

APPROVED

GPNA Annual Meeting

Tuesday April 12, 2016

Minutes

Board members, speakers and guest in attendance include Brian Cefola, Ron Laster, Ken Peterson, Kate Davenport, Mary Cal Hanson, Jacquie Henshaw (jacqhen@aol.com), Bob Simril (bsimril@gamil.com) and one other neighbor.

After these introductions Brian opened up the meeting with a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and approved as written.

Next up was the approval of two past meeting minutes. The first was the November 10, 2015 Regular meeting. After the members reviewed these past minutes a motion was made and seconded followed by a unanimous approval of these minutes. Next up were the March 8th, 2016 meeting minutes. Ken had sent an email to the board members with one minor change that was quickly adjusted (see minutes). A motion was made to approve the March 8th, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded and approved with that one modification.

Jacquie Henshaw was next on the agenda. Jacquie is the Grant Park NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team) coordinator. She is NET trained and was here to present some great information, pamphlets and contact info re: Earthquake preparedness. Kate Davenport is also trained NET. Jacquie started her presentation with asking the group by show of hands, who is ready for an earthquake. Only Kate's hand went up. Jacquie recommended talking with the neighbors on your block and finding out details that may be useful in an emergency event. She is also willing to come talk to neighborhood groups to assist in planning. In addition to paper material there is a great website for more information at www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem. It has 17 hours of useful information. In addition the training to get NET certified takes 28 hours spread out over 3 Saturdays and an additional 12 hours of community volunteering throughout the year.

Elections: Slate approved unanimously:

-President- Ken Peterson

-Vice President(s) – Ron Laster and Brian Cefola

-Land Use Chair – Ken Peterson

-Treasurer- Ron Laster

-Secretary – Mary Cal Hanson

-At Large- Both John Prell and Jane Comeault will continue in this capacity but were unable to attend this meeting.

-Newsletter- Kate Davenport

A motion was made to approve the slate of candidates as presented above and the motion was seconded and approved with one abstention.

The Clean-Up: things are coming together and it looks to be shaping up to be another successful Clean-Up. The rebuilding material issue is still not clear as to what we can take, but Kate will be attending a couple of other neighborhood Clean Ups in the next few weeks and also attending a master recycling meeting to finalize some specifics. Then she will fill in the volunteers on April 30th, 2016 – the Clean-Up day. Jane has worked out a verbal arrangement with Sullivan’s Gulch NA for sharing the burden and windfall that will occur this year- since the two NA are joining forces.

Transition of the GPNA from NE Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) to Central NE Neighbors (CNN) was discussed and since this was the third announcement of this transition it will be voted on tonight. Ron presented the issue of Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) assessing its Coalition affiliation. GPNA was originally a member of Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN) coalition and later transitioned to Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN). This change of Coalition affiliation was the result of the increase in youth gang activity that was impacting many of the inner NE neighborhoods and as a result Grant High School. At that time, NECN developed one of the premier Youth Gangs program designed to actively engage the gang impacted youth in the area, both on the street and in the schools. It was also felt it would be a better fit to work closer with neighborhoods that had been similarly impacted. At that time and through the demise of the program in 2010, the fit was very good. As a result of the changing demographics and issues impacting our neighborhood, along with leadership changes at the Coalition, The GPNA Board decided to reevaluate our Coalition affiliation to determine if our alliance with NECN is

still “the best fit”. We took into account the issues that neighbors have been raising. Of late, those most often cited are: impact of housing infill, traffic issues and its impact on parking and safety, and development concerns. Since Grant Park was originally a member of Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN) and borders the CNN boundary, we felt it would be prudent to engage them in our pursuit. The issue has been the topic of discussion at Board and General meetings for just over a year. At the GPNA Board meeting on March 8 2016, after a discussion with the CNN Director and Board Chair, the GPNA Board voted to move forward and present the issue of Requesting Engagement with CNN for discussion and vote at our Annual meeting.

If approved by the Board, we anticipate this process to take time as we evaluate and assess the CNN programs, capabilities and overall “fit”. Similarly, we will undergo an evaluation by the CNN Board to determine our “fit” in their organization

Ron gave an amazing historical perspective of the history of GPNA with CNN, switching over to NECN during the troubled NE gang activity as it made sense to align with other NE neighbors who were more north and west of the GPNA. GPNA no longer has that as one of its primary issues. Some of the newer issue that are affecting GPNA are more in line with those of NAs associated with CNN. These include but are not limited to the impact on housing infill and demolition, traffic and parking issues, current development and future developments that will have a big impact on GPNA livability. There may also be some school boundary changes upcoming that may impact GPNA. These changes are most likely to be in collaboration with the neighborhoods within the CNN. There was a great discussion following Ron’s presentation. A motion was made as “a vote of confidence to move forward with changing the coalition affiliation that GPNA work with. This change is to transition from NECN over to CNN.” The motion was seconded, voted on by all members at this meeting. Seven neighborhood members voted to approve this switch and there was one abstention.

The question as to how to proceed/plan and set a calendar was made. One item of concern is that the CNN board must also say “YES” to our request in a formal way. A letter will need to be drafted to Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) explaining the GPNA desire to switch coalitions. This letter should emphasize the positive issues that will come from this switch. It is unclear how the GPNA should approach NECN.

The Broadway/Weidler Alliance (BWA) was brought up again as the Charrette is coming up in May. This was mentioned in the last newsletter. The date is Saturday May 14th, 2016. There will be a representative from “Better Block” at the charrette. Better Block will also be on Broadway with a demonstration project for public viewing. This group uses low cost ways to reconfigure areas that make

the street have more street appeal. The changes are only temporary to see if the neighbors and businesses like them.

Kate distributed the most recent Treasurer's report. She mentioned that Beverly Cleary- Fernwood still has not sent any invoices for the past two newsletters. It was suggested that she just send an email with the details to the coordinator, state that this is an invoice and pay the outstanding money. Since Ron will be the treasurer he and Kate will coordinate the transition. They will let Mary Cal know when this transition is complete so that any bills/checks go to the right person.

New Business: at the next meeting for the GPNA a schedule for the next year's meetings will need to be set. That would be for July 2016-June 2017. It was suggested that the board members come up with a different day of the week as alternatives for upcoming meetings as there are several conflicts with the 1st Tuesday of the month for our meetings.

A motion was made to adjourn this meeting, seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:47

Minutes were taken and transcribed by Mary Cal Hanson