

Newport Hills Community Club
January 20, 2009

- A. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Nygaard at 7PM.
- B. Secretary's Report, Debra Haraldson. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes from the December meeting as filed. See attached.
- C. Treasurer's Report, Elinor Smith pro tempore. In Elinor's absence, Gary Thramer presented the December 2008 report. See attached. Elinor would like to step down as Treasurer so the Club is in search of a volunteer. Elinor's Assistant Treasurer is unavailable to attend monthly board meetings.
- D. President's Report, Cheryl Nygaard. No report.
- E. Vice President's Report, Julie Rossman. No report.
- F. City of Bellevue Neighborhood Liaison, Rick Dolleman. No report.
- G. Standing Committee Reports.
 - a. Membership, Sandi Tampa. Sandi spoke to the Kimberlee Park President about membership. She wants to form a committee to work on a membership drive and asked for volunteers. A few people answered the call.
 - b. Newsletter, Barbara Lee. No report.
 - c. Spring Egg Hunt, Julie Rossman. No report.
 - d. Website, Grace Whiteaker. Grace reported on her efforts to move the web content to a blog format so that the community can provide the Board and neighbors with comments. See attached.
 - e. Community Outreach, Gary Thramer. Neighborhood Identification Program is delayed but the new signs will be installed in a few months followed by landscaping. Public art project: the artist, Bruce Myers, as recommended by the jury was approved by the City of Bellevue. Bruce will be invited to attend the February NHCC meeting.
 - f. Land Use and Community Appearance, Steve Penner. No report
 - g. Merchant Liaison, Don Hunt. No report.
 - h. Government Liaison, Ray Osburn. No report.
 - i. Public Safety, Debra Haraldson. No report.
 - j. Santa Tour: Michelle reported a successful tour in the snow. She feels the turnout to visit Santa at the dance studio is not as successful as she'd like it to be so changes may have to be made for next year. The neighborhood was challenged by the Surrey Downs neighborhood to collect 1000 pounds but 350 pounds were collected for the NH Community Church Food Bank.
- H. New Business.
 - a. Gary Thramer. Four years ago, a survey was conducted about the Red Apple asking what improvements could be made. The owner made some changes that attracted more business but the management slid back into its old habits. He reports that the City of Bellevue is anxious to get something in that will benefit the neighborhood.
 - b. Julie Rossman. She reports that Trader Joe's wants to expand in Bellevue and that its web site accepts suggestions for new store location. Lisa

Viereck called its corporate office and the agent responsible for expanding. There is a Letter of Intent out for a location in Bellevue but Lisa does not know where. Trader Joe's has no plans for expanding into Renton's Landing area.

General discussion about the vacant space

- Cheryl suggested that the leasing agent for the Red Apple be contacted by the neighbors with suggestions.
- Someone asked how the other businesses are faring. According to Gary, overall they are doing well. The middle school is delayed by one year, opening in the fall of 2010. The Red Apple got quite a bit of business from Eastside Catholic when it was there.
- Current owner of the shopping center has no plans to sell or improve the facility.
- The reason the Red Apple went out of business is the lack of support from the neighbors. It would be a hard sell to convince any business to invest in the shopping center.
- Do we want the increased traffic up here? We need to make sure what we get is the best for us.
- The barista at MOJO's feels very vulnerable with the move of Chevron and the loss of Red Apple. Perhaps starting small by using the space for swap meets, farmer's market, gathering place.
- Many older people don't want to go far for groceries so the Red Apple was serving them well. NHCC needs more people to participate in its effort. The car show may move to Stods or to the park. It was expressed that the City of Bellevue is supporting Factoria more than NH.
- Some of the neighbors don't communicate because of language barriers. Shopping patterns have changed, we cook less, our demographics are changing.
- Steve Kunkel: It is a common thought that if the Red Apple goes way, the other businesses would fail. This is not necessarily true. If the Red Apple were more successful, traffic at other stores would have increased. Whatever goes in the vacant space will increase traffic. If the space is divided into two or three stores, we'd have a unique shopping center.
- City of Bellevue's plan is for a three story building with condos on top, small shops below. This is the vision for Lake Hills Shopping Center too.