



JACKSON PLACE

Quarterly Neighborhood Newsletter ■ Volume 8 ■ June 2010 ■ www.jacksonplace.org

A Letter From The Board Of The Jackson Place Community Council

Have you ever been walking down the street and thought to yourself, "I would really like to get this traffic circle cleaned up", or perhaps, "I wish I could get the city to install a stop sign on my street to help slow traffic". If this sounds familiar then consider running for the Jackson Place Community Council. The Jackson Place Community Council is the voice of our community to the City of Seattle. Elections are being held at our next quarterly meeting and all positions are up for reelection. To get on the ballot simply send an email to jpcbboard2009@jacksonplace.org stating your name and the position that you want to run for. There are 6 board positions available and 4 director positions. Director positions include Co-Chair, Secretary and treasure.

In other news around the community it looks like the Cheeky Café on the corner of

17th and Jackson is nearing completion. Also, we have received word of a new deli that will be moving in at 18th and Jackson. We are all pretty excited to see Jackson Street finally start to develop.

As the weather gets warmer more and more people are leaving their windows open to try to catch some of the spring breeze. We have been reminded by the Seattle Police Department that criminals often search for the house with an unlocked door or an open window. I have heard of several instances in which a burglar has accessed a home through the 2nd story window, so use common sense about leaving your doors or windows open.

Sincerely,

Ryan Morgan

Co-Chair Jackson Place Community Council

Please join us at the next Jackson Place Community Council quarterly general meeting!

We will be voting for the 2010-2011 Jackson Place Community Council board and will have a guest from GreenStage, who will be performing Shakespeare in Judkins Park this summer, along with other guests.

Meeting starts at 6 with a community BBQ leading to the general meeting at 7

Monday June 14th at Jackson Place Cohousing!

IN THIS ISSUE

**A letter from Hidmo's Jason Davis,
Bike To Work Day recap,
and a list of upcoming events in our neighborhood!**



Central District Works On Neighborhood Agreement, Building Community

by Jason Davis, Director, Hidmo Community Empowerment Project

What does it mean to be a good neighbor? Or better yet who is my neighbor? These were the questions underpinning a recent forum put on by the Hidmo Community Empowerment Project, (HCEP) with the help of the Department of Neighborhoods and Seattle Parks and Recreation. Two weeks ago, during the "Neighborhood Agreements" forum, residents, entrepreneurs, service providers and law enforcement gathered to discuss the state of the Central District and to think through relationship building as the key to creating neighborhood identity.

It is no surprise to anyone living in the Central District that this neighborhood has a rich and diverse history, yet with this rich heritage comes a great deal of friction and lack of trust. A

recent article in the Washington Post touched on the impact of gentrification in Portland and Seattle's Central Area, and highlighted the fact that our neighborhood is one caught in a stage of identity crisis. This may or may not be true, but recent interactions between residents and institutions led the HCEP to provide a context for neighbors to reflect and work through issues in a positive context.

Surprisingly, as the event was being put together it became apparent that there really are strong affections for this neighborhood, as well as deep feelings of distrust and fear. As the primary organizer for the event, I was immediately rebuffed by some residents and business owners who immediately assumed that Hidmo was taking sides on a particular issue. "Whose side are you on?", was a recurring question, or "Why should

I support my neighbor?" Moreover, many invited or even willing to participate felt discouraged to do so for fear being labeled as racist, ignorant, or too closely connected to the city or law enforcement.

It became very clear to me that the forum needed to shift from one of trying to "fix" a particular issue, but to actually focus on building a sense of belonging in the community for every member of the Central District. The goal being to not produce a product or establish a community manifesto, but to dream together as a community and find ways to get to know one another out of our usual contexts.

What resulted on May 3rd was a large group discussion with elders diverse by ethnicity, gender, and involvement in the community. During the large group discussion each attendee and panelist had the choice of terming the Central District as "Getting Better", "Stuck", or "Getting Worse"—with the majority saying our community was "stuck", (About half were leaning towards worse, and the other towards better). In other words, the Central District is a community not quite progressing or regressing, but in a stalled state because—as the panelists all remarked—there is a low commitment to each other simply as neighbors.

Following the large group discussion, the groups were broken into small groups centered on a particular context in the neighborhood. The groups were the following: 28th & Jackson, 23rd & Union, 22nd & Yesler, and 17th & Jackson. Each group had a certain level of friction with the Casa Latina, 17th & Jackson had

the lowest, while the Re-Entry House on 22nd & Yesler had the highest. Yet each group was able to engage one another and achieve some level of understanding—whether that there is a lot of history and bitterness; or that there is a new opportunity to get to know each other. Thompson's Point of View owners felt that they benefited from the meeting and are interested in building relationships with other Union street entrepreneurs, while the block watch and East African business owner on 28th & Jackson were able to speak civilly for the first time in quite awhile.

While relationships have been initiated across ethnic, socioeconomic, and generational lines, there is still much more work to do. At the heart of the tension is whether or not we really believe that everyone who lives, works, and exists in this neighborhood actually belongs. Long-time members feel newcomers can't come in making Good Neighbor Agreements when they have a longer tenure in the neighborhood, while "gentrifiers" feel they have just as much say as anyone given property ownership. Members of the East African community at times feel at odds with each other and marginalized by the larger community. Other issues ranged from debating the merits of small corner stores, to youth violence.

The tensions and problems could be elucidated much further, but the task at hand is whether or not we carry each other's burdens as fellow human beings, or must we continue to struggle against each other for the identity of our beloved neighborhood.

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Bike To Work Day a Success

Café Weekend & Working Dog Bicycles paired up to support Bike to Work Day on Friday May 21st. They set up a Cascade Bicycle Club/DIY booth on the Hiawatha Place South, a major corridor (Mt to Sound) bike path for 1-90 commuters, located on the West side of the Jackson Place Neighborhood.

Caffé Vita donated coffee and Little Rae's Bakery donated sweet treats, a little treat always available at Cafe Weekend. Working Dog did Safety checks that day along with offering coupons and discounts for bike service, as well as Cascade Bike Club freebies.

"There are about 300 bike commuters coming through our corridor/neighborhood on good riding days", mentions Working Dog.

Even with the rain that morning, they saw about 200 commuters come through our neighborhood. Many generally never stop.

All of the riders were very appreciative of our DIY booth as many are enjoying seeing the neighborhood develop.

"This was our opportunity to welcome them to our neighborhood, The Jackson Place Community" says Christa of Café Weekend.

Not to mention some drivers rushing down S. Charles St. that morning are still not aware that this is a major bike commuter street, on Hiawatha Place South.

All avoided potential collisions thankfully.

*SIFF notes & 5@5 chronological bikers free WED. pizza maps still available at Café Weekend for continued bicycle programs & fun through out the month of June.

Thanks to all that made this happen:

Caffé Vita, for donating coffee

Little Raes' Bakery, for the pastry & sweets

Jackson Place Co-housing, furniture

Cascade Bicycle Club for water bottles, signage

City of Seattle for maps & info.

The Stranger/ SIFF notes



• café •
WEEKEND
(espresso • tea • soda • penny candy • books)

www.cafeweekend.com

BEANS FOR BIKERS!

bikers bring in this ad for a bag sumatra farm direct coffee.
*while supplies last. exp. 6/30

851 HIAWATHA PLACE S. 98144

Upcoming Community Events

• JAMFEST - (starting June)
1st Thursdays 6-9pm in the International District/ Chinatown
4 venues, Live Music + Hing Hay Park - www.wingluke.org

• Jackson Place Community - TBA
Movie nights (july - october) - JPBA & Hiawatha Artists
check out- facebook/ Jackson Place Business Association
for dates & details.

• June - July 2010
MY WORLD DANCE & FITNESS along with participating Hiawatha businesses - Kids
Summer Arts & Dance camp - suzanne@myworld-df.com

• June 18th, FRIDAY- MY WORLD DANCE & FITNESS
SALSA DANCE PARTY (every third Friday of the month)

• Saturday July 10th 9am - 3pm
Japanese Cultural Center of Washington JCCW (www.jccw.org/)
Community Rummage Sale

• July 16th, FRIDAY- MY WORLD DANCE & FITNESS
SALSA DANCE PARTY (every third Friday of the month)

• JPBA - MEET & EAT - Thursday July 22nd
check out- facebook/ Jackson Place Business Association
for dates & details.

Dance and Yoga in your neighborhood!



849 Hiawatha Pl. South
Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 861-2500
www.myworld-df.com

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We Need Your Input!

We would love to consider this newsletter not only a voice to, but a voice of the community. If you have anything you would like to share with your neighbors, email submissions to cary@basementempire.com

STEPHEN L. WAKEMAN BA. DDS

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Next Quarterly Meeting
Monday, June 14th, 7 p.m.
Common Room at Hawatha Cohousing

Jackson Place Community Council
c/o Seattle Neighborhood Service Center
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