



## Approved 2019 Ratepayer Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 11, 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  
Barry Blanton, Greenfire Campus, Commons at Ballard  
Stephanie Carrillo, Equity Residential

**Absent:**

James Lechner, Bastille Café/Stoneburner Association  
Jeannie Liu, Miro Tea  
Michelle Rosenthal, Veris Law Group  
Scott Koppelman, AMLI Mark24

**Via Conference Call:**

Eric Nelson, National Nordic Museum

**Observers/Presenters:**

Phil Lloyd, Seattle CFO  
Heidi Wills, D6 City Council Candidate  
Kate Lichtenstein, Sound Transit  
Andrea Burnett, Sound Transit  
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. We are currently 67% through the year but spending is at 60% for the year. Things are tracking well right now and we are slightly underbudget which accommodates increased expenses during the holiday season.

Mike Stewart adds that the Ballard Alliance receives some grant funding from the City of Seattle to help fund Paige Killinger's position as an outreach case manager with REACH. Lloyd mentioned that reimbursement from the City is in the works and will be reflected in next quarter's budget report.

#### 4. Review and Approve March Meeting Minutes (All)

Tom Malone requested that the June minutes be adopted. Davis Carvey moved 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

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

- Collected 1,026 bags of trash and recycling
- Collected 9 bags of leaves
- Performed 176 public can overflow clean-ups
- Reported on 38 graffiti tags via Find It, Fix It
- Reported on 106 illegally dumped items
- Cleaned posters off at least 94.5 telephone poles
- Performed 753 sanitary clean-ups involving bio hazards like human and animal waste
- Picked up 178 sharps
- Picked up 4 animal carcasses
- Reported on 252 shopping carts left in right-of-ways
- Reported on 20 infrastructure issues in the public realm
- Logged 1,774.5 hours of work by the Millionair Club, who employs those experiencing homelessness, unemployment and underemployment

Reynolds announced that he has filed 579 reports to the city for infrastructure issues. Reynolds also announced that he is working on getting the two alley ways in Ballard cleaned up by regularly reporting issues, applying for a grant to get the alley ways power washed, and by working with business owners to make sure they have the accurate level of waste management services.

Reynolds added that numbers for trash, bio waste, public can overflows, and sharps have increased. Malone stated that it does not seem like good news that there is more to pick up.

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 active teamwork from MCC, increased activity in the neighborhood, or a combination of the two. It is the same area being covered as last year.

Berry Blanton inquired about the kind of feedback the city gives after a report is filed. Reynolds responded that it depends. There is always an automatic email with reference numbers but if there is no noticeable improvement, then he will reach out to his contacts at the city departments. Usually then the issue gets addressed.

Blanton asked if Reynolds feels as though he gets good responses from his reports. Reynolds stated that the responses seem to be getting better because his quality of contacts are improving and his contacts know that if the issue is not addressed, that he will continue to press the issue.

### Presentation from Sound Transit

Andrea Burnett and Kate Lichtenstein presented updates about the planning for the Ballard Link Light Rail Station. Burnett stated that the project is in the planning phase about to start the EIS process for the community proposed alternatives. At the end of the outreach process, the board identified preferred alternatives, alternatives with third part funding and draft EIS alternatives.

Lichtenstein discussed the BNSF portal – 20<sup>th</sup> Ave tunnel station option in Ballard and the Thorndyke Portal – 20<sup>th</sup> Ave tunnel station option as two options being explored by Sound Transit after hearing community support for these community suggested options. Final decisions will be may by the Sound Transit Board at its next meeting.

### Clean and Safe (continued).

Stewart presented updated numbers from Paige Killinger, the outreach case manager. This year has seen steady numbers, averaging 78 face to face contacts per month. Access to housing assistance and access to shelter has been increasing.

Stewart stated that the last two weeks have been challenging with many incidents and calls to 911. There has been a lot of undesirable activity at the broken bus shelter outside of Market Street Shoes. This bus shelter has many issues and has become a hub for chaos. It needs to be addressed; it is on King Country's list but we do not know what level of priority it is.

Malone responded that 9/10 times the bus shelter is occupied by people drinking while people who are waiting for the bus stand by the building.

Lanne Stauffer mentions that yesterday was the first day that she felt like closing her business after having to physically intervene and resolve several fights outside of her store. The police were called multiple times but never showed up.

Reynolds responded that the phone number for the transit authority police is on the Visit Ballard / Outreach page and that they are usually better at responding to issues at bus stops.

Stewart stated that Ballard Commons Park seems to have improved a bit, more information on that later. The mayor has encouraged police to cite obstructions.

Stewart announced updated statistics from the prolific offenders report. Advocacy efforts have resulted in a new Seattle Police Department study to understand how many officers have left the department and why. The Mayor has proposed an addition of \$1.6 million in 2020 funding to help recruit and retain officers.

Stewart added that the city will continue emphasis patrols in target neighborhoods in 2020. Also, there will be an addition of specially trained nurses in the five locations with the highest concentration of 911 calls. They will increase the number of community service officers. An additional mobile can for the Health One program will be added to focus on low level issues.

Stewart stated that one of the requests that was made as a result of the prolific offenders report is a prolific offender task force, the other is that the city hire a public safety advisor. Both requests have been addressed by the city. There is now a "high barrier" group working on case conferencing, enhanced probation, rapid reentry and place-based treatment. The west wing of the county jail will

be turned into a place for services for the high barrier individuals. These are the first and most immediate steps responding to the prolific offenders report.

Blanton asked about regional governance.

Stewart responded that the notion of regional governance is that it is not only the city or the county that provide services to people within them so why not coordinate, provide services together, and work together to address these issues. They would ultimately create a board of directors who will be selected by a committee to ensure that the board is full of experts who can provide guidance. It has potential to be good or bad, depending on how it is implemented.

Stewart added that a new policy from Mayor Durkan will help remove RVs with serious public health risks from the street. Many have insect, rodent, biohazard and other public health issues. Also, there is new legislation for “RV ranching” to stop people from renting out RVs as housing and to prevent predatory landlords. The new legislation may make it possible to continue since it sets criteria that may make it ok to rent RVs under certain circumstances.

Stewart discussed the Alliance’s continued to work with the SODO BIA to study fecal chloroform in the water that results from run-off from illegal dumping. SODO’s level of fecal chloroform is at 500, Ballard is at 200, and the standard level is 15. There have been some premeetings with the mayor and there is a draft letter in the works that will be sent to the county, state departments, and the governor.

Stewart announced that there will be another public safety forum in Pioneer Square. Apparently, the City of Minneapolis has a good program for addressing prolific offenders and DSA is bringing them out to the forum to talk about the success of their program. DSA is creating their own report on retail theft as well.

Malone added that change is necessary, especially with city council elections going on. It is important to put political pressure on and make a change in city council. This is a key time to be involved.

#### Marketing and Promotions

Stewart discussed the continued growth of the Visit Ballard brand. The Visit Ballard website remains as the first or second result when you search Ballard on google. There has been lots of promotion with SeafoodFest, cross promotion with our businesses and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Kiana Ballo presented information on the inaugural Ballard Wine Walk. The event will be held on October 19th from 6 to 9 pm. This event will feature 10 local businesses that will host 10 Washington wineries for a night of wine tasting. Tickets for the event are \$25 for 10 1 oz tastes, for \$10 you can purchase an extra three tastes, and for \$5 you can purchase a commemorative GoVino glass. The target is 300 participants. If all is successful, this event could be held once or twice a year and could become a significant source of income.

Stewart announced updates with the Ballard Shop & Dine guide. So far, the guides have been distributed to 14 locations around Ballard. We are working to secure some locations outside of Ballard as well.

Stewart added that planned events have been great for exposure and community engagement. The Sidewalk Sale was a success with 27 venues. The ArtWalk has continued to grow this year.

#### Advocacy / Urban Design

Stewart discussed the light rail alternatives that are under consideration for inclusion in the EIS.

Kiana Ballo presented final designs for the Ballard Utility Box Project and announced that the project is currently pending permit approval from SDOT.

Stewart announced that since the city council elections are coming up, there will be another candidate forum for D6 at the Nordic Museum on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Business Development

Reynolds announced that we were able to get Darrell Bulmer with SDOT and Randy Wiger with Parks and Rec to come out to the Ballard Merchants Group meetings to discuss projects and programs in Ballard. We have been working closely with Randy on park programming, funding and park concierges.

Reynolds reported that he was part of an Office of Economic Development panel discussion for small businesses to learn about BIA and city resources.

Reynolds said that the Ballard Mural project finally found a wall to host the mural; AMLI 24 has agreed and painting will begin on the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month. The mural will be funded by Western Tow Boat and paint will be donated by Miller Paint.

Stewart discussed continued work with the BMG but expressed that restaurants are less involved/represented. It would be great to start something similar to the BMG but just for restaurants to talk and collaborate.

Reynolds mentioned that the summer events in Ballard Commons Park included 12 work outs, 5 movies and a dog show in the park. The work outs averaged about 15 people in attendance and were free for all to attend, held on Saturday mornings and hosted by local fitness businesses. The movies were every Thursday in August and were a big hit this year. Each movie had about 200 people in attendance and were free and open to all. Each movie had a food truck, trivia and give-aways including shirts, balloons and leis. The dog show was also a big success with 30 dogs participating and about 200 people in attendance, also a free community event. There were give-aways for all participants, free dog photos, a dog obstacle course and a parade to the market at the end of the event.

Reynolds added that every event has a park concierge and additional security funded by parks and rec. The first movie in the park had a few instances that required 911 calls but the rest of the events went smoothly. It seems like the park is starting to reach a turning point for the better.

Christine Ackerman thanked the Alliance for the community manager emails that outline the free community events each month.

## **6. Closing Comments**

Mike Kahrs stated that the focus should be on public health and safety but also getting city hall to respect our neighborhoods. He challenges the Ballard Public Art Committee to put out a contest for SeafoodFest t-shirt designs for next year. He also brought up that many board member terms are coming to an end this year and replacements will need to be secured.

Stewart notes to look at by laws for term rules.

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

## **7. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.**