

**CITY OF SHORELINE
COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS MINUTES**

January 3, 2018
6:30 pm

Shoreline City Hall

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Ballinger –Stephanie Angelis
Briarcrest – Bill Dwyer, Lee Keim, Lois Harrison
Echo Lake –Cathy Goodrich, Gidget Terpstra
Highland Terrace –Suzan Shayler, Maria Ales, Cyndi Robinson
Innis Arden – Domenick Dellino, Mai Norden
Parkwood – Braden Pence
Richmond Beach –Sheri Ashleman, Chris Beck, Tom Petersen
Richmond Highlands - Pete Gerhard, Kathy Plant
Ridgecrest – Patty Hale, Ron Carnell

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Rob Beem, Community Services Manager; Constance Perenyi, Neighborhoods Coordinator

I. Call to Order

Chair Pete Gerhard called the meeting to order.

II. Introduction

Chair Pete Gerhard explained that this was not a regular business meeting, and that December minutes would be reviewed at the February CON meeting. He then introduced Jerry Patterson.

III. Facilitating Conversation Among “The Polarized” Training

Jerry Patterson began the training by asking each participant to share one reason they should not be at the CON meeting at that time. Answers ranged from people having laundry to be folded, to others who said they really had no reason. The point, as Jerry noted, was for everyone to be able to have their voice heard in a safe space. This is, he pointed out, the first step in having a conversation. He continued leading participants through other examples showing how communications can move forward and how questions can be framed to be more positive, changing from “If only” thinking to a more constructive “Given the harsh reality . . . “. See Responsibilities for Facilitators below.

As an exercise in expressing and listening to different viewpoints, Jerry passed out excerpts from a Frequently Asked Questions document that the CON Board is currently working on. The adapted excerpt is below. Participants broke into four groups to answer questions based on the excerpt. Those responses are below as well. Jerry ended the training by asking people to briefly share a personal reflection of the evening.

IV. Final Chair Remarks

After thanking Jerry for facilitating the training, Pete reported that the CON Board has asked Bill Dwyer (Briarcrest) to begin planning an Emergency Preparedness Summit for CON and neighborhood leaders in the spring. Bill followed up and said that he will be contacting CON members who have expressed

interest in working on this project. If this goes well, it could lead to a larger Preparedness Fair for the whole city in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Below are materials from the training. They are:

- 1) “Excerpts from FAQ”. These were adapted for the purpose of discussion during the training by Jerry Patterson. They are taken, and reworded by the facilitator from a draft of CON FAQs being prepared by the CON Board. Note: this is not the vision or mission of CON, which are**

VISION: An inclusive and vibrant network of neighborhoods in the City of Shoreline

MISSION: Provide leadership in strengthening and connecting Shoreline’s diverse neighborhoods.

- 2) Responses to discussion questions from training participants.**
- 3) Responsibilities of Facilitator, a handout provided by Jerry Patterson for the training.**

Excerpts from FAQ

What is the purpose of CON?

“Our stated mission is to provide leadership in strengthening and connecting Shoreline’s diverse neighborhoods. We contribute to the unfolding history of our city by raising issues, exploring potential solutions, and, when appropriate, recommending possible action to the City.”

“It does not advocate a position on issues in the City and it is unrealistic to think we would do so. This is not part of our mission.”

To summarize the above points:

As part of its mission, CON:

- Raises issues
- Explores potential solutions
- And, when appropriate, recommends actions to the City

On the other hand, CON:

- Does not advocate a position on issues in the City
- Believes it is not part of our mission
- Believes it is unrealistic to think we should do so.

Responses to discussion questions posed for the purpose of the training

What is your perspective on whether advocacy is or is not a part of CON's current mission and why do you feel this way?

Group 1:

- It is not a part of our mission.
- Never has been.
- It is a matter of fact.
- We advocate for strengthening neighborhoods, but not (other) political positions.
- Not taking sides.
- It is a huge part of what we do – constant advocacy, but subtle.

Group 2:

- CON's mission should be to address neighborhood issues as a whole Shoreline city. Not come here without real mission . . . useless . . . people won't come.
- No. Con's mission isn't advocacy, don't like question, answer should be yes. Definition of advocacy . . . useless otherwise . . .
- City itself realizes CON members aren't elected representatives, city in position to "listen" to CON rather than citizens as a whole.
- Advocacy as a term normally understood not part of CON mission. Struggle with why CON exists and why be part of it? Try to feed neighborhood level information to elicit response of self-advocacy at the neighborhood level. Connect ideas/struggles the same: need to see more?
- As a new member: what is mission, wants to have a voice for her community. Bring neighborhood issues, what's appropriate for Shoreline vs. neighborhood level. Why? We need to be more active/participating in City/conversation.
- CON should be an advocacy place for neighborhoods to connect to city. CON should be able to take more advocacy positions on "agreeable" positions such as environmental betterment, clean water, sidewalk treatments (or other options).
- That said agree that different people aren't represented by CON, can't be rep of therefore . . .

What is your perspective on the position that it is unrealistic for CON to consider any type of advocacy role and why do you feel this way?

Group 3:

- Do expect advocacy. Representative should represent its neighborhood's issues to City.
- CON=special interest group. CON should not be advocacy for all citizens of Shoreline.
- Unrealistic for CON to be advocacy for City. Can bring our voice to the City.
- I cannot represent my neighbors. It is unrealistic to advocate on issues not voted by most of my neighbors.
- Define advocacy.

Group 4:

- Perspective is unrealistic.
- Agree, RBNA has been forced to take certain positions. Will never get 100% consensus. CON to educate and engage.

- Agree, does advocacy on a personal level. Only 1 from neighborhood association here at CON and doesn't know all points of view.
- Agree, words have contradictions. Recommend = Advocacy? Speaking for few folks.
- Same as above + contradiction. I feel comfortable expressing what I hear from neighbors.
- Disagree, wants to be a passionate advocate. Concern about wording of statement. Can advocate for multiple sides of an issue.

Responsibilities of Facilitator (handout)

- Pre-plans so that the session is designed for optimum efficiency and effectiveness. This includes room arrangement, materials, food/beverages, and carefully considered agenda.
- Encourages full participation. This means building a respectful, supportive atmosphere so that each person feels safe to be heard.
- Promotes mutual understanding. This means helping group members genuinely understand and honor diverse perspectives and ethical value systems.
- Remains impartial, honors all points of view, and shows no emotional reactions to extreme views or behavior.
- Asserts the “prerogative of the chair” (facilitator) to make sure the group’s ground rules are adhered to ... even if it means being strict with a group member.
- Guides the group away from engaging prematurely in “positional” debate and guides them toward engagement in conversation around the question, “What do we want to accomplish?”
- Move away from ‘if only’ thinking and toward “given the harsh reality” thinking.
- Shift from “either-or thinking” to “and thinking.”
- Be clear with the group about how decisions will get made, e.g., compromise, consensus, majority wins, unanimous consent, supervisor decides with input from group.
- Other