

CITY OF SEATAC
COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2014

Members present:

Jean Blackburn, Abdirahman Hashi, Virginia Olsen, Pat Patterson and alternate Nibret Aga.

Members absent:

Abdiwali Mohamed, Keith Siebler and Matthew York.

1. Call to Order

Virginia Olsen called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the March 26, 2014, minutes with one correction to the spelling of Mr. Hashi's first name.

3. Community Conversations

Members shared their experiences and observations on the community, including on the Highline Schools Foundation's recent fund-raiser, the program for homeless families in the Highline School District, events at the SeaTac Senior Center and Project Feast.

4. Public Comment

One community member in the audience made comment.

5. New Business

A. Debrief from Council Presentation

Abdirahman Hashi began the committee conversation on the April 22 Council presentation. Members agreed that the presentation went well. They also decided that they wanted to follow up on Mayor Gregerson's advice to provide more information on suggested programs so a placeholder could be put in the budget by June if possible, or for the biennial budget adjustment if that timeframe isn't workable. The committee also agreed to focus on providing Council with a more thoroughly researched set of preliminary recommendations by December 2014.

B. Work Plan Implementation

1. Committee members spoke at length about how to proceed with items on their work plan. A summary is below: Community connectors are the committee's first priority. Staff liaison Gwen Voelpel will invite Global to Local and Community and Economic Development staff involved in the recent Angle Lake Station Area outreach effort to the May meeting. Members committed to reading the Forterra

report, “Connecting to the Future: Inclusive outreach and engagement in the City of Tukwila” before the May meeting.

2. Community gardens are the committee’s second priority. Mr. Patterson provided information on neighboring cities’ programs (Attachment A). He also shared that he spoke with Parks & Recreation Director Kit Ledbetter, who estimated the cost to construct a garden at \$50,000-\$70,000. The Director indicated to Pat that he didn’t believe the cost of water would be significant and could be absorbed by the City. Pat also found that there are many gardeners working with the Highline Botanical Garden Foundation who would be interested in aiding in the effort. The group agreed, since this was a primary priority for Mr. York, to ask Matthew to coordinate a speaker from the non-profit community garden group in Federal Way to attend the May meeting. Joe Scorcio, Community and Economic Development Director, will already be in attendance and can speak to the status of the City’s comprehensive plan policies that support community gardens.
3. Translated code enforcement public information is the third priority. As the group had already heard a request for feedback on this idea from Code Enforcement Officer Barb Canfield, the group felt comfortable in talking to Mr. Scorcio about translating the “Good Neighbor” brochure or a similar overview piece into the three main languages other than English spoken in the school district—Spanish, Somali and Punjabi. The group agreed to ask Mr. Scorcio for an estimate of the cost of publishing the brochure in those three languages at a quantity to be established by his staff at the May meeting.
4. The group agreed to put their other priority work plan items on hold: Ms. Blackburn can invite Julie Burr from the school district when the committee is ready to talk about internships. Mr. Ledbetter indicated that Lawrence Ellis from Parks & Recreation could be consulted on the photo display at City Hall to reflect the diversity of the community. The group will discuss participation in the Back to School Fair at their June meeting and decide how they want to participate. And the other work plan item that is not scheduled for discussion is contacting other organizations, although Mr. York indicated he would contact Rotary at a prior meeting.

6. Future Meeting Topics

- A. May 28, 2014: 1) Community Connectors; 2) Community Gardens; 3) Code Enforcement Public Education.
- B. June 25, 2014: 1) Roles (Rotation and/or Redefinition); 2) Back to School Fair Participation; 3) Other Work Plan Item Scheduling—Photo Display; Internships; Contacting Organizations.
- C. July 23, 2014: TBD

7. Adjournment

Virginia Olsen adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Attachment A

City Name	Do you have a Pea Patch in your community	How many plots are in your Pea Patch	Who pays for the water	What is the cost for a space	Do you have a waiting list	Is the Pea Patch on a park site
Burien	Yes	29	City	\$25 year	No	Yes
Tukwila	Yes	24	City	\$35 year	No	Yes and one at a Church
Des Moines	Yes	25	City	\$25 year	No	Yes