**Transportation and Public Spaces Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

**9:00 – 11:30 am, IDIC in S. Beacon Hill**

Attendees: Mary Snodgrass, Carol Kachadoorian, Jon Morrison-Winters, Katie Wuestney, Seth Schromen-Wawrin, KL Shannon, Clara Cantor, and Lanvin Andres (IDIC)

1. **Introductions**

* Committee members and Lanvin Andres, Executive Assistant and Social Worker, IDIC, introduced themselves.

1. **Committee and IDIC Overview**

* Mary Snodgrass provided an overview of the committee’s work to date, and interest in IDIC and S. Beacon Hill.
* Lanvin gave an overview of IDIC
  + 8 FTE
  + Serves 700 seniors – primarily Filipino seniors
    - Many came to the U.S. as seniors, and have limited English
  + IDIC used to be located in the International District, but moved to S. Beacon Hill due to rising rents
  + IDIC rents the basement of the church, with occasional use of the upstairs hall
  + Members come from as far as Renton, Kent, Everett and Auburn
    - IDIC is more culturally focused than geographically focused
  + 50 – 95 are the average ages of their seniors
  + ~50% have their own homes or live with family; ~30% have low-income housing; ~20% rent a room in a house
  + Many IDIC seniors took care of their grandchildren, but as the grandkids get older, they come to IDIC from TV, food, chess, and socialization; they are looking to connect to their community and culture

1. **Discussion of Transportation Issues Impacting IDIC Members**

* Lanvin noted the following transportation and mobility challenges around IDIC:
  + When IDIC relocated, the 36 bus route stopped right at the building; but after the Othello light rail station opened, the 36 was rerouted, and now the closest stop is ¼ mile away
  + The 107 stops nearby, but it doesn’t run very often, and many of the seniors don’t use cell phone apps to track the buses
    - They need a covered bus stop for the 107 running south
  + None of the IDIC members use the light rail
    - IDIC is working with Sound Transit to plan a field trip for members to ride the light rail and increase their awareness about it
    - The light rail seems more focused on commuters, and not the people living in the community
    - There are not enough signs, support for crossing MLK, or education for seniors to use the light rail
  + Crosswalks around the building are not ADA compliant
  + There is no sidewalk along Othello Street, so members cross a frequently-flooded ditch get to the front door
    - This is especially challenging for members using a walker or wheelchair
    - There have been three of 4 accidents (falls) crossing the street to get to IDIC due to poor infrastructure
    - Other senior centers seem to have better pedestrian access
  + IDIC has tried writing a letter to Mayor Durkin and applied for NSF funds to address these issues
* KL suggested IDIC could try connecting with King County Councilmember Larry Gossett’s office; he had just visited IDIC recently

1. **Tour of IDIC**

* Lanvin took the committee on a tour outside the building to see the issues he had highlighted.

1. **Next Steps:**

* The committee thanked Lanvin for his time and will debrief at the next meeting how the committee may be able to help address some of transportation issues identified during the meeting.