

12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stewardship Committee Meeting  
February 8, 2011  
Seattle University Facilities building Room 115

### **King County Youth Detention Site**

Judge Trickey and Michelle Garvey from King County Superior Court gave a brief update on the Youth Detention site. They are currently doing environmental remediation to remove contaminated window caulking at the building. King County also put out a press release today announcing a Request for Proposals/Concepts from private developers for “creative, cost-neutral” solutions. King County will trade surplus county land in return for a developer to replace the court room facility. King County is very open to ideas and has no funding for replacement of the building themselves. A new court building could cost upwards of \$100 million to build.

### **Parks**

Chip Nevins from Parks came to the meeting with an update on the “short list” of potential future parks that the community had identified last fall. The 10<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson parking lot is a possibility but the landowner owns several parcels on the same block and is interested in selling them all together. We will continue to pursue a partial purchase. The former Panzanella site at 14<sup>th</sup> and E Union has a new commercial tenant with a long-term lease. The Helen V parking lot at the same intersection has bank financing restrictions. Both these sites would likely not be available for many years and are not good candidates for a new park in the short term. We will continue to pursue creating a green space linking 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue with the Whale Fin Park along Remington Court. Letters have been written to King County Executive Constantine and King County Councilmember Phillips requesting meetings to talk about acquiring part of the Youth Detention Site parking lot for this green space. We might also think about creating a green street on one lane of Remington to increase the park width. This would also continue the urban development patterns that are starting with the woonerf on James Court. There was also talk of creating a green street on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue to link these smaller streets. It would be helpful to have a basic rendering of our ideas for these streets to bring to King County leadership.

We will have the first design meeting for the James Court woonerf on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We also discussed reaching out to Seattle Academy students to attend this design meeting. The group was interested in exploring funding options for a future woonerf on Barclay Court. This could be future Opportunity Fund money, Neighborhood Street Funds through SDOT, or the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

### **Seattle University Logan Field**

SU will be renovating Logan Field (just west of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Jefferson and Cherry Streets). They will be putting in an artificial turf field, expanding the field north to Cherry, and installing 70 foot lights. The lights will be designed to minimize impacts to the surrounding neighborhood. SU will also be designing a pedestrian friendly corner at Cherry Street and possibly doing sidewalk repairs along 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The community had many concerns about the field expansion, light impacts, and the pedestrian un-friendly retaining wall on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

SU said lowering the field to sidewalk level would be too costly right now. Long term planning at the University has looked at putting underground parking under the field and creating retail opportunities along the west side of 12<sup>th</sup>. Since the tall retaining wall will remain, the community pushed for mitigation to ease the impact. This could be additional entrances up to the field level for pedestrians walking by, lowering the field just a few feet to give more visual access from the sidewalk, and a focus on the Cherry and Jefferson street entrances. Work on the field could start as early as August 2011. SU will keep the neighborhood involved in further design decisions.

### **Union Street Improvements**

SDOT has a plan to make improvements to Union Street between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenues. This would limit the street to one lane of east-bound traffic and increase the green space and potentially add angled parking to the north side. Representatives from Pony Bar and Seattle Academy have met and created an early design that would allow limited west-bound traffic to access the Pony and Seattle Academy parking areas. The community also advocated for a professional design of the site to include more stormwater run-off features and perhaps limit the parking and increase the green space. This project will hopefully be funded through the Neighborhood Street Fund at SDOT. According to City representatives, the project may not have funding until 2012. We are submitting a new drawing to SDOT with a letter encouraging some updates to the plan and letting them know that the community is interested in being involved in the design work. There are also pedestrian safety issues at the site that should be incorporated as well.

### **Future of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stewardship Committee**

Bill suggested that the group formalize more with possible bylaws and elected leadership. It might also be useful to look at the purpose of the group and look at updating boundaries since many of our constituents live or work north of Madison, which is north of the official boundary of the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Urban Village. Many people enjoyed the ad hoc nature of the group though and suggested that we are highly respected as a community organization already. However, elected leaders could help spread the work load between community members and would be helpful should the group need to vote on supporting or not supporting future issues. A small group will convene before the April meeting and look at existing purposes and start researching new bylaws and report back to the group for discussion at the next meeting.