

## CITY OF SHORELINE COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS MINUTES

September 9, 2020  
Zoom Meeting, 7 pm

### COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Briarcrest – Alice Keller  
Echo Lake – Jeanne Monger, Gidget Terpstra  
Highland Terrace – Maria Ales  
Hillwood – Ann Erickson, Hannah Connaughton  
Innis Arden – Dom Dellino  
Meridian Park – Tom Karston  
North City – Dan Dale  
Richmond Beach – Tom Maihot, Tom Petersen  
Richmond Highlands – Pete Gerhard, Kathy Plant  
Ridgecrest – Patty Hale

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Colleen Kelly, Recreation, Cultural and Community Services Interim Director;  
Constance Perenyi, Neighborhoods Coordinator.

GUESTS: Janet Covarrubias (Richmond Highlands), Guruprasad Gundappa (Richmond Highlands), and three others through the evening who did not identify themselves

- I. Call to Order Dan Dale welcomed everyone and introduced Deputy Mayor Keith Scully.
- II. Deputy Mayor Keith Scully thanked everyone for participating in the CON meeting, and noted that staying engaged with each other is more important than ever right now.

The first topic the Deputy Mayor addressed was the City's finances. In some respects, Shoreline is better off than other cities because we do not depend on sales tax. And as much as we want all the retail and restaurants, we're not reeling the way other cities are. Shoreline depends on property tax, and at least for now, that's holding pretty steady. Where that goes, who knows. But even given that, our budget has been hit by the downturn. We started a biennial budget process a few years ago, so we'll be working on the 2021-22 budget throughout the fall. This year, in 2020, we've had about a \$6M budget shortfall because of the Coronavirus, and we're anticipating the annual shortfall next year to be about \$3M. Those are big numbers, but not unmanageable.

Shoreline has a Rainy Day Fund, a state-mandated reserve which amounts to 2 months of tax-generated income for the City. This is just in case there are months where there is no income, a thought that at one time seemed impossible to the Deputy Mayor without something apocalyptic happening. At this point, all the Council agrees we are now dealing with a rainy day, so some of that fund is being used now so we can continue providing services. Some of that is being used for the shortfall, but we don't want to drain the fund. We've had some cost-saving opportunities, like not being able to hire new police officers because none are available now, and we closed the pool early. We don't have a plan for a new pool for now. Council welcomes suggestions about what should happen next.

There were a lot of unexpected expenses related to COVID, and the City has been able to put together some emergency funding for our partners. Other agencies, non-profits, and community networks have stepped in to help fill those gaps. We remain willing to assist as needed, but for now it seems short-term emergency “how do I feed my family?” needs for people are being met. In the next biennium, it’s possible but not likely that the Federal government may step in to help with shortfall, so we will continue to look at what we can do to save money without having to sacrifice too much, although scaling back and possibly some permanent cuts may need to be made.

Deputy Mayor Scully then focused on the enhanced shelter, noting that he would be brief because Colleen Kelly would be covering it more completely later in the meeting. About a year and a half ago, the Deputy Mayor joined the board of All Home, at the time the closest to a countywide body to coordinate all systems. Over the last year, he has worked to help invent a better system that will hopefully start fixing what doesn’t work: it has left many populations unserved while others may be overserved. As Councilmembers began to think about Shoreline could do, they consistently were asked, “Why is this our problem?”

The enhanced shelter is an answer to this because it will be run and paid for and run by King County. Shoreline will host it because it is in our city, but we will not be paying for it. We do have to make some zoning changes, but we will not be putting up the money. Why is it important to have a shelter here rather than just busing unsheltered people to Pioneer Square? The answer is because many of them grew up here or have been living in Shoreline for a while and just will not uproot to go downtown - that centralized system just fails for the outlying areas. We get complaints all the time about people camping along the Interurban Trail or living in vehicles and parks, but being heavy-handed about it doesn’t solve the problem for them or anyone else.

So, we have to do something. Or we have to accept that people are living in misery, which in the Deputy’s Mayor view is inhuman. Or we have to accept that our public spaces are less for the public and more for a small segment of the population that needs somewhere to go. So, from both a human services standpoint and a public order one, the Deputy Mayor has fought hard to get a shelter in this area. This particular project has come together very fast because the facility came on the market and the owners needed to move quick to sell the property. They would sell it to King County or on the private market. So, it was not ideal in terms of time to get public comment. But Council has gotten a lot of comments, from folks who are concerned and others who are very supportive of it. Numbers are higher on the concerned side, but there are significant numbers of both sides.

What this is proposed to be is an enhanced shelter, not a navigation center, which is a model that has had issues. This is different. It does have a low barrier for entry, which means people don’t have to pass a whole checklist of requirements, but once they are inside, they have to follow rules or they cannot stay. Those rules include no drugs or alcohol on site. The pushback to that is, “Great. Well they’ll just go to the park to use.” Shoreline has a police force, and the Deputy Mayor intends to enforce laws that have been difficult to enforce in the past because unsheltered people had nowhere else to go. Some of the concerns have been extreme, similar to the ones Council heard when Ronald Commons was proposed. None of those fears have come to pass. Ronald Commons is very well run, as the shelter intends to be as well.

The City's role is to set zoning restrictions, and Council intends to do that in a way where there is control over what happens at the shelter. If, after a few months, things are not working, Council can say, "This didn't work out so we can't operate the shelter here." But the Deputy Mayor maintains every hope that things will work out, and encourages people to stay engaged as the details are worked out.

Q from Janet Covarrubias: are there background checks to make sure there aren't sex offenders at the shelter?

A from Colleen Kelly: the grant money from the state and the current county policies for enhanced shelters are for a low barrier entry, and those preclude background checks. So that is not intended to be part of the program. It's intended to focus on how people interact and behave and demonstrate their capacity to be safe once they are in the shelter.

Q from Janet: So, if there are people there who are sex offenders, we will not know. Is that right?

A from Colleen Kelly: We have checked to make sure we are not running afoul of any state laws governing this. The information there indicates that there are strict requirements for sex offenders who have to check in with their probation officers. So, the shelter will push people to do what they are required to do.

From Deputy Mayor Scully: We hear those concerns, but be aware that if sex offenders are living on the street, we don't know about them either. They are not getting the supervision and services people at the shelter will.

Q from Dom Dellino: Back to the budget, how much is in the Rainy Day Budget.

A: Does not have an exact number, but it is substantial.

Q from Patty Hale: is there any way to prioritize homeless people in Shoreline in the shelter?

A: People will not be screened by address, but with outreach and Police, unsheltered people will be funneled to the shelter.

Q from Tom Karston: if the shelter happens, will there be rehabilitation for people who are homeless?

A from Deputy Mayor Scully: there have to be wraparound services for this to work, but we know that housing first is primary.

From Colleen Kelly: the purpose of an enhanced shelter is to work with people individually to come up with a plan for housing. When people come in, they will be asked for their story: what is keeping you from finding permanent housing? Those stories are different and the approach will be personalized. There will be a health specialist available because people who have been living on the street often have immediate health needs. Obviously, support for mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment needs will be huge resource needs. One of the advantages of a wraparound is case management, which will enable people to stay connected to those resources, and that is part of the agreement for staying in the shelter. There is an expectation that people at the shelter will be moving forward with their own plans, and that pathway will look different for each of them.

Q from Guruprasad Gundappa: Are there any examples of shelters set up in neighborhoods that are proven to work?

A: This is an apples to apples question. We can point to Ronald Commons in our own community that has worked well, but it is a different set-up so not a direct comparison. We have seen examples of low

barrier shelters that haven't worked, so there is knowledge going into this of what needs to be fixed so this can work.

From Colleen Kelly: King County representatives will address similar models when they speak next week at the community meeting on September 22.

III. Colleen Kelly shared information about Shoreline Community Services. Please see the attached PowerPoint. She also noted a change in organizational structure. She has moved from her role as Community Services Manager to being Recreation, Cultural and Community Services Interim Director. Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn is currently serving as Community Services Manager.

Q from Tom Karston: A lot of people have seen the movie *Seattle is Dying*, which includes reference to the Rhode Island model of dealing with homelessness. Do you have an idea of how that model might be relevant to Shoreline? Tom explained that Rhode Island deals with vagrancy by putting people in jail and making them go through treatment. People interviewed after that express gratitude saying their lives had been saved. Tom also noted his surprise at the number of high school students who are homeless and wondered if the shelter could prioritize their needs.

A: We did look at the issue of youth homelessness and there are a number of teens living homeless in Shoreline, largely not living outside as single adults are. There are a number of resources in King County for homeless teens, including a new one about to launch supported by Veterans, Seniors and Human Service Levy dollars. King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski has directed resources to a new case manager employed by Youth Care who will work with homeless youth in Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. City staff anticipates this person will work part time through the Teen Center in Shoreline and somewhere to be decided in LFP. The enhanced shelter will serve single adults, not families or youth. We know it is advantageous to separate those populations.

Q from Patty Hale: please describe what Lake City Partner is.

A: Lake City Partners is an organization that specifically provides supports for homeless adults. They currently run the rotating winter shelter and support the outreach specialist in Shoreline. Their goal is to work with people who are currently homeless to find a pathway to finding permanent housing. Because the City does contract with them, we require quarterly reports that provide information about the outcomes for the people they work with. Executive Director Melanie Neufeld will be at the community meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lake City Partners I very experienced working with the homeless as well as with the neighborhoods around the churches that provide space for winter shelters. They have good neighbor policies in place, and that is part of the guest agreement for the people staying in the shelters. It will be for the enhanced shelter as well.

Q from Dom Dellino: We're all aware that there are people who would not choose to be in a shelter but want to stay somewhere like the encampment at Saint Dunstan's. How would the enhanced shelter articulate with that? And would there be room there for people who use the winter shelters? And when is this scheduled to open?

A from Deputy Mayor Scully: the enhanced shelter is not designed to replace any of the other shelter alternatives. The elephant in the room is housing. We need more affordable housing, and very affordable housing for the people in the area who make below 30% of the area median income. This shelter does not fix that. And you are right: if someone doesn't want to go to a shelter, we cannot force them. But once the enhanced shelter is open, we can offer that as an alternative to get people out of

places like Hamlin Park or in living in their cars. Police will be able to do more then.

From Colleen: We really are looking at ways to tighten up connections between the police and the outreach staff. The Radar Program is a piece of what the police have available to them now to try to create more of a service-first response to homelessness. In all the talk about policing right now, we're recognizing that we call the police for everything. Homeless people really need services and support to get housed, and that's not what the police do. As part of the shelter, there is funding for a second outreach person based in North King County. And while there is a possibility people out of the area will come to the shelter, it really is designed to serve North King County.

Pending Council action in October, the shelter is set to open in mid- to late December.

Comment from Jeanne Monger: My church has worked with Lake City Partners to host the winter shelter. In March when COVID hit, the church closed to the public but allowed the shelter to remain. This operation involves volunteers to help feed and take care of other needs for people staying there. I am more than happy about this enhanced shelter because we don't know what happens this winter with the church still closed and people still in need. This is a problem.

From Colleen Kelly: this is a problem throughout the system. We have worked with congregate models to provide shelter and with COVID, that doesn't work with people so close together. There has been an effort to create added capacity, which is why you heard about the County rushing to buy hotels and safer places. We are more aware than ever of the benefit of separate spaces for people. It is a more humane way to provide shelter and provides a more immediate sense of stability for people who really need that to move on in their lives.

IV. Constance reported that CON meetings will continue as regularly scheduled through the fall: first Wednesdays starting at 7 pm. Deputy Mayor Scully talked about the budget tonight, and next month, Sara Lane will return to CON with a full presentation on the City budget.

We have just finished a summer of successful and safe activities, and Constance thanked everyone for their participation. It has been a real challenge to keep people engaged with their community, and together we did. City staff is contemplating what can be offered in the fall. Look for the next iteration of the Shoreline Has Gratitude nominations as a new Shoreline Good News feature.

Please share your inspiration for fall activities and how you are using Zoom for your neighborhood meetings.

**Briarcrest:** Had a Zoom meeting last night and have been regularly since spring. On August 22, BNA hosted a Discovery Tour of the neighborhood, a lot of work to organize but a big success with over 70 participants. This was a scavenger hunt, with 20 stops. Last night, BNA waxed nostalgic about their annual holiday party and began discussing what they can do, possibly a party outside. The discussion will continue.

**Echo Lake:** ELNA had a Zoom picnic that was surprisingly fun. Planning Zoom meetings, this month featuring Community Court. Still educating people on Zoom and helping neighbors get comfortable using it to stay connected.

**Highland Terrace:** HTNA got permission to distribute masks in front of Central Market. They added instructions for how to tie dye the masks which gave people something creative to do.

**Hillwood:** HCN got their rebranding Mini-Grant and will be installing signs with their new logo this fall.

Hillwood has been involved in the getting the new 4-Corners utility box wrap on 8<sup>th</sup> and Richmond Beach Road. That is accomplished now. 4-Corners has also been actively reimagining the annual food drive for this year. It will be virtual, and a way for people to make monetary donations to Hopelink through the month of October.

**Meridian Park:** MPNA figuring out how to do Zoom meetings for the fall. Also thinking about how to do a survey to find out what residents think about key issues such as the shelter.

**North City:** Thinking about how to rekindle pre-COVID momentum in the neighborhood. Virtual Jazz Walk featured some incredible talent. Attendance could have been higher, but a lot of people tuned in that night and others have gone to YouTube to watch the videos. This whetted organizers appetite for the event next year and prompted questions about how this could be even better. Note: the biggest meeting before COVID was about having retail on lower levels of large apartment buildings in the area. With COVID, it puts it all in kind of an economic spin as we figure out what happens next. Also in question now is what happens with parks in the area of light rail. We're looking at so much change and what happens with plans now.

**Richmond Beach:** Still planning annual candidate night. This year it will be on Zoom in early October. Details coming. Although the annual RBCA Carnival will be different this year, with decorated houses for people to drive by and selfie stations. There will not be an official Turkey Day Run on Thanksgiving, but there will be a commemorative T-shirt and encouragement for people to run in their own neighborhood. Richmond Highlands: Things have been pretty quiet. Brewfest didn't happen this year, but organizers have a survey out to figure out how to support brewers this time.

**Ridgecrest:** Without a big signature event like the annual Ice Cream Social, the Ridgecrest community has been able to organize smaller, more responsive events such as the Black Lives Matter march at Paramount School Park. Neighbors also noticed that things needed to be tended to. They did things like volunteer. Two women weeded a corner, others mulched, and others repainted a stand pipe. The Crest site really needed to be cleaned up because the theater has been completely shut down and has an absentee owner. Neighbors hauled away 4 truckloads of garbage. Exciting things coming up: mural on exterior of restroom will soon be painted (Environmental Mini-Grant through the City), and there will soon be a new business opening on 15<sup>th</sup>. An indoor climbing facility will be in the building where Merry Maids was.

In closing, Dan Dale thanked everyone for participating and sharing ideas and inspiration with each other. In these days of Zoom, that helps hold us all together and keeps us moving forward.

The meeting ended at 8:47 pm.



# Shoreline Community Services

Council of Neighborhoods Meeting  
September 9, 2020



## Functional Areas

- ▀ Neighborhoods
- ▀ Emergency Management
- ▀ Environmental Services
- ▀ Diversity and Inclusion
- ▀ Human Services



## Neighborhoods

- ▀ Constance Perenyi
- ▀ Neighborhood Associations
- ▀ CON
- ▀ CityWise
- ▀ Mini Grants
- ▀ Love Your Community Grants



## Emergency Management

- ▀ Jason McMillan
- ▀ Staff Training
- ▀ CERT training and support
- ▀ City Planning & Preparation Documents
- ▀ Emergency Response
- ▀ Regional Participation





## **Environmental Services**

- ▶ Autumn Salamack and Cameron Reed
- ▶ Environmental Mini-Grants
- ▶ Recology Contract
- ▶ Climate Impacts and Resiliency Study
- ▶ External grant funding
- ▶ Community Events and Education
- ▶ Regional Participation



## **Diversity and Inclusion**

- ▶ Suni Tolton
- ▶ Staff Training
- ▶ Community Bridge
- ▶ Diversity and Inclusion Team
- ▶ Council, Boards and Commission Training
- ▶ Regional Participation



## Human Services

- ▶ Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn
- ▶ General Fund Contracts
- ▶ Community Response
- ▶ Affordable Housing
- ▶ Homelessness
- ▶ Regional Participation



## More on Homelessness

- ▶ Rotating Winter Shelter
- ▶ Outreach
- ▶ Cold Weather Shelter
- ▶ Council Goal: North King County Shelter
- ▶ Opportunity at the former Oaks Nursing Home
  - ▶ Status and Next Steps