

Admiral Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024

Officers and Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Joanie Jacobs, President

Cheryl Lea, Vice President

Bridgett Markille, Treasurer

Meagan Loftin, Secretary

Dan Jacobs, Communications

Megan Erb, 4th of July Kids Parade

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Introduction of Officers
4. Who are the people in our neighborhood
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Guest from SPD, Officer Barreto
8. Guest, City Council Member Rob Saka
9. Upcoming Events for 2024
10. Membership Update
11. Admiral Viewpoint Totem Pole
12. Upcoming Events
13. Meeting Adjourned

Welcome, Joanie Jacobs

Thank you all for being here and thank you to the Admiral Congregational UCC for hosting us.

Land Acknowledgement

- “The Admiral Neighborhood Association acknowledges that we are meeting here today on the traditional lands of the first people of Seattle, the dx^wdəwʔabš (Duwamish) people, past and present. As we strive to serve our neighbors, our community, and the place we call home we honor with gratitude the land itself and the dx^wdəwʔabš (Duwamish) people who have stewarded it since time immemorial. “

Introduction of Officers

- Introduction of all officers present.

- Joanie and Cheryl are also part of the business community: Joanie at West Seattle Grounds and Cheryl at Seattle Yarn.

Who are the people in our neighborhood?

- Thank you to the businesses and residents in our neighborhood.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the January meeting minutes moved by Stu Hennessey, seconded by Bridgett Markille, and carried.

Treasurer Report

- The starting balance of the general fund in February was \$6,058.53 and the ending balance was \$5,945.64.
- This included \$419.18 brought in through membership dues.

Guest from SPD, Officer Barreto

- Officer Barreto is the community liaison officer for the SW Precinct and has been in that role for a little over a year.
- Overall: robberies, aggravated assaults and burglaries are up while motor vehicle theft is down.
- Data from the last 30 days in Admiral:
7 thefts, 4 simple assaults, 6 thefts from a motor vehicle, 8 burglaries, 2 shoplifts and 1 shots-fired incident.

- Community Questions/Feedback

Q: Are catalytic converter thefts still an issue?

A: No, those have gone down, likely from increased questioning by the junkyards that used to buy them.

Q: How is hiring?

A: This has been recently covered in-depth on the West Seattle Blog.

Q: On an average day how many officers are on shift in the SW precinct?

A: On second watch 10-12 officers are on shift and 1st and 3rd watch are slightly lower. The day is split between 3 10-hour shifts with officers overlapping at certain points.

Q: How big is the SW precinct?

A: North to Alki, East to the Duwamish River, West to Beach Drive and south to the city line.

Q: Will there be a casual SPD presence on Alki?

A: SPD is aware of the issues on Alki during the summer, but staffing remains a concern. Officer Barreto will follow up.

Q: What is SPD's current position on speeding/traffic control?

A: Staff shortage is the issue. SPD used to have a traffic division for those issues but resources have to be spent elsewhere right now. The city also used to have cameras.

Comment: Speed-limits are not based on data. Arterials should be 35mph.

Q: Is 12 officers the total at any time?

A: That's the most per shift, but shifts do overlap so at some times of the day there are more officers.

Q: Are there any detectives in West Seattle?

A: No, detectives are now located downtown and possibly in the East precinct.

Q: Any experience with CARE?

A: Yes, also with the Unified Care Team. These teams provide resources to people in need, including those experiencing homelessness. Often the Unified Care Team will get its data from the Find it/Fix it App and send out services to the areas highlighted there.

Q: 16th Ave SW is currently a no-parking zone—how long will that last?

A: Officer Barreto doesn't know but the goal is likely for it to end up like the no-parking during specific hours section of Harbor Avenue.

Q: Does CARE respond to mental health crises in homes?

A: Not sure, right now CARE is focused downtown. Likely the end goal is dual response with CARE and SPD when the program expands.

Comment: At the recent CARE meeting, Amy Smith noted that the program is looking to hire and expand out.

Guest, Council Member Rob Saka

- Saka is a West Seattle Resident, Air Force Veteran, UW and UC grad, and former attorney.
- It's a privilege to serve the WS Community and represent the community's voice and perspective
- Saka is the King of Potholes
- The two main areas he is focusing on are transportation (Saka heads the transportation committee) and Public Safety (he is the vice-chair of that committee).
- Transportation: The transportation levy is coming up for renewal and that will be a focus. Focus on bridge maintenance, road paving, and the dearth of sidewalks (particularly in Highland Park, Delridge, South Park and Arbor Heights). New sidewalk infrastructure is an issue of accessibility, equality and even a climate issue.
- Public Safety: Focus on hiring and recruitment. As heard at the meeting downtown today, SPD currently has a little more than 9000 deployable officers—the lowest level since the 90s. While marketing is one strategy, Saka says it won't fix the issue. He is focused on the intake process and on boosting morale. He has been meeting with precinct chiefs and it's important to invest that time with officers and let them know that they are supported.
- Community Questions/Feedback

Q: There is also a dearth of crosswalks in West Seattle—is that part of the transportation plan?

A: Yes, Vision Zero's goal is to eliminate traffic fatalities. District 1 now has the worst record for traffic fatalities—much of that located in SODO. Lighting, signals, and crosswalks are all part of the solution.

Q: Abutting property owners need to pay for sidewalk repair. And marked crosswalks give pedestrians a false sense of security.

A: Under current law, property owners are responsible for maintaining their sidewalks although that is rarely enforced. Safety on the roads is a shared responsibility. All of these little issue matter and Saka credits his successes dealing with them to his staff.

Q: Is adding reflectors to the roadways part of the plan? It can be very difficult to see lane lines when it's raining/dark.

A: Repaving and marking are a huge priority because it is a safety issue. All the isolated small issues add up to big challenges. Saka is talking to other jurisdictions about what is working for them.

Comment: We should start holding car manufacturers responsible for the large blind spots on cars.

Q: Does SDOT have enough staff and the budget to fix these issues?

A: That is a continuing issue. SDOT is under the executive branch, under the mayor. Right now, the city is facing a 250-million-dollar deficit. The city has implemented a hiring freeze and is looking into consolidating programs and reducing duplicated functions. Saka says the city needs to demonstrate better bang-for-your-buck with current funding before raising more funds through taxes.

Comment: There was a column recently about vacant offices downtown—need to mandate a return to office for city workers.

Q: How do we get more vibrancy downtown?

A: Saka recognizes the value of flexible work and hybrid schedules especially for those caring for children. However, the city needs more people back in the office but that is a function of the mayor's office.

Q: The city gives money to King County Metro for mass transit. But Metro is eliminating some routes and removing parking. Metro often says this is to redistribute resources to underserved communities. Why can't public transit expand rather than move resources to other areas as it has been doing?

A: The city contracts with Metro but a host of issues including Covid and rising crime has affected ridership. The issue should not be either/or but rather yes/and. Public transit is 1 option but it's not the only option. However, while we need better and more consistent transit, we first need to tackle safety because ridership won't increase on new routes if safety isn't addressed.

Q: Safety experience is a good phrase. Stu Hennesy for A Walkable Admiral, notes that the walkability score for the Alaska Junction is 98 but the Admiral Junction is only 70. He has a plan to raise that number with little infrastructure and low costs.

A: Saka is aware of the plan and will look it over with his staff as well as bring it to SDOT. Likes it when a community designs its own solution to a problem.

Q: The traffic has reduced through re-channeling but as the city continues to increase in density where are the people supposed to go to get around?

A: The mayor's office just released the Comprehensive Plan which envisions the city's growth over the next decade. Saka encourages everyone to read the plan and give feedback. Transportation conversations need to happen in parallel with conversations about land use. We need appropriate infrastructure to support density.

Q: Are you familiar with daylighting intersections?

A: Yes. Saka needs to further explore the issue and its feasibility with SDOT. He notes an article about Hoboken, NJ, which has achieved 0 traffic fatalities in part thanks to daylighting intersections.

- The ANA will be sure to invite councilmember Saka back in the future.

Upcoming Events for 2024

- 4th of July Kids Parade: this will be the first year that the parade, organized by Megan Erb, will be under the umbrella of the ANA. This is a big and beloved community event. Megan is looking for volunteers to help plan the event and help coordinate day-of. This is the only kids event in Seattle on the 4th.

Q: Have you reached out to the High School?

A: Yes, but the timing of the parade after the school year had ended is hard when trying to get volunteers.

- Concert Series: With Hiawatha Park under construction this summer, the summer concert series in 2024 will look a little different and will move to several smaller parks over three dates.

Q: Are the bands lined-up yet? Bring back the Big Band.

A: No band are lined-up yet but we have had inquiries. The size of our venues this year are too small for the Big Band.

- Admiral Funktion: This will be held on August 23rd. It's the 3rd year for the event and the second that the ANA is hosting. The focus is on the Admiral Junction businesses.

Q: Have you reached out to the people who put on the car show at WS High on the same day last year?

A: No, and we weren't aware of that event. Joanie will reach out.

- You can keep up with all these events on our social media: @admiralneighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering with the events, sign-up sheets are available.

Membership Update

- There's been a big push in the last year to reach out to businesses in Admiral.

- We currently have 30 business partners and promote them on the ANA website (connecttoadmiral.org) and on our socials (@admiralneighborhood).
- We have 2 dozen individual/family memberships currently.
- Memberships help sustain the ANA and the programs we put on. Our board is all volunteer and so every membership/donation goes directly back into events and projects that benefit our community.

Admiral Way Totem Pole

- This is the ten-year anniversary of the Log House Museum receiving the old Admiral Way totem pole.
- Will be some event and replacement of the current sign to mark the anniversary.
- We have a chance to partner on this event and will be putting some poles out on our social media soon to see if the community wants us to be involved.

Upcoming Events

- Art Walk Thursday March 12th from 5-8PM. Some art walk hosts will also have music, including West Seattle Grounds. There will also be a leprechaun scavenger hunt with prizes from local businesses.
- West Seattle Grounds is hosting a Paint and Sip with local watercolorist Jenna Brechbiel on March 21st.
- Cori at Bebop and Pastor Andrew at Admiral Congregational UCC will be hosting a support meeting of PFLAG on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7:30-9PM. The first meeting in April will be a kick-off event.
- The Wells Fargo parcel on the corner of California/Admiral is now on the market and will hopefully have a new owner soon.

Meeting Adjourned

- Prize drawing for 2 gift cards to Welcome Road Winery— women-owned winemakers. If businesses are interested in donating a prize for our general meeting raffle drawing, please contact Joanie Jacobs.
- Thank you all for being here and to our guests. Thank you for caring about our neighborhood. Please reach out to use anytime with questions.