

# Status Check

Seattle Citizens Assess Their Communities and Neighborhood Plans

*Summary of the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Discussion*



**Status Check: How is Your Neighborhood Doing?**

Prepared by  
**Seattle Planning Commission**  
October 2009

## What is this report?

This report contains summaries prepared by members of the Seattle Planning Commission. These summaries document discussions co-facilitated by members of the Planning Commission and the Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) at a series of neighborhood meetings held in June and July of 2009.<sup>1</sup> The Commission and NPAC co-hosted five open house workshops that included 24 neighborhood specific breakout sessions.<sup>2</sup> In all, about 350 people participated in the five open house meetings.

The Commission was asked to provide a summary for each of the 24 neighborhood specific breakout sessions. The summaries will help City staff to complete the Status Reports and will be a part of the "State of the Neighborhood Report" that goes to the Mayor and Council at the end of the year.

The Commission and NPAC developed four questions so that we could gather information from the people who live, work, attend school and have businesses in the neighborhood to better understand perceptions about the neighborhoods and how well the neighborhood plan is doing. Participants at the meetings were grouped by neighborhood and asked these four questions by the NPAC co-host while the Commission co-host worked to capture the sentiments of the participants. Participants were also provided questionnaires that contained the same four questions and were encouraged to fill them out and return them to be included in the record. All of the original questionnaires returned from the open house workshops are contained in the appendix of this report.

## Outreach and Interpretation

The City of Seattle's neighborhood planning team arranged for interpretation services to the communities often under-represented because of language barriers. Spanish interpretation was available at 14, Chinese interpretation was available at 4; Vietnamese interpretation was available at 6; and Tagalog interpretation was available at 3 of the neighborhood community discussions. Interpretation services were used at 4 of the neighborhood community discussions: Columbia City, Georgetown, Rainier Beach, and the West Seattle Junction.

## Virtual Meeting

In an attempt to broaden participation, the Planning Commission also created and hosted a virtual on-line meeting from June through August. The virtual on-line meeting included a questionnaire that asked the same four questions that participants at the open houses were asked. The on-line questionnaire had a total of 4,576 participants. The Commission has provided a companion piece to this report that includes the responses to the on-line questionnaires for each of the 24 neighborhoods.

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1. The Seattle Planning Commission (SPC) was adopted into the City Charter in 1946. The Commission is an independent and objective group that advises the Mayor and City Council on Urban Planning issues such as land use, zoning, transportation and housing issues.
  2. The Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) was formed in 2008. NPAC is a committee of Seattle residents and business-people that advises the Department of Neighborhoods and the Department of Planning and Development on conducting the neighborhood updates and neighborhood status reports.

## What is included in this report?

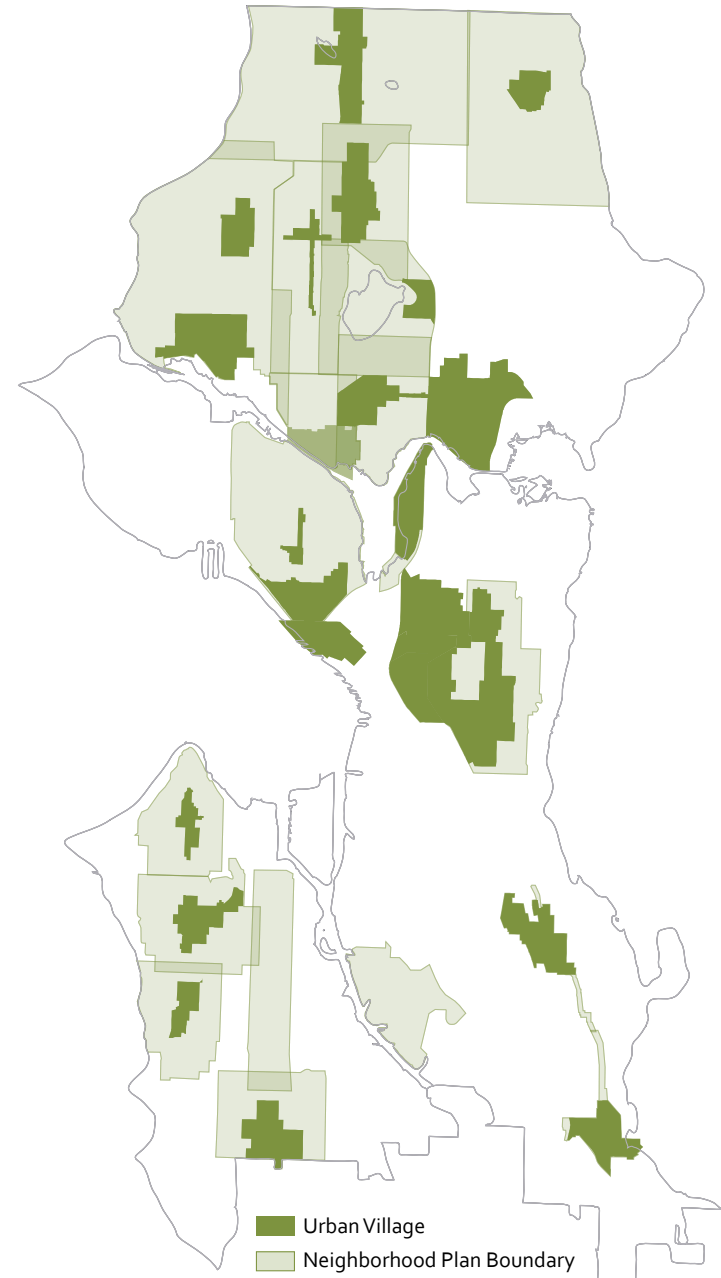
*Summary of one of 24 neighborhood discussions held in June and July 2009*

Admiral	Georgetown
Aurora/Licton Springs	Green Lake
Belltown	Greenwood/Phinney Ridge
Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake	Lake City
Capitol Hill	Morgan Junction
Central Area	Pike/Pine
Columbia City /Hillman City/Genesee	Queen Anne
Crown Hill & Ballard	<b>Rainier Beach</b>
Delridge	University Community
Eastlake	Wallingford
First Hill	West Seattle Junction
Fremont	Westwood/Highland Park

*Appendix A – Sample agenda*

*Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings*

*Appendix C – Notes and questionnaires submitted at meetings*



# RAINIER BEACH

## General Summary

There was a small group at the neighborhood discussion and people felt that communication about the meeting was lacking. The conversation was very agreeable. A couple gentlemen had been in the neighborhood since the 1950's and witnessed many ups and downs. Others were brand new and saw great hope in renovated parks and the numbers of children in the neighborhood. Most of the people at the table do not actually live in the yellow lines of the Urban Neighborhood because the residential areas are outside it. The group did not represent the full flavor of diversity that the community offers as a whole.

## Highlights

Parks are greatly improved and are a gem for the community: Kubota, Beer Sheva, Pritchard Beach, and Dead Horse Canyon are favorites. The development of the Southshore School complex is great. Commercial development is grossly lacking and requires immediate attention.



## 1. Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted, (or since you've been there)?

- Tremendous and positive change in sense of safety, less graffiti, feel more connected to neighbors, people used to be afraid to cross the street. (This was echoed repeatedly).
- Light rail.
- Multifamily development at New Holly.
- Some institutions growing (e.g. South Shore School)—schools help build community making it more sustainable.
- Parks are greatly improved (e.g. Beer Shiva, Dead Horse Canyon, Kubota Garden).
- More children and families engaged in parks and out on streets and visible.
- We have a long way to go to get back to the way the neighborhood was in 1959.
- “The auto junk yard” at Rainier and 57th needs to go away.
- Multigenerational poverty continues.
- The “entrance” to Rainier Beach is worse than it was 10 years ago.

## 2. What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you most pleased about?

- Light rail station was done in a visually appealing way.
- Department of Planning and Development changed zoning on Rainier to NC3.
- Performing arts center at Rainier Beach High School.
- Improvement in parks.
- Improvement in public safety.

## Most dissatisfied about?

- Transportation. Bus system was good but is being destroyed. Bus transit does not connect to light rail. It does not work in my neighborhood without parking. Some small business was hurt by the construction and light rail in general.
- There is a reluctance of businesses to move in here. QFC moved out, Auto parts store moved in.
- Business district is frustrating. Businesses move in but don't stay.
- Need more to stop violence among youth: RB Community Center is open late night only two times per week. We need late night activity for youth e.g. skating or turning the old Pancake House into a place for young people.
- Economic development has to include real jobs. The industrial zoned area on Martin Luther King south of the light rail station should be rezoned to commercial.
- Lack of design standards. We need to hold developers accountable.
- Disappointed in the Henderson Boulevard development project. The Mayor is moving community dollars for use in Paul Allen developments.
- Lots of wasted space.

### 3. How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved? Are they still the priority?

- **Henderson Street: Building a Better Boulevard:** Henderson Boulevard not done according to plan. Should be zoned NC1. Worry about Rainier Avenue with light rail and new development moving to Martin Luther King. Need to pay attention to the design of the community center.
- **“Beach Square” Commercial Core revitalization:** Where is Beach Square? Underutilized and vacant land needs to be developed. We need to bring property owners into a room with community members not just shop land to big developers. We need to pound on the doors of the Office of Economic Development to bring economic and community development to Rainier Beach.
- **Community Education: The Building Block of the Future:** Not promoting education the way we should be. Only partial renovations at Beach High School, we’re losing kids, RB has never been an academic center. Don’t close our school (RBHS) which is part of the community; good schools are how we attract families into the community.
- We need more accountability from city on what has been accomplished. Rainier Beach must be one of the next three plans to be updated.

### 4. The city is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks. What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months? Are there any important gaps in the draft status report?

- The data does not represent the many people who live just outside the “yellow lines” of the Urban Village but who (would) shop and use the resources and services of the area.
- What story do the data tell us? This should be more explicit.
- “Softer” data and positive indicators: How much park land is there (including Chief Sealth Trail)? Local (resident) grown food and pea patches? Cultural associations? Health and Quality of Life measures.
- The biggest gap is in the focus on the people: We are part of the city. Need city support in organizing local groups. Do not impose but nurture grassroots to grow and rise up to do empowering things.

**Note:** At least two participants expressed concerns about the outreach or lack thereof for the meeting.

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Five Open Houses, 24 neighborhood discussions

1. June 22 at the South lake Union Armory; Uptown/ Queen Anne; Belltown; Eastlake; Capitol Hill; First Hill; Pike/Pine
2. July 8 Northgate Community Center Lake City, Aurora/Licton Springs, Broadview - Bitter Lake - Haller Lake, University Community (University District NW, Ravenna)
3. July 23 Phinney Neighborhood Center Greenwood/Phinney Ridge, Crown Hill & Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, Green Lake
4. July 27 Rainier Community Center Central Area (Madison-Miller, 23rd & Union - Jackson and 12th Avenue), Columbia City - Hillman City - Genesee, Rainier Beach
5. July 28 Delridge Community Center Admiral, West Seattle Junction, Morgan Junction, Delridge, Westwood/Highland Park, Georgetown

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Neighborhood	Planning Commission Host	NPAC Member Host
Admiral	Catherine Benotto	Mark Wainwright
Aurora/Licton Springs	Michelle Zeidman	Sharonn Meeks (Mark Wainwright unable to attend)
Belltown	Kay Knapton	Catherine Stanford
Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake	Linda Amato	Craig Benjamin
Capitol Hill	David Cutler	Heidi Oien
Central Area	Mark Johnson	Kate Stineback (Adrienne Bailey did not attend)
Crown Hill & Ballard	Leslie Miller	Ashley Harris
Columbia City/Hillman City/Genesee	Leslie Miller	Linda Amato of the SPC (Eddie Hill unable to attend)
Delridge	Chris Persons	Boaz Ashkenazy
Eastlake	Martin Kaplan	Brian Ramey
First Hill	Kevin McDonald	Sharonn Meeks
Fremont	Chris Fiori	Toby Thaler
Georgetown	Amalia Leighton	Judith Edwards
Green Lake	Jerry Finrow	Kate Joncas
Greenwood/Phinney Ridge	Linda Amato	Kate Stineback
Lake City	Colie Hough-Beck	Renee Staton
Morgan Junction	Jerry Finrow	Cindi Barker
Pike/Pine	Josh Brower	Dennis Saxman
Queen Anne	Matt Roewe	John Coney
Rainier Beach	Chris Persons	Christie Coxley
University Community	Mark Johnson	Jeannie Hale
Wallingford	Amalia Leighton	Irene Wall
West Seattle Junction	Kay Knapton	Sharon Meeks
Westwood/Highland Park	Kevin McDonald	Christie Coxley

## Neighborhood Open House

*June 22, 2009 - 6:00 – 8:00 pm*

*South Lake Union Armory – 860 Terry Ave. N.*

### Hosted by the Seattle Planning Commission & Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee Agenda

#### 1. Opening Session – 20 minutes

Introduction & Welcome – Josh Brower, NPAC Co-Chair

Opening Remarks – Councilmember Sally Clark

Orientation Video

#### 2. Six (6) Neighborhood Breakout Sessions – 75 minutes

Breakout sessions for Queen Anne, Belltown, Eastlake, Capitol Hill, First Hill, Pike/Pine

##### Presentation by SPC table host (5-7 minutes)

- Goals of the breakout session
- Presentation of background information on neighborhood plan and status update
- How to provide input (discussion, written questionnaire, easel pad, on-line questionnaire)
- Additional resources available

##### Facilitated discussion of question led by NPAC table host

1. Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted, (or since you've been there)?
2. What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you most pleased about? Most dissatisfied about?
3. How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved? Are they still the priority?
4. The city is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks. What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months? Are there any important gaps in the draft status report?

#### 3. Closing Remarks and Next Steps – 5 minutes

Closing Remarks & Next Steps – Josh Brower, NPAC Co-Chair



## Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings

Tim Ahlers	Kara Ceriello	Patty Foley	Jim Jensen	Phil Mocek
Joy Anderson	Jose Cervantes	Nancy Folsom	Dale Johnson	Rob Mohn
Jennifer Anderson	Gordon Clowers	Becca Fona	Blair Johnson	Dave Montoure
Aurora Anunicacion	Clarice Coker	Tony Fragada	Matt Johnston	Jesse Moore
Katheryn Armstrong	Rene Commons	Eric Friedli	Giff Jones	Patti Muller
Jill Arnow	John Coney	Bill Fuzekas	Mary Jones	Lisa Muller
Boaz Ashkenazy	Colleen Cooke	Dennis Galvin	Roger Jones	Dan Mullins
Joanne Auterjung	Dorene Cornel	Herbert Getchell	Alan Justad	Mars Mure
Maris Avots	Michael Cornell	Lucille Getchell	Laura Kalleb	Jessica Nguyen
Emi Baldwin	George Counts	Joseph Gockowski	Erica Karlovits	Tri Nguyen
John Barbee	Stuart Crandall	Daniel Goddard	Elias Kass	Hong Nguyen
Scott Barkan	Sally Crone	John Golobiec	Narom Khath	Dan Nolte
Tod Barker	Web Crowell	Kirsten Graham	Phoeun Khim	Richard Nordstrom
Deb Barker	Michael Cuadra	Lynn Graves	Melanee King	John Nuler
Catherine Barker	Mike Dady	Matt Gray	Wesley Kirkman	Karen O'Brien
Rick Barrett	MJ Davidson	Elizabeth Guenara	Cheryl Klinker	Jeannie O'Brien
Zander Batchelder	Susan Davis	Justina Guyott	Chris Knapp	Dara O'Bryne
Vicki Baucom	DeEtte Day	Julia Hadley	Kay Knapton	Susan O'Connell
Ellen Beck	Christo de Klerk	Jeannie Hale	Amber Knox	Kristy O'Donnell
Craig Benjamin	William Decherd	Craig Hanway	Sam Knoz	Pennie O'Grady
Cory Bergman	Jim Del Cielo	Susan Harmon	Sybil Knudson	Sokunthea OK
Jane Bigby	Jon deLeeves	Kathy Harper	Karen Ko	Kenneth Olsen
Derek Birnie	Rory Denovan	Michael harthorne	Diane Kremingk	Vlad Oustimoritch
John Bito	Donn Devore	Ralph Heitt	Tom Lee	Chris Pasco
Allina Black	Brian Dougherty	Tom Henry	Dorothy Lengye	Betty Pata
Neel Blair	Lloyd Douglas	Eva Hermesmyer	Jeff Libby	Nina Pata
Mark Bloudek	Nancy Driver	Hai Hoffman	Ref Lindmark	Bert Patrick
Anna Bowers	Chanta Dumas	Dick Hogan	Peter Locke	Jeffrey Pelletier
Dave Boyd	Christa Dumpys	Charles Hogg	Julie Lubre	Andrea Petzel
Sheila Brown	Shannon Dunn	K Beth Hollingsworth	Wendy Luker	Beth Pflug
Jan Brucker	Tim Durkan	Raft Hollingsworth	Andrew M	Boyd Pickerell
Susie Burke	Ruth Dyksterhais	John Hoole	Matt Ma	Erik Pihl
Janice Burnell	Sherell Ehlers	Bert Hopkins	Glenn MacGilvra	Jeff Pittman
Gloria Butts	David Ellinger	Ron Hornuns	John Magnenat	Ed Pottharst
Priscilla Call	Julie Enevoldsen	Megan Horst	Mike Mariano	Jen Power
Pablo Cambinico	John Enger	Serin Houpton	Velma Maye	Tim Pretare
Leon Capelo	Alicia Fadul	Ryan Hughes	Vivian McLean	Susie Prets
Kevin Carrabine	David Fansler	Wendy Jans	Douglas McNutt	Mary Quackenbush
Eudora Lowery Carter	Abdy Farid	Joan Jeffery	Sandra Melo	Brian Ramey
Susan Casey	Bill Farmer	Sarah Jenkes	Susan Melrose	Craig Rankin
Chris Caster	Andrea Faste	Susan Jensen	Richard Min	Jordan Rash

## Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings

Matt Rehder  
Mike Reinhardt  
Diane & Bob Rhea  
Marjorie Rhodes  
Scott Ringgold  
Amelia River  
Kirk Robbins  
Joan Robbins  
Delight Roberts  
Lee Roberts  
Ray Robinson  
Donna Roseveark  
Dennis Ross  
Jon Rudical  
Dennis Saxman  
Sue Scharff  
Dena Schule  
Shirley Schurman  
Deanise Schwarz  
Sharon Scully  
Rita Selin  
Dic Selin  
Philip Shach  
Sarah Shoup  
Sam Simone  
Steve Sindiong  
Susan Sisson  
Cindy Small  
Tamra Smilanich  
Marty Spiegel  
Catherine Stanford  
Catherine Stengord  
Kate Stineburk  
Ruth Stinton  
Conan Storlie  
Mike Stringer  
Adam Strutynski  
Christine Stuffels  
Jean Sundrorg  
Jeff Taylor  
Nicole Taylor

Tony To  
Viet Tran  
Alexandra Tu  
Ron Turner  
Cathy Tuttle  
Sarah Valenta  
Diana Vergis Vinh  
Jessica Vets  
Roger Wagoner  
Forrest Wald  
Irene Wall  
William Walsh  
Ed Wecloires  
Stuart Weiss  
Catherine Wentbrook  
Al Werner  
Julien Wheeler  
Patty Whisler  
Scott White  
Mary Whitmore  
Stephen Whitmore  
Thomas Whittemore  
Adrienne Wicks  
Kraig Wilhelmsin  
Adrian Wilkenson  
Vivian Williams  
Terry Williams  
Betty Williams  
Laura Wing-Whitebear  
Greg Winterstea  
Laura Wong-Whitebear  
Mikala Woodward  
Jason Woycke  
Sara Wysocki

RAIMEL BEACH  
COMMUNITY MEETING

7-27-09

2 concerns about outreach for meeting  
Thanks for coming to 'hood - more often

- 1) How has neighborhood changed?
  - Tremendous change (fence no longer gets tagged) focus on safety; feel safer more connected to neighbors: Light Rail like R.R. after last S-C nos.
  - Multifamily Dev. New Holly; some institutions growing → ideas about focus and tweets on complan.
  - Parks focus Kabota for years significant improvements of all parks Beer Sheva Nead Horse Canyon: # of families / child increased a lot at B.S. park and "out door" activity + more housing.
  - Crime rate terrible in 88-89: community supporting each other | people would not walk across street @ what was S@ SAAR - beautiful Park, safer to walk up street Safer Neighborhood / new schools help build com. making it more sustainable before people were afraid to come to R.R. Coalitions working in community.
  - Lived here since 1951 have it a long way to go to get it back to → encourage that we all get involved in community.

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## RB Community (cont.)

Rainier Beach continues to do its part to make = mention of Jim Revalino's death. Auto/Junk yard @ Renton and Henderson needs to go away. Junk Auto shops @ 57th & Rainier. Entrance of RB worse than it was 10 years ago.

- Multi generational poverty. Need more around multi gen poverty.

## 2. What are / aspects are you most pleased of? Dissatisfied?

• Light rail does not work for my neighborhood: No mitigation, no parking. Per comp plan - where there is no economic needs + last plan needs to focus on infrastructure of sidewalks, wifi, incubator space for small business. Teeth in how are implemented.

Focus on Economic Development: Industrial land should be up zoned to commercial line work in RB. Need more on Econ Dev. Design standards. Hold developments accountable. Our responsibility.

New BBR place @ Renton @ Henderson  
No parking @ Station

(2)

## RB Community (Cont.)

- Dissatisfied about trans. bus system was good being destroyed. DPD chgt CI to NC3 from Empire way to Seward / 57th. Get a lot of MF dev. on Henderson.
- Q of FC mood out true is a reluctance of business people to come out here. Auto parts store ALL BAD
- Parks / Open Space; Performing arts Center @ R Beach H.S. Pleased about Light Rail. Pleased about ~~to~~ what was done visually. Some small bus heat but some helped. Safety improved. Business district is frustrating come a Bot don't stay.
- Questions about transit connecting to light rail. Station spacing - will need tracks. Retail does not = economic dev. because of wages
- Parks nice: families kids. Need more stop, violence among youth; RB com center late night only twice per week. Need late night por. for bus for youth. Kids have to go to Sky way. Innovative programs: skating etc. old Pan cake House could be utilized.
- Neighbor needs to do something to engage youth and older people drawing youth into gang gang problem.

3 How well is Plan Vision ~~achieved~~ achieved? Still priority?

- Dissatisfied in Henderson Blvd project. Mayor is more community & for Paul Allen developments.
- Development on Henderson should be NC 1.
- Henderson Blvd! not done according to plan. Fret for Rainier Ave; should have a solid business strategy.
- ~~Design~~ Design of community center. Modified version of what exists.
- Not promoting education the way we should be. Only partial rehab of Beach H.S. Only one not done is RR. Losing kids because RR is old.
- Beach has never been the academic center.
- Concerned about Rainier Ave v. MCK lots of underutilized space.

4) What should we have more/less focus in new status report? What's missing

- Biggest gap is focus on people: we are part of city, governance trying to organize Dunlap comm Councils need city support (translation etc.) Do not impose but nurture grass roots to grow and rise up to do all the empowering things

④

## RB Community

### Justing

- 3.1. • Not an industrial area Economic dev. no → except for groceries, service station → this is a residential community.
- Are renters involved in what community? Stick with the Blvd.
- Connection between statistics what story does this tell us
- Affordable child care; HS grad rates
- Softer things: How much park land / resident; local grown food; Chict health trail - Greener pieces; Peg Park Land: Health or Quality of life.
- What are positive indicators:
- Cultural associations.

\* Want more accountability from city on what has been accomplished.

- 5. Some of the data does not seem to represent - but many people live outside the yellow lines.

### 3) Wrap up

- < It's about people and families wanting to hang out: safe attractive places → lots of wasted space

log

(5)

## RB Community (cont)

- We need to shop ideas (eg Hongo restaurant)
- Traffic circles are a curse to fire dept.
- Pound on doors of OED. for "economic" community development
- Design Standards like in Queen Anne.
- RB must be one of next 3 Plan Updates
- Side walks
- Land Trusts
- Under utilized land → vacant land inventory. Not big Box development.
- Invest in process to bring property ~~own~~ owners into town w/ community not just show land to big developers.
- support our schools Don't close school (which is part of the community)
- ↳ How do these things attract families and children into our community.
- Need the right zoning No C1, C2
- Housing Affordable housing → cap as it connects to TOD.
- Piece of Rainier Ave is worst part of Rainier

Get  
cont  
/