

Squire Park Community Council

Our Central Area Neighborhood Quarterly Newsletter

Find us at: <https://squirepark.cc/> and <https://www.facebook.com/SquirePark>

October 2025

SPCC Quarterly General Meeting

Saturday

October 18, 2025

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Byrd Barr Place

722 18th Ave

Agenda includes

1. Introductions, News and Neighborhood Comments
2. CM Hollingsworth
3. School Board Candidates
4. King County Executive Candidates
5. Adjourn to Meet & Greet

Welcome to October!

Join your neighbors October 18th for conversations with our guest District 3 City Council Member Joy Hollingsworth and meet other candidates running for office.

Prior to the meeting, we will be letting Council Member Joy Hollingsworth know some of the specific issues important to the community. Please share your ideas via info@squirepark.cc or <https://www.facebook.com/SquirePark>

Candidate introductions are just that. They have been invited to let us know why we should vote for them and to stay for a meet and greet at the end of the meeting. The two candidates for King County Executive, Girmay Zahilay and Claudia Balducci, have been invited, and all six Seattle School Board candidates have been invited.

(Attendance is subject to change from our print date, to the 18th.)



SPCC President's Greeting

Neighbors and Friends, It's true! All the leaves are falling and almost every day one can hear the sound of rakes and leaf blowers working both lawn and driveway to rid memories of, you guessed it, the worst and incredibly terrible summer. Yes, I said it!

A summer full of great weather? Blech! Hitting our wonderful beaches on Lake Washington and beyond? Who wants that?! Adventures with friends or family in Seward Park, Carkeek, Discovery Park, and surrounding? No thanks!

What I love most about Fall (and all those leaves falling) is that it gives me perspective on cleaning up, tidying things, and taking stock of what needs to be done before the rains begin their inevitable deluge. Batten your hatches and help a neighbor put away some broken branches. Clear some debris in an area at which you know a neighbor loads their car. Clear a drain when you see it clogged up (we all see it!).

More than anything, let's take care of our neighbors and our neighborhood; we're the friendliest community in the area so let's all work to keeping it that way. — Sincerely, Stefan

SPCC Thanks the Central Area Collaborative

The Central Area Collaborative (CAC) is a community-led nonprofit that uplifts Seattle's Central Area cultural heritage by promoting economic empowerment and equity. Since 2016, it has supported local businesses through customized technical assistance, mentorship, and grant programs that enhance access to capital and ensure long-term sustainability. See <https://www.cacseattle.org/>

We are grateful to the CAC for generously funding the SPCC Quarterly newsletters in 2025!

Squire Park Community Council Board Meetings

See Squire Park Community Council <https://squirepark.cc/> Board meetings are generally on the second Tuesday of the month via Zoom.

Our Next Community Meetings are scheduled for Oct. 18, 2025 and January 17, 2026 10:00 AM to noon at Byrd Barr Place, 722 18th Ave SPCC meetings are open to all residents, business owners, and interested parties. Please come. Bring a neighbor.

Your 2025 Council Board:

Joanna Cullen, **Secretary**
Travis Dobler
Leon Garnett
George Hacker
Joy Jacobson, **Treasurer**
Stefan Schachtell, **President**
Lauren Vorona
Kathy Yasi
William Zosel
Thank you *Brad Barber* and *Stefan Schachtell* for the SPCC Website!

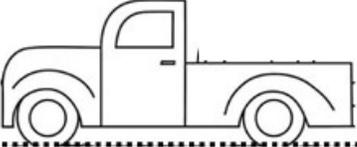
Meet General Election School Board Candidates

Those who attended the July SPCC meeting took advantage of a valuable opportunity to hear directly from four candidates running in our district to become members of the Seattle School Board. Vivian Song and Janis White moved on and were nominated in the primary election and will compete in the general election this November.

Although voting in the primary election for school board is by district only, when you vote in the general election you will be asked to vote for candidates in four districts. This means that, including Song and White, there will be eight names on your ballot.

The eight School Board Candidates are: Sarah Clark, **Jen LaVallee**, Joe Mizrahi, **Carol Rava**, **Laura Marie Rivera**, Kathleen Smith, **Vivian Song**, and **Janis White**. All eight candidates have been invited to the October 18th meeting, we have received confirmation from the candidates, **underlined and in bold**. (*Attendance is subject to change, between our printing and the meeting date*)

Need a Dump Run?
Text George
509-808-5285



**Advertise in the
SPCC Newsletter**
Contact:
Travis Dobler
doblertj@gmail.com
or
Kathy Yasi
kyasi57@gmail.com

Greetings from the Squire Park Nickelsville!

We are the most cost-effective tiny house village operator in Seattle partly because our villages are self-managed. We currently operate two tiny house villages; one in the Northlake area and here in Squire Park, at 805 21st Avenue. We are also in the process of starting our third village on Rainier Ave S. Everyone is welcome to visit our villages during daytime hours and get a tour. Visit and get to know us!

Contact Nickelsville Staff at (206)920-4388 or staff@nickelsville.org

For more information or ways to help visit:

Website: www.nickelsville.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/nickelsvilleworks.

Thanks, Jarvis Capucion - Nickelsville Staff



Helping Hands in the Neighborhood

A dedicated group of neighbors continues to gather every month for organized litter pick up. September volunteers worked in Pratt Park, with additional help from Seattle Public Utilities. All hands are welcome; the next opportunity for you to join is **Sunday, October 19, 10:00 AM at Powell Barnett Park**. For details and future dates and location see: **Facebook.com/JaxlerCleanup**

Bonus: there are typically pastries and treats for volunteers, generously donated by Temple Pastries and Broadcast Coffee!



Major Changes Planned for the Design Review Program

Decades ago, the City of Seattle adopted a design review program in which larger development projects, typically mixed use; commercial and residential buildings were reviewed by a panel of informed community stakeholders. In the words of the Department of Construction and Inspection (DCI), *“Design Review is one of the tools we use to create a better city. It gives everyone an opportunity to shape the design of many new multifamily and commercial buildings. It also offers flexibility with the Land Use Code requirements.”*

“The [Design Guidelines](#) are tools that we use to review how new buildings fit into and relate to the surrounding neighborhoods, including things like: The overall appearance of the building; how the proposal relates to adjacent sites and the overall street frontage ; how the proposal relates to unusual aspects of the site, like views or slopes; pedestrian and vehicular access to the site; quality of exterior building materials, open space, and landscaping.”

In the search for ways to speed up the process for the production of additional housing, the Design Review program has come under scrutiny. Although it is one of many steps that make up the building department’s process for reviewing and approving development permits, the Design Review program has been singled out for elimination or significant curtailment.

Defenders of the program argue that what was true when the process was put in place is still true. Design Review is a tool that creates a better city. It is not, as some opponents argue, mostly a tool for NIMBY’s to block and delay projects over the color of a building’s siding.

In addition to the set of guidelines that apply to the whole city, the Central Area has its own set of guidelines that are

intended to reflect the essential character of the neighborhood. The guidelines have been used for example, to inform the development of the Midtown development at 23rd and Union which has a generous public plaza and art reflective of the neighborhood. Similarly, the development by Vulcan at 23rd and Jackson has useful public space and generous physical connections to the residential neighborhood. These features and more resulted from a public process where developers and architects were given the opportunity to learn what is useful and important to community members.

The exact shape of the Design Review program going forward will be determined in the next few months. The State Legislature has enacted some limits: Design review standards must be “objective” and review must be by “experts” and not volunteer panels. There can be no more than one public meeting.

The Mayor and staff of DCI are said to be working on further details. Some of the proposals could further limit the scope of design review. The City Council will be presented with proposed legislation, probably at the end of this year or soon after.

To learn more about the state of the proposals for change and more about the Central Area Design Guidelines see: the [SPCC website](#) for a statement from the Central Area LURC on Central Area Design Review and illustrations of the 23rd and Union and 23rd and Jackson public spaces gained through public meetings between the developers and the neighborhood.

If you want to be involved with other community members about the future of Design Review in your neighborhood, contact the SPCC.

Garfield Super Block Update

The Garfield Super Block renovation project is progressing steadily, with full completion anticipated by September/October 2026. Key updates include:

Play Area and Restroom Upgrades: The existing play area has been removed to make way for a new one, and the old restroom building is being demolished to accommodate an updated facility with concessions and storage.

Field Improvements: Field work is scheduled to begin in November and continue through February 2026. As part of the larger project, the synthetic turf at the southwest corner will be replaced. A separate bidding process will be used to install a new synthetic infield at the northeast corner.

In addition to these infrastructure enhancements, the park will feature inspiring new public art through a separate capital campaign. The centerpiece of the Garfield Super Block Art Plan is the **Legacy and Promise Promenade**, which will showcase seven artworks known as the “Pillars of Promise.” These pieces will honor the seven cultural communities that laid roots in the Central District before its official redlining: Duwamish, Black/African American, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Jewish, and Italian. Each artwork will be created by an artist representing one of these groups, contributing to a vibrant and educational atmosphere that celebrates the district's rich heritage.

Meet the artists and learn more about the art initiative: [Garfield Superblock Art at GSB](#)

For additional details on the renovation project, visit: Seattle Parks and Recreation

[Garfield Super Block - Play Area, Promenade & Restroom Renovation - Parks | seattle.gov](#)

SPCC Newsletter

The Squire Park Community Council newsletter is published four times a year - January, April, July and October. Articles for the newsletter are always welcome, we edit for length and syntax. Please submit articles electronically to jfoxcullen@gmail.com.

The Dec.-Jan. newsletter submission deadline is around Dec. 15th, 2025

At least two board members review the contents of every issue before publication. Opinions of contributors to the newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors.

Publisher: SPCC Board of Directors Editorial Overview:
Editing: Bill Zosel, Joy Jacobson and Joanna Cullen (layout)

Distribution: SPCC Board and Squire Park Neighbors. We hand-deliver the SPCC newsletters four times a year to 3,400 residences within Squire Park.

Volunteer to help deliver!
Contact joyjake5@msn.com

Black Panther Party Legacy Interpretive Center

The Seattle Chapter of the Black Panther Party (SCBPP) Legacy Group is opening the doors to its new Interpretive Center at the renovated historical **Metropole Building**, 423 2nd Avenue Ext. S. and Yesler Way in Pioneer Square. The Interpretive Centers goal is for upholding the rich legacy of the Black Panther Party Seattle Chapter and other people-led movements, while fostering the future of grassroots advocacy and community-led change. And to empower today's activists through the preservation and dissemination of the histories and strategies of activist movements, as well as the arts and media forms that chronicled them. The Group continues to develop a Research Center which will expand a few steps up from the current site. Please visit them in the new center.



Donate at: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=SGKYJ45XDKSVS

Ask Questions, Express Your Opinion, Learn More About The Providence / Swedish Plans for Your Neighborhood

At the July SPCC meeting we scratched the surface of a long-needed neighborhood conversation about the impacts of Swedish Medical Center and what are their future plans. On October 22nd, you have a chance for a deeper conversation. Representatives from the Hospital, Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections, and SDOT will answer questions such as:

- What's being done to reduce traffic? The institution's Master Plan requires Swedish to reduce traffic but it has not. The City refuses to enforce the requirement. Why?
- The Master Plan, adopted ten years ago, says a medical office building will be built on 18th Avenue, but there's no sign of it. What is the status?
- In the Master Plan Swedish predicted a need for more buildings. Now the space occupied by the Kidney Center is vacant. How does that affect the institution's plans?
- The City approved a plan for the building of a hotel that has no special provisions for patients and families which Swedish says it doesn't want. What is the status?

These questions and more will be addressed. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more. For exact location and time of meeting see: <https://tinyurl.com/3td2db9y>

Squire Park Community Council Website & Email

Website: <https://squirepark.cc> for updates and more information.

Email us at info@squirepark.cc or contact Stefan at gostefango@gmail.com

Please help us with important information, we always welcome your ideas on stories and production strategies for the newsletter and website. *Thank you for your input.*

Donations to SPCC via Zelle is live!

We recently set up the ability to receive donations to SPCC via Zelle. It's super easy!

If your bank offers **Zelle**, all you need to do is go to your account, find "**Send money with Zelle**," (or other verbiage per your bank) and follow the steps. *This process does not charge any fees and is ideal for small donations.*

- The recipient is: **council@squirepark.cc**

Choose your account, fill in the amount \$1.00 minimum. Click on any bank requirements, click next, or schedule.

We also accept checks or cash at our meetings, and checks can be mailed to the address below.

Squire Park Community Council (or SPCC), C/O Central Service Center, Suite 100, 464 12th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122

SPCC depends on donations to produce the newsletter and hold quarterly meetings. We print 3,400 newsletters quarterly, costing approximately \$975.00. We believe a printed newsletter is important to reach as many people as possible in the neighborhood. They are hand delivered to your doorstep by a team of dedicated neighbors. Donations of any amount, even a few dollars, will make it possible for us to continue. **Thank you for your help!**