

For Immediate release: Nov. 15, 2011

NORTHEAST SPOKANE DEVELOPMENT TOWN HALL MEETING

For More Information: Luke Tolley, NED Stakeholder, 509-475-3509, or Elizabeth Tellessen, NEDAB Member, 509-838-6131

Last winter Mayor Verner appointed 14 volunteers to further study potential development in Northeast Spokane, or NED for short. On December 8, 2011, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, this advisory board will hold a Town Hall Meeting to make an informal presentation to interested community members.

This volunteer board is called the North East Development Advisory Board (NEDAB) and they have joined forces with four community leaders, or “Stakeholders” who represent the interests of the residents, business leaders, and stakeholders in Hillyard.

The appointment of these members and formation of the NEDAB is the culmination of years of work by the community, neighborhood groups and city focused on improving the economic viability of Northeast Spokane. Similar processes were used to facilitate revitalization of the University District and the Spokane International District.

The hard work that predated the appointment of the NEDAB included a concerted effort by:

- Greater Hillyard North-East Planning Alliance (Bemiss, Hillyard and Whitman Neighborhood Councils)
- Hillyard Neighborhood Community Development Steering Committee
- Greater Hillyard Business Association

Northeast Spokane is one of the city’s most underutilized resources as it is one of only three industrial zones. And, its location on the North-South Corridor gives it some very unique opportunities for development.

In order to identify and pursue these unique opportunities NEDAB meets monthly as a board, every quarter with the Stakeholders and now more frequently as committees.

- Retention Committee
- Recruitment Committee
- Infrastructure Committee
- Community Outreach Committee

The four NED committees are comprised of board members, Stakeholders and community members, including business and property owners. And, all four are looking for interested volunteers.

Additionally, the NEDAB has elected to pursue formation of a Public Development Authority (PDA). The City Council has not yet approved the PDA, but if approved it would provide a tool to help further the goals of the community and facilitate

development of Northeast Spokane. PDA's are vital to two of Washington State's best success stories: Pike Place Market in Seattle, and the Foss Waterway Development Authority, in Tacoma. One big advantage of a PDA is goals can be achieved without the political fluctuation that can kill a consistent plan for economic development.

To learn more please attend the Town Hall Meeting December 8, 2011, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Northeast Community Center.