



NW Universal Design Council
April 15, 2010 Meeting Notes

Attending

Host: Wolf Saar, Weber Thompson	Tom Minty, John L Scott/Able Environments	Sandra Hartje, PhD, Seattle Pacific University (SPU)
Gigi Mening, Planner, Aging & Disability Services	Sarah Kontny, environmental WORKS	Amy Meaden, Student, SPU
Karen Braitmeyer, Studio Pacifica	Joyce Joneschiet, Topaz interior Design	Jourdan Umali, Student SPU
Scott Starr, SMR Architects	John deChadenedes, Coordinator, King County Housing Finance Program	Margaret Casey, Planner, Aging & Disability Services

Apology: Due to the late notice of the meeting, unless participants had previously put the date on their calendars, a number of usual attendees were not able to make this meeting. We were pleased to welcome two students from Seattle Pacific University who are taking Dr. Hartje's class in design: Amy and Jourdan.

Northwest Universal Design Council Web site: www.environmentsforall.org

- Margaret Casey reviewed the need to address the sustainability of the web site. The last of dollars raised from our previous "Aging in Place Resource Fairs" were used to pay for the first year of the NWUDC web site. We will need to replenish the kitty in order to keep the site functioning into 2011.
- Given the regular staff attention required to keep the site current as well as the need to develop an on-going "news & events" section, the estimated need for the year 2011 is \$1200.
- We will still be able to use the special interest-bearing account at the City of Seattle. This account cannot be tapped to fund City budget shortfalls. It is for the sole purpose of accepting donations for the NWUDC.
- **In order to establish some sort of funding structure, subcommittee work is in order. Might we call upon the subcommittee that developed the web site in order to propose something to participants?**

- **Members of that group as well as others who may want to participate can let me know directly: Margaret.casey@seattle.gov**
- During this discussion, the consideration of “membership” and “dues” as well as “officers” was again raised. These topics could be part of the subcommittee discussion/proposal.
- Individuals or companies will be able to donate to this web site fund when we establish the funding parameters.
- For companies who may wish to have their company logo and a link to their web site, we will consider this category as “sponsorship”.

Program:

- John deChadenes, Coordinator for the Housing Finance Program, King County, presented a great topic for our discussion: ***Let's Make Affordable Housing Sustainable***
- John comes with a varied background such as work in construction, managing County budgets, policy development. All of these talents merge in his current role as Coordinator of the King County Housing Finance Program.
- His interest is to support development of and funding for truly sustainable housing. Instead of paying for housing that has a 50 year contract but might really last about 20 years, he is interested in pushing developments that will truly last 100 years.
- He seeks to support county funding of projects with the “capacity to endure”. This means housing that has extreme energy efficiency, very high durability, and requires very low maintenance. And, with universal design added in the mix, homes will accommodate the user over time by meeting the various criteria and being something beautiful.
- Developers think these sorts of projects will not get funding. John’s argument is that funders will fund projects that meet these criteria since public monies will have a much longer shelf life and the environmental impact is limited.
- It was useful in the discussion to call attention to the very building in which we were meeting: the ***Terry Thomas*** Building, a platinum certified LEED project: <http://www.weberthompson.com/> This building represents very high energy efficiency, among other values.

Reports:

- **Evergreen Standards Workgroup:**
 - Scott Starr of SMR Architects briefed the group on the status of the workgroup’s activities re updating the Evergreen Standards by including a universal design category. He passed out the near final draft for discussion. This draft will be considered by the Committee at the next workgroup meeting 4/24/10. Depending upon the status of the draft at that stage, we will plan ways to bring it out to groups for discussion/critique.
 - The State Evergreen Standards (EGS) will need to be evaluated and revised since they are tied to the baseline of the current Energy Code. This code is being updated and thus the EGS will need to be updated. Currently there is no date set for the update of the EGS to begin.
- **NWUDC Educational Presentations/Speaker’s Bureau:**

- Margaret identified the team of Emory Baldwin, Mike Vowels and Tom Minty as our current NWUDC Ambassadors in this endeavor. They represent the three facets of *design – build – sell* Universal Design. Tom outlined some of the events that have taken place as well as some that are scheduled.
- Anyone of these persons or Margaret can be contacted if looking for a presentation.
- Karen Braitmeyer and Tom Minty agreed to collaborate on a workshop proposal to be included in the October *HOUSING WASHINGTON CONFERENCE* being held this year in Tacoma, **October 19 & 20**.
- Dr. Hartje will also submit a proposal along the lines of “If it isn’t universally designed, is it sustainable?”

- **Next Meeting Date:**

- **PLEASE PUT THIS DATE/TIME ON YOUR CALENDAR:** The location will be Weber Thompson unless notified of a change.
 - **July 15, 2010; 9:30 – 11:30**
- If you have ideas for PROGRAMS, please feel free to let Margaret.casey@seattle.gov know.

- **Contact for more information:**

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- (206) 684.0662
- www.environmentsforall.org