

Squire Park Community Council

Our Central Area Neighborhood Quarterly Newsletter

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

January 2026

SPCC Quarterly General Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Byrd Barr Place

722 18th Ave

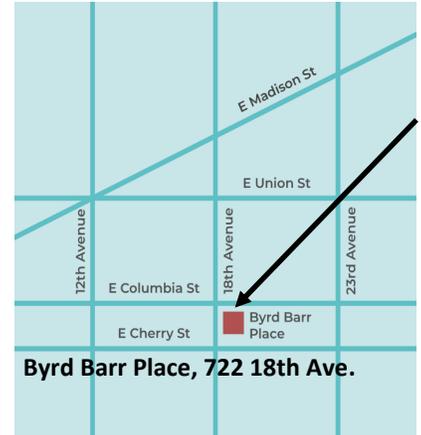
Agenda includes

1. Introductions
2. New Leadership and Vision
3. Community Updates
4. New Board Member Ask

Welcome New Leadership

SPCC is in conversation with the new mayor and council staff for conversations at the January Quarterly Meeting. We have confirmation from the mayor's community relations team.

- Please follow us on Facebook and on our website for updates.
- For MLK Day events please See <https://www.seattlemlkcoalition.org/>



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. <https://www.cacseattle.org/>

SPCC President's Message

Friends and Neighbors, I won't mince words: I ask that you support our community council newsletter with a donation that will help us continue to deliver **3400 copies** of this missive of local happenings, local legislation, and neighborhood representation.

We're determined to continue our newsletter that goes out once every 3 months at a cost of a little less than \$1000; we've found it an intrinsic and valuable connector amongst neighbors that pass one another on our sidewalks and streets.

Without community we are but simple ships in a vast ocean of our beautiful Seattle.

Your asks are our asks, and your concerns are our concerns. This is a tough time for any not-for-profit organization and we'd love to hear how we can do better.

The holiday season is behind us, but there are many formative moments in front of us; new activity, new neighbors, new families, a new mayor, new councilmembers, and more. Let's all take a moment to consider that we're all a part of this; as the city grows and ebbs and flows it gives us an opportunity to create and mold a new experience for all of us.

Let's engage! Let's be involved! We're in this together.

Stefan, President SPCC

Donate via Zelle to council@squirepark.cc. Cash and checks are accepted at our meetings or via USPS at Squire Park Community Council (or SPCC), C/O Central Service Center, Suite 100, 464 12th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122. All ideas and donations to manage the printing of the SPPCC newsletter are greatly appreciated.

See p. 3 for more information on neighborhood artist Sue Perry <https://www.sueperry-paintings.com/>



New Hope Development Construction Begins

Construction is underway on the first of two new residential buildings to be built on property owned by the New Hope Baptist Church on 21st Avenue at E. Fir St. The development is a cooperative venture between New Hope Community Development Institute and the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI).

NHCDI Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jeffrey, Sr. states: “We are thrilled that construction will start immediately on 92 affordable apartments on church-owned land. This provides a unique opportunity to build housing for community members as the Central Area has experienced significant rent increases and displacement. We applaud our funders, NHCDI, LIHI and members of the New Hope Missionary Baptist

Church for taking action to address an urgent housing need.”

The project will consist of two buildings. The first is a seven-story tower with 92 apartments. The second will have 22 units. Included will be more than 20 two bedroom units, an uncommon size in much market-rate development in the Central Area.

Building to seven stories in a neighborhood zoned lowrise and mostly developed with single family homes was made possible by recent legislation that allows the development of subsidized housing on property owned by religious institutions to go beyond the existing zoning limits.



Developer's image of the completed building.



The Future of the City’s Design Review Program Still Unknown

A little more than thirty years ago the City of Seattle began using a process of evaluating the proposed design of larger residential and commercial buildings. The Design Review Program is described by the City as “one of the tools we use to create a better city.” The October, 2025 SPCC Newsletter outlined the efforts to eliminate or curtail the [design review program](#). It was expected that public outreach for discussion of new legislation would be soon forthcoming. But not yet.

The broad outlines of the Harrell administration’s proposal are known, but no specific legislative proposal has been revealed. Of course, we now have a new Mayor. The position of a mayor Wilson administration has not been revealed. To learn of upcoming developments, follow the Squire Park Community Council website, and the website of the Department of Construction and Inspection has a page devoted to the topic. <https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/about-us/who-we-are/design-review>.



“The progress of “Afrofuturist”-styled Acer House at 23rd and Cherry is visible. See <https://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2023/11/city-council-gives-acer-house-development-rezone-ok-at-23rd-and-cherry/> for history and more information.

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 Jan. 24 and April 18, 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 2026 Community Board

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

Phase 2 of Seattle Comprehensive Plan to be Finalized in 2026

Phase 2 of the Comprehensive Plan is expected to begin in early 2026, focused on more granular zoning. The Harrell administration decided not to transmit the Centers and Corridors legislation to Council in December, therefore the Wilson administration will be working with the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) to finalize the version to be forwarded to the council.

The mayor’s last proposal had removed 99 acres of the Central District to be allotted to the First Hill/Capitol Hill Regional Center, which for now has been restored to the Central Area through an amendment offered by Council Member Joy Hollingsworth. The final legislation also removed the last area of Neighborhood Residential designation from the Squire Park and Central District, which is now designated as the Central District Urban Center.

The next step in implementing the One Seattle Plan will be the transmittal of Centers and Corridors zoning legislation to Council. This legislation will address rezones in new Neighborhood Centers, new and expanded Urban Centers, and frequent transit corridors as well as make changes to development standards for Lowrise and Midrise zones.

See Councilmember Hollingsworth amendment at <https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=15031347&GUID=784D3DFD-0497-4AD9-A693-A14E256457B7> All updates to the One Seattle Plan will eventually, probably soon, be available at <https://www.seattle.gov/opcd/one-seattle-plan>

Know Your Rights

- IF you see ICE in our neighborhood, or anywhere in our city, you have the right to take photos, videos and write down details. Inform the agent that you are going to use your right to record.
- Report the activity to the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) Hotline. 1-844-724-3737 They have rapid response teams that will go to verify and document the ICE activity and offer support to those affected.
- Stay connected! You can sign up to receive text alerts. Send the word ICE to 509-300-4959 [WAISN.ORG](https://www.waisn.org)

Remember the Artists Among Us March 6, 1935 - May 23, 2023

Sue Perry lived at 16th and Columbia for many years . Among her collections is a trove of paintings depicting life in the Central District. Some were in great demand, and others wait for a permanent home. She was also the mother of neighbor Amy Hagopian. See our website for more information and visit <https://www.sueperry-paintings.com/portfolio/>



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



The Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) for Swedish Medical Center Cherry Hill Campus is seeking additional community representation.

Architects and landscape architects, along with those with legal expertise are especially needed. Anyone with a passion for the neighborhood can help us. To express your interest, please contact Claire Lane, Chairperson, at claire@chaplaneinn.net

SPCC Newsletter

The Squire Park Community Council newsletter is published four times a year-January, April, July and October. Articles for the newsletter are welcome. We edit for length and syntax. Please submit articles electronically to jfoxcullen@gmail.com by March 15, for April 2026.

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.

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Contact

joyjake5@msn.com to help deliver.

Distribution: Because of you, Squire Park Neighbors hand-deliver the SPCC newsletter four times a year to more than 3400 residences within SPCC.

Argument to Save Lee Center Theater Fails; New Museum Details Revealed

The April 2025 edition of this newsletter outlined the proposal by Seattle University to locate on 12th Avenue its new art museum, a building described by SU President Peñalver as “a bridge between the campus and the city ... expanding access to the arts to a traditionally underserved community.” However, the proposed location and design of the museum displaces another neighborhood arts facility, the theater that is the Lee Center for the Arts. The current design for the museum building and the citizen committee discussion regarding the project can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/df95fdj6>

Despite vigorous arguments led by SU theater students, faculty, and community supporters, the University’s administration declined to adjust its plans. The removal of the Lee Center and the proposed new museum, designed by Tom Kunding, is seen by the University as the culmination of its long-held desire to create a monumental entrance statement at the corner of 12th and Marion. Like other major institutions (Providence/Swedish Hospital in our neighborhood, another example) Seattle University development is guided by a City Council-adopted Major Institution Master Plan (MIMP). Among the leading principles of the Seattle U MIMP are requirements that new development on 12th Avenue contribute to the pedestrian vitality of the street: "New designs should demonstrate sensitivity to the grain and scale of the existing surrounding development." And, should include " ... special provisions to activate the streetscape along 12th Avenue, Madison and Broadway through transparency, visible activity, small pedestrian plazas , and defined entries at grade level height, and should include recognition that 12th Avenue and Broadway in particular have a different character than the other streets in the neighborhood."

The People's Wall Landmark Application Advances

Black Heritage Society of Washington State (BHS) President Stephanie Johnson Toliver reported progress on the application to the City of Seattle to designate The People's Wall at 20th Ave. and E. Spruce as a historic landmark. In November, Johnson Toliver, along with a member of the BHS landmarks team

Taha Ebrahimi and the property owner met with a structural engineer recommended by Historic Seattle. The engineer's report confirmed that the wall is stable and the few weather-caused cracks can easily be repaired. The application for landmark designation was shared for feedback with Elmer and Aaron Dixon and others including the property owner. The application will seek a date before the end of February with the City Landmarks Board:

<https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/historic-preservation/city-landmarks> .

BHS will vet artists for paint refurbishing soon with a goal to begin in late spring or early summer.

Originally commissioned by the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panthers Party in 1969, <https://revisitwa.org/waypoint/the-peoples-wall/>, the People's Wall would become one of a small but growing number of landmarks that celebrate the rich and unique history of the Central District.

