

GPNA Board meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

APPROVED

Attendees were introduced and included Brian Cefola, Ron Laster, Ken Peterson, Kate Davenport, John Prell and Mary Cal Hanson. The guest for tonight was also in attendance and his name is Neil Malling. He is going to talk to the group about a new group forming in the NE Portland area, but which has national groups also. These groups help keep elderly people in their homes with assistance as needed.

The Agenda was reviewed and a motion to approve was set forth. A unanimous vote was called with no abstentions.

The meeting minutes from the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board meeting were reviewed, edited to change the info re: the Special meeting from September, 2013 to the more recent meeting which took place on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Otherwise the meeting minutes were also unanimously approved.

Next up Brian opened the floor to discussion about the recent increase of home demolition in Portland (COP). The emphasis was to determine whether GPNA should send a representative to the meeting later tonight on this pressing issue. Both Ken Peterson and John Prell volunteered to attend the meeting as representatives from GPNA and will report back to the GPNA. One of the main points will be to determine if the COP needs to consider more design review and affected neighbor input prior to certain developments or in fill projects.

Before we could let Ken leave to attend the Demolition meeting he gave up a brief update on the Dog Off Leash Area (DOLA) that he is trying to tackle in working with the COP and Parks and Rec (PPR). The COP currently has an "Equity manager" to assist Amanda Fritz and trying to move forward to getting a fenced area set aside at Grant Park for the DOLA. It seems to be crippled by the bureaucracy aka COP.

One other item that was moved up in the agenda so that John and Ken could attend the Demolition meeting was the current state of upheaval at NE Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN). Seems that there have been changes in directorship positions and both the NECN staff and board members are very upset and vocally so at recent meeting(s). Ron made the suggestion of contacting an outside facilitator to assist with these conflicts. He also recommended a book "The Six Thinking Hat skills" by Dr. DeBono which may be helpful in conflict resolution within an organization.

Newsletter issues: Kate wanted to let the GPNA board members know that the amount of advertising in the upcoming newsletter will require increasing the size of the next newsletter to a 12 pager vs. the usual 8 pages. New Seasons market would like a full page add to announce their new store with in the Grant Park Village development. We all agreed that Kate can take the reins and be fully supported to create another amazing newsletter, no matter the size.

2015 Clean Up: Kate got a tentative commitment from Jane Comeault to again be the leader for the 2015 Neighborhood Clean Up. Discussion led to the possibility of a later single sheet to be delivered to the GPNA neighborhood. That seems to be too labor intensive. The issue of more and maybe larger signs also came up but wasn't voted on. Kate also mentioned that one of the items from her NECN Treasurer training course was the need to set a budget. Another point was brought up as to decide if the Clean Up is a fundraiser for GPNA or just a community service?

Next up is the need to consider the speaking guest(s) for the October meeting. Neil asked about how much time is typically allotted and was decided about 10-15 minutes of explanation with another 10 minutes for questions and answers. So Neil Malling will be on the agenda to speak to a broader audience about "The Village". Brian will also try to secure a representative from the COP Sewer project to give the group an update. Al Ellis from the Beaumont-Wilshire NA may also be invited to give the group an update on the progress with regard to the COP and demolition issues. Brian will consider the last guest as time approaches.

Up next was the Treasurer Report. There is nothing too outstanding at this time. Kate wanted to bring to our attention that she is keeping track of Petty Cash. The Fernwood group has not been paid yet and it seems a bit unclear as to why. There is over \$7,000.00 in our account at this time and Ron wanted to encourage information distribution so that neighborhood groups will be encouraged to utilize these funds. We as a group probably need to decide what our lowest baseline of cash in the account should be. Kate mentioned that this is typically about one year's worth of expenses (~\$2500.00). Kate will put a note regarding available funds in the newsletter and also maybe a mention on the website too. Mary Cal made one change on the report to clarify the \$62.00 distributed to her which covers the PO Box that the GPNA uses.

#### New Business:

Brian mentioned that there's been no more interest or information available regarding the NE 37<sup>th</sup> & Broadway traffic change. No new developments have been seen or sent to Brian regarding this issue.

This brought us up to Neil Malling who is here to speak on the organization by the name of "The Village". This is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Their focus is to try and assist in helping the elderly people in the neighborhood stay in their neighborhood. (Aging in place) How it works is: there are dues paying members, volunteers who get training in order to better know about all of the available resources available to the elderly. These can come from the city, county, state or federal government. Then the group contacts area vendors, plumbers, and electricians etc who will be willing to offer members of "The Village" services at a reduced rate. Currently Neil is in the early building stages with plans to be up and running by 2016.

Brian moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and unanimously approved at 19:41 (7:41 pm).

Minutes taken by Mary Cal Hanson