

September 27, 2007

Licton Springs Community Council Report for September

North Precinct Advisory Council Report for September 5, 2007

The last of the summer meetings got under way at about 7:10 p.m. After the usual polling for new members or members of the press (we had one!), the meeting was handed over to Doug Thiel. Doug is the NPAC representative for the Cowan Park Neighborhood Association. It was the Cowan Park Association's desire to show their appreciation for the work done by both the Parks Department and the Seattle Police Department in dealing with an ongoing problem in Cowan Park. It seems that Cowan Park (like many other parks) has become a high crime area (drugs, assaults, vagrants, etc). It has been the close co-operation between the Police, citizens and the Parks Department that have resulted in making this Park less hospitable to crime. Let's hope this is a trend.

Special Presentation: Awards Ceremony – Cowen Park Neighborhood Association honored the Seattle Parks Department and the Seattle Police Department for their work in rescuing Cowen Park. Michelle Finnigan read an award of appreciation to Royal Alley-Barnes for her great assistance in cleaning up Cowen Park; the award was accepted by Jon Martin. An award of appreciation was also given to the Head of Park Crews, Steve (MAC) McElrea, whose help has also been exceptional. An award of appreciation also on behalf of Cowen Park Neighborhood Association to Captain Mike Washburn and Lieutenant Carmen Best, as well as to Sergeant Dianne Newsom, and Officer Randy Maxwell. Officer Maxwell noted that a significant part of the success at Cowen Park has been that the organizations around the Park got linked up and communicated problem areas to the Seattle Parks Department and the Seattle Police Department.

Next up was Peter Harris. Pete is from the City Council Central Staff and is working on police performance measures and accountability. He handed out a packet of information (document) that will be presented to the City Council. He read through this proposal. I'm sure the text means something to those involved with the issues, but I'd be willing to bet the average "Joe" on the street couldn't make heads or tails of it. (Maybe he thought he was preaching to the choir.) The members of the NPAC had more than a few question about a number of aspects of the document. For instance, if we have an average of 200 bank robberies per year over a five-year period and an average of 300 bank robberies over another five-year period, does this apparent increase take into account changes in population numbers?

A look at the workings and changes at SPD can be found at:

http://www.seattle.gov/police/Publications/06_Report_to_the_Community.pdf.
(This report is also available in print at many grocery outlets around Seattle.)

Topics covered:

- I. Special Presentation Speakers: Peter Harris (peter.harris@seattle.gov) and Julien Loh of the Mayor's Office
 - a. Pete Harris introduced a City Council Resolution on Police Performance Measures, a project that was started two years ago. The effort is to focus on the results of policing in nine different areas--see Attachment A of the Resolution. Some factors will be reviewed annually while others will be reviewed biannually. For neighborhood crime statistics, go to www.seattle.gov/police/crime/default.htm.
 - b. The next steps involve additional input to the Seattle City Council; NPAC will send a letter with comments on the draft Resolution.
 - c. Julien Loh indicated that the Mayor's Office is also interested in comments from the neighborhoods on the Resolution, and to please send a copy to the Mayor.

- II. Precinct Update: Captain Mike Washburn/Lieutenant. Best/Sergeant Newsom
 - a. Captain Washburn delivered the Precinct update. He noted a weekend traffic emphasis on the Aurora Bridge with 97 speeding and other citations given.
 - b. On August 4, a bicyclist without a helmet was stopped on University Way and ultimately arrested when he was found to have 419 grams of marijuana in his possession.
 - c. On August 11, shots were fired at 11:00 p.m. in the 142nd block of Linden Avenue; arrests were made.
 - d. On August 20, a domestic violence arrest was made in the 6100 block of Roosevelt Way with drugs and cash seized.
 - e. On August 24, a robbery occurred in the 6500 block of 35th Avenue Northeast; an arrest was made (with a likely link to other recent robberies).
 - f. On August 11, Sergeant Newsom arrested a dangerous felon.
 - g. The CPT has been doing significant work with underage drinking emphasis as well as involving illegal street parking.

- h. The Seattle Police Department attended approximately 69 Block Watch Parties in North Seattle for the August Night Out.
- i. Lieutenant Best indicated that the parks emphasis included more than just Cowen Park. Early morning patrols involved many parks, and illegal campers were removed, especially from Ravenna and Carkeek Parks.
- j. Sergeant Newsom announced the Red Bull Boxcar Derby in Fremont on September 29.
- k. Officer Randy Maxwell warned that aggressive magazine sales are occurring in Northeast neighborhoods, and most salespersons do not have business licenses.

III. Crime Prevention Report: Diane Horswill/Neil Hansen

- a. Diane warned that you should not open the door to solicitors, and definitely do not let them in your house. Instead, shout through the door “No thank you; go away!”
- b. Diane also mentioned that the calls to the Police Department for Magnuson Park are down due to additional police emphasis patrols.
- c. Neil passed out a brochure on reporting crime in neighborhoods. The brochure will be posted on the NPAC website.

IV. City Attorney’s Office: Ed McKenna

- a. With respect to the neighborhood magazine solicitations, Ed noted that if a person continues to solicit after seeing a no solicitation sign, it is a crime.
- b. Owners can sue for trespass (Ed has done so on several occasions).

V. Liquor Control Board: Bernard Harrigan

- a. Bernie reported that his focus continues to be on underage sales as well as over-service in bars.
- b. Liquor license applications and renewals are also being reviewed for food/liquor ratios.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Issues: Doug Thiel – No report other than the previously mentioned awards.

- b. Membership: Dick Hillmann – Please give Dick any roster changes.
- c. Other: The City’s budget approval process is now underway, with the Mayor's Office set to present its proposed budget on Monday, September 17. Public hearings on the budget will be held on October 10 and 30th. The final budget will be adopted by the City Council on November 19. We need to review the budget to make sure that the Seattle Police Department is funded as promised by the Mayor and City Council, including funding for the 50 additional officers per year for 5 years.

VII. Old Business

- a. Elections were held. The following officers were unanimously elected:

President Jack Heavner
Vice President Curtis Gehrke
Secretary William Murray

- b. The outgoing officers were thanked for their hard work, especially Pete Rogerson who has been the President for 3 years.

VIII. New Business

- a. Councilmember Steinbrueck is proposing legislation for the recently agreed upon increases in police staffing. It is important to support Councilmember Steinbrueck’s efforts.

IX. Next Month’s Agenda

- a. Several guests were suggested and discussed. Kathryn Olson, OPA Director, will be the featured speaker at the November NPAC meeting. The new President will make the announcement of the speaker for the October meeting with the publication of next month’s agenda.

X. Meeting Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Seattle Police Department
R. Gil Kerlikowske, Chief of Police

September 17, 2007

Dear Members of the Seattle Community:

Mayor Nickels this afternoon presented his budget to the City Council. The budget reflects his priority and commitment to public safety and sworn personnel, and I want to take this opportunity to complement the Mayor's remarks related to the Seattle Police Department.

Seattle continues to be safe, and relative to violent crimes, ranks the 9th safest city among the 25 largest cities in the nation. The number of serious crimes in Seattle last year declined to a level not seen since 1976. Earlier this year, the Mayor and I announced a new effort to make Seattle even safer. It's called Neighborhood Policing, and it represents the biggest change in how we deploy our officers in a generation.

A key element of that plan is adding 105 additional officers over the next five years. Twenty of those positions will be added in 2008. That means more feet on the street in neighborhoods across our City, allowing police to respond faster in an emergency and providing officers more time to work on crime prevention in our communities. In order to house the additional officers, a search for a new location to expand the North Precinct will also be conducted as the existing precinct is far too small to hold the currently assigned personnel, much less the additional officers that will be added under the Neighborhood Policing plan.

When a hotspot of crime and public disturbances makes an area feel unsafe, we didn't wait to respond. Last month we launched an emphasis patrol to ensure that our streets remain safe for those who live and work downtown. The Mayor's budget continues that effort by providing nearly \$1 Million for stepped up police presence in our Center City and in portions of the Rainier Valley.

The Mayor's budget also seeks to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists, and permanently install red light cameras at 18 new intersections to hold accountable drivers who ignore red lights. Finally, the Mayor has added money to provide a \$5,000 salary incentive to attract recruits. This is one more promising factor that can be used to attract new police recruits to Seattle as we continue to search for potential candidates in our community and throughout the nation.

Mayor Nickels' budget speech can be found at www.seattle.gov/mayor.

Sincerely,

R. Gil Kerlikowske
Chief of Police

Ken Thompson