



NW Universal Design Council
January 14, 2010 Meeting Notes

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Welcome and Overview of the Bart Harvey and Brief Tour of the facility
Michele Wang, the Architect from Runberg Architects,
Sharon Lee, CEO of the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)

Attending

[As the scribe, I apologize to participants both for inadequacies and incorrectness of your names &/or remarks.]

- Joanne Ferrera, Katina Consulting & Design.
- Michelle Molloy has been working with Mary Curley and the AARP winning design competition for a bathroom in Snohomish County.
- Don Willot, Bainbridge Island, raised the opportunity for a training webinar re the built environment, sponsored by the National Association of Bicyclers. Needed: a viewing spot and \$75. After someone agrees to the money, either the PSRC Board room or Weber Thompson could be sites. Contact Don: dwillott@mac.com
Don Willot is also responsible for bringing to the NWUDC the artist who designed our logo.
- Rosemary Cunningham, Strategic Planning Manager, Aging & Disability Services (ADS).
- Valerie Thiel, announced the formation of the *Sage Architectural Alliance*, which will include various disciplines and work on such issues as senior co-housing, etc. If you wish more information: valthiel@netzero.com She also called our attention to the upcoming film: *Maggie Growls*, a documentary about Maggie Kuhn of the *Death & Dying* fame. Contact Valerie for more information.
- Anna Markee, Outreach Director, Housing Development Consortium, had heard about this Council at a recent HDC meeting and came to find out what it is all about.
- Karen Brawley, King County Housing & Community Development, announced that that King County will be engaging in a **Living Future Summit** on May 5. She will let us know more later.
- Art Mussman is a former Boeing Engineer and an active Volunteer in groups on the Eastside of the Lake. Art is also representing the ADS Advisory Council on the NWUDC.
- Jeannette Frank, Affiliate Associate Professor, U. W. School of Social Work, Institute on Aging, resides on Bainbridge Island and brought a contractor with her today.
- Robert Perilstein is that contractor.
- Randi Feidig is a motivational public speaker and will be working with Dr. Hartje as Dr. Hartje finalizes and releases her Universal Design Study.
- Dr. Sandra Hartje, Professor of Family & Consumer Sciences at Seattle Pacific University, has the final draft of her Study. If anyone has any final comments – not about the checklist – but about the other sections of

her work, please let her know ASAP: shartje@spu.edu She will be using January 2010 as the publication date.

- Tom Minty is the Principal at ABLE Environments, LLC; and Seniors Real Estate Specialist at [John L Scott, Inc.](#) Tom continues his quest to enable persons looking for accessible environments to find truly accessible environments.
- Wolf Saar is an Architect with Weber Thompson and is a specialist in senior living design. Currently, however, he is working on a Hotel design. Wolf also serves on the WSU School of Architecture and Construction Management Professional Advisory Board. Wolf also participates in a partnership that is trying to address affordable “housing + services”.
- Emory Baldwin, ZAI Inc., <http://www.zai-inc.us/us.html> is just back from Las Vegas, NV where the International Builders Show awarded him two awards: the 2009 Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) of the year, and the Livable Communities Award (for the architect category). The Livable Communities Award is highlighted on the home page of the AARP’s website: <http://www.aarp/> Emory also explained his latest project: the FabCab: <http://fabcab.com/> He will be building a FabCab at the Seattle Home Show, Feb. 20-28, 2010. This design picks up where Michelle Kaufmann Designs left off and will include universal design as integral to the FabCab.
- Scott Starr, SMR Architects, and architect for DESC building being constructed next to the Bart Harvey, is also leading the NWUDC committee work to include Universal Design elements in Washington State’s Evergreen Standards. (Anna Markee offered a possible HDC meeting as an opportunity to explore this development with the non-profit development community.)
- David and James Coats, <http://nestdesignbuild.com/> a father and son design and build team, are “Certified Aging in Place” (CAPS) builders.
- Patty Koshovich, the Koskovich Design Group, reminded us that she began her work as an RN before getting into the design of homes, much like one of the Founding Mothers of the NWUDC, Susan Duncan. She offered four free passes to the Bellevue Home Show.
- Margaret Casey, Planner, Aging & Disability Services, Convener of NWUDC. Margaret spoke briefly to the new web site, explaining that the money used to get this effort off the ground was what was left from previous fundraising efforts to host *AGING IN PLACE RESOURCE FAIRS*, \$1000. We will need to do fundraising to keep the site maintained. Any contributions can be made to the *CITY OF SEATTLE*, and sent to Margaret. The contributions will be placed in a special interest-bearing account earmarked for the NWUDC’ use. **[These contributions cannot be used to solve any City budget shortfalls or for any other purpose than the NWUDC.]**

Program:

- Sharon Lee, as Executive Director of the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), welcomed the NWUDC to the **BART HARVEY**, http://www.lihi.org/_prop_BartHarvey0001.html Sharon elaborated more fully the following facts found on their web site:
 - Located in the Cascade neighborhood, provides 49 units of affordable housing for low income seniors, ages 62 and up. The 6-story building features 5 floors of studio apartments and 1-bedroom units. The ground floor features a library room with a computer lab, community meeting space, and offices for case management and support services.
 - Seniors making up to 50% of the Area Median Income are eligible to live at The Bart Harvey. The residents will pay no more than 30% of their income in rent. 10 of the units are set aside for previously homeless seniors. Another 10 units are set aside for disabled seniors.

- A great many sustainable and health-promoting elements have been incorporated into the design of the building including several design features which are used for the first time on an affordable housing project in this region. Notable among these is a green, vegetated rooftop which uses sustainable technology to cover surfaces with lightweight soil, allowing residents to plant everything from vegetable gardens to wildflowers.

Sharon also explained that this was the first building in the Nation to pair 9% low income tax credits with a HUD Sec. 202 grant. The Sec 202 monies bring the additional financial supports for the on-going maintenance, etc.; a.k.a., “housing plus services” for those 62 and older low income persons.

Michele Wang, the architect from Runberg Architects, answered many questions regarding the design elements of the *BART HARVEY*. This discussion was followed by a very interesting tour of the building, including the roof top and its view and gardens. Since the building is fully occupied, we toured the manager’s two-bedroom unit, which gave us an indication of features that are in the residents’ rooms. [FYI: Many of us thought that the Manager’s unit had been furnished by a design company – as a sort of “model unit” view. NOT SO! The manager furnished every detail herself!]

One of the last questions asked of Michele had to do with the use of tubs (which to many of us are less accessible than showers) as the “default” rather than showers as the default.

After Sharon and Michele left, Art Mussman asked that at another meeting, we might have a fuller discussion of “tub vs. shower”. Thanks to the participants in the room, including Scott Starr who could lead off the response, we had a much fuller discussion of this issue. Many developers have apparently experienced very expensive on-going maintenance issues with showers. Currently the use of tile bath/shower technology is not affordable. With tile those maintenance issues do not occur. It was observed, however, that even with tubs, many of the same maintenance issues still happen.

Since the meeting ran considerably overtime, we did not have the time to review all that has happened in the last ten years of this Council. I will update the 2004 history in the near future and post it on our web site.

Next Meeting Date:

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2010, 9:30 – 11:30

Site to be announced.