

FUTURE OF THE BALLARD DISTRICT COUNCIL

In mid 2016 Mayor Murray announced the dissolution of Department of Neighborhoods support for Neighborhood District Councils on the grounds that their volunteer base was too old, too white, and with too many home owners to accurately reflect the City's changing demographics. Upon reflection, though those claims may be statistically accurate, the challenge of demographic inclusion exists throughout our representative layers of government from the grass roots of volunteer District Councils up through city, county, state, national, and international political entities.

Although disenfranchised by the Mayor, many of the neighborhood district councils are planning to go forward in their roles of bringing together neighborhood organizations and wider area interest groups to collectively communicate and solve problems with the appropriate city, county, and state departments. In that light the Ballard District Council's January 11 meeting will be a workshop on how the BDC can best be configured to serve these roles in the future. We will focus on 5 or so areas such as:

- Digital support technology - documentation, communications, outreach
- Organization type -- legal entity options
- Umbrella organization -- part of new City Neighborhood Council?
- BDC membership -- who/what inclusion, growth
- Political action committee

We are encouraging anyone with an interest or expertise in these areas to join us, particularly for the January meeting. We have a unique opportunity to freely set up a grass roots organization that can effectively provide a forum for neighborhood groups to discuss and coordinate lobbying and communications for a thriving, livable neighborhood. The Shilshole Liveaboard Association has had a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the BDC and we have much to gain by increased and continued participation. And frankly, it is fascinating to learn about your neighborhood and city with a bit of an inside view.

Ballard District Council, January 11, 7:00 pm, Ballard Swedish Hospital, 5300 Tallman Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107

Neighborhood Councils City Wide planning meeting Future of District Councils, January 22 (January 29 if a Seahawks miracle transpires), Sun 1 PM · Columbia Branch Seattle Public Library, 4721 Rainier Ave S