month.

Malone motioned to adjourn. Ackerman seconded the motion and a vote was held. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by all.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.