

At 7pm this meeting was called to order by Brian Cefola. The officers in attendance included Ron Laster, Kate Davenport, Ken Peterson, John Prell and Mary Cal Hanson. There were also 2 neighbors in attendance tonight. They were Michael Licurse and Stanley Cyran. After the overwhelming approval of tonight's agenda, Brian opened the meeting with the Letter from the United Neighborhoods for Reform Demolition/Development Resolution which was attached on the back of the agenda. After a quick read through a motion was set forth to support this letter and the vote was unanimous. Of note, Brian declined to post a vote and voiced his concern about the specificity of one of the sentences. Upon further discussion the group agreed that the resolution wasn't perfect but was a good starting point.

Moving right along with the agenda items up next was the issue of the lack of safe pedestrian or bike crossings on NE Knott Street. Stanley Cyran was the originator of this topic and Mr. Licurse was here primarily for this issue. Discussion was batted around to try to assist in ideas on how to get better signage, stop signs, stop lights and/or marked crosswalks at a couple of locations on NE Knott between NE 27th and NE 37th Avenues. There will be a traffic calming island placed at NE 26th and Knott for the 20's Bikeway project in the near future. Brian offered the group "Oregon Walks" as a resource to assist Mr. Cyran. Other recommendations included the Portland Police request to set up a speeding sting and Kate mentioned the group that assists in painting murals on the streets. She will get the name of that group Village Building Convergence, email address vc.cityrepair.org. Since this section of Knott would include only the Alameda and GP neighborhoods the motion was made to have Ken contact Jim Brown the Alameda NA rep. to jointly approach the City of PDX to initiate a traffic study on NE Knott between NE 27th and NE 37th Avenues with the "Vision Zero" emphasis. The "Vision Zero" idea is to try and reduce speeds on neighborhood streets so that there are Zero traffic incidents between cars, walkers and bicyclists. The motion was passed unanimously.

Next Up – the Grant Park Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA): Ken referenced the email that Amanda Fritz had sent out to Mr. Cyran after his request to have this safety and livability issue reviewed with regard to the OLDA confusion at Grant Park. The response is still emphasizing the refusal of Ms. Fritz to allot City staff or funds for this project. And also that if the residents and/or users of Grant Park OLDA would want to try and raise the funds for this project they would need to raise an equal amount of funds for another, currently undisclosed, less advantaged neighborhood park improvement project. Although this concept of "neighborhood equity" is not a standard for other City projects Ms. Fritz seems intent on sticking to this idea for this project. Another point of contention is that it would be difficult to estimate the cost of the project because the City refuses to approve a dedicated area of Grant Park that could be developed to house the OLDA. These roadblocks create the inability to move the project forward at all. Ron recommended to Ken to contact the City of PDX ombudsman, the mayor and the auditor who may be able to offer some ideas or advise. There was also discussion of how to gather data points to assist in presenting the case to the City. Possibly a survey on the GPNA website and this info along with the letter of refusal will be published in the next newsletter which will be out in April. At this point a motion was presented to table the OLDA issues until the January regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm

Minutes taken by Mary Cal Hanson