

NORTHGATE COMMUNITY CENTER
Sitting Meeting - November 13, 2002
Olympic View Elementary School
Meeting Notes



Attendees:

- Twenty-six community members
- City Staff - David Kunselman, Library, Marty Curry, Planning Commission, Ann Sutphin, SPO, Phyllis Shulman, CM Conlin's Office, and DPR Staff Tim Motzer, Maureen O'Neill, Bill Blair, Kate Kaehny

Meeting Summary:

We had three main goals at the meeting:

- To report back on our conversations with King County and North Seattle Community College, and to discuss our partnerig with the Library on negotiations with Simon for the bank site. (We also reported back on our past conversation with Security regarding the South Lot).
- To gauge support for the bank site as a community center site
- To introduce and get feedback on the idea of using the Pro Parks Northgate park funding to develop a park on the Goodyear Tire Site.

Below are some highlights of the discussions regarding each site:

King County Park & Ride: We let people know that the main roadblocks for acquiring this site for the community center or the park were finding a place for the 487 cars and our present lack of budget. Meeting attendees thought Parks and the City weren't aggressive enough with the County in getting them to move the cars. Some also believed that the land was given to the County by the Federal government and that the City shouldn't have to pay for the site.

DPR Action Item: Find out more about how Feds were involved in the sale of the property and share with community.

North Seattle Community College: We let people know that Dr. Lafayette had told us that leasing or selling land to the City would involve a long process, that there would have to be significant benefit for the college and that he didn't feel that the college board was very excited about this type of deal. People felt the college was too far outside of the Northgate core and considered the site a very low priority location.

No further DPR action item.

South Lot: We let people know that when Security Properties was considering purchasing the entire south lot, they had told us that they didn't think the community center was a compatible use for the site. We also stated that we had heard Security's option was up and that we weren't sure of the status of their negotiations with Simon. Some creek-supporters let everyone know that they believed the County and Security were trying to buy smaller portions of land at the site and that this would be a good time for the City, specifically,

Parks and the Library, to talk to Simon about purchasing sites on the south lot.
DPR Action Item: Ask Simon about status of South Lot and assess its availability as community center site.

Bank Site: The Library representative at the meeting let people know that the Library and DPR have a joint offer in to Simon for the bank site. While people like the idea of the community center and library being co-located on 5th, and having a cultural center developed at Northgate, there were concerns that the site was too small and that there wouldn't be room for expansion and to make a positive civic center impression. Some asked that we buy both the bank and Goodyear Tire sites.

Park alternative at Goodyear Tire: Tim raised the issue of developing a park next to the library/community center site at the Goodyear Tire by using the Pro Parks park acquisition funding. While there was support for this idea, it was tied to a "guarantee" that Parks would eventually acquire the North Park & Ride as a park. (Creek-supporters were not happy with this option.)

Overall, support for purchasing only the bank site for the library and community center was fairly tepid. There was greater support for the purchase of the bank and Goodyear Tire sites for a combined library/community center/park - but only if DPR committed to the future acquisition of the North Park & Ride.

DPR Action Item: If Simon is positive about bank offer & Goodyear Tire option, DPR should probably come back to the community and get feedback on the decision for purchasing the bank and the park idea. The meeting attendees also asked that we raise the question about the park alternative to a larger group of people.

Mtg Note addition: About 4 or 5 speakers spoke about making sure that the co-location of the library and community center also had the opportunity to create a town plaza, focal point, statement for the Northgate community

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