

Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Board Meeting Minutes (APPROVED)

November 21, 2017

1. Present: Ken Peterson, Ron Laster, Stacey Tipp, Jane Comeault, Steve Haber (NET), Mitch Schaub (NET), and Nathan Havner (NET).
2. Everyone went around the table and introduced themselves.
3. The September meeting minutes were discussed. There were several small corrections. Stacey Tipp agreed to make the corrections and send a corrected version to board secretary, Mary Cal Hanson, who was absent tonight. Ron moved and Jane seconded the motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion unanimous.
4. Ron moved, and Jane seconded, a motion to approve the agenda. Motion unanimous.
5. Treasurer's report. Ron reported that we have \$5,300 in the bank. This is after paying \$140 to Susan Sheppard for the newsletter layout, and after a payment from the NE Community Center for their ad (the community center has committed to advertising in the newsletter for the next year). Ken's choir, that submitted a late newsletter ad, will pay \$75. Ron mentioned the difficulties he had had in locating records of ads placed in the newsletter, as well as records of payments. He would like to find a volunteer to take over responsibility for the newsletter ads. Jane moved, and Ron seconded, a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion unanimous.
6. Update from CNN. Ron mentioned the car theft article that we printed in the GPNA Winter 2017 newsletter, reprinted from an article in the Beaumont-Wilshire NA newsletter. Ron thought the issue of changing the standard of evidence to prove car theft, as described in the article, might be something for CNN to take up with the state legislature. Unfortunately, only the Beaumont-Wilshire representatives seemed energized by this issue. We decided to wait and see if we received any feedback from our Grant Park newsletter. We might revisit this issue if our neighbors show interest.
7. Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) report by Mitch Schaub. Mitch mentioned that Grant Park now has a great cadre of 23 members on its team, even though they only just got started. They have a president, regular meetings, and have ongoing discussions on how to reach their goals. They have three-fold objectives: i) continued training so that the team can help the community both before and after a disaster; ii) to help understand the neighborhood they serve (e.g., where are residents likely to be at different times of the day?); iii) to develop opportunities to help educate residents on disaster preparedness.
 - This lead into a wider discussion of the work of the NET team. Nathan showed us his kit, including a tool that would shut off gas and water. Steve talked about how important it is to know when to shut off gas, and when not to do it. Gas should only be shut off in an emergency. Simply smelling gas is not enough. If residents lose the ability to boil water, this can lead to disease outbreaks (as happened with cholera in Haiti). Gas can only be turned back on by the utility company.
 - Jane expressed concerns about the safety of her children at Beverly Cleary, and was concerned about preparedness at the school. She asked if there is a way to connect NET with schools. Nathan said that if the "big one" (i.e., a massive earthquake) happens during school hours, that (i.e., local schools) is where NETs will be focused. Jane said that she would love to see a reunification drill for local schools (Beverly Cleary and Hollyrood). Nathan suggested that this issue should be raised with Lis Cooper (NET team leader) at the next NET team meeting on Thursday, January 18th.
 - Steve emphasized how it's important the team work on outreach, especially working with the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM).
 - Ken asked about mapping the neighborhood. Steve agreed it is absolutely critical that we know where our community assets are (e.g., who's a doctor/nurse, who owns a generator, etc.). The team is waiting for PBEM as it is working on mapping software. Mitch said it would be a great idea if the team had a paper copy of the list of neighborhood assets to keep with their equipment stash.

- Steve noted that there are two small areas in the neighborhood that are not covered by a NET team (north of Grant Park and south of Beaumont Wilshire). It was agreed that the Grant Park NET would be happy to include these residents in the Grant Park catchment area, but the GPNA would have to be involved in the logistics of notifying and obtaining the agreement of those residents. Mitch will show us exactly where the unserved areas are (he will send a map to Ken, the land use chair). Ken says this is probably an issue that CNN could help sort out.
8. Newsletter Committee Report. The committee consists of Ken, Ron and Stacey. Ken had previously submitted an e mail to board members on October 26 that detailed the committee's findings and recommendations. Jane mentioned that she had talked with Kate Davenport, and that Kate was very happy that Susan Sheppard has taken over responsibility for the newsletter layout. Kate may even be willing to lead the annual clean-up, now that she is not doing the newsletter any more. Jane mentioned that she likes the idea of letters to the editor. However, Ken noted that he gets frustrated at the lack of feedback from readers, especially when an appeal has been made for new ideas and responses to articles. He also wondered if a potential "message from the president" column would have enough material for a full year. It was noted that we need to add the location of the GPNA meetings on the front page of the newsletter. In a general discussion of potential articles for the Spring 2018 issue, Jane agreed to write an article on an eco-friendly education non-profit that she's involved in (it would be that issue's "local good causes" piece). Members also liked the idea of the articles on mattress disposal and creating bee-friendly gardens. An article on the pros and cons of the community website Nextdoor was also popular. Ron reported that the \$500 NE Village Portland scholarship had been given to a very qualified low-income senior. The recipient has an interesting history of volunteering (e.g., the Peace Corps, hospice). It was suggested that an article on the grant gift would be a good update for the next newsletter.
 9. Upcoming meetings. It is important that we plan our meeting dates for the next year in advance. However, for now, we just agreed that our next general meeting would be Tuesday, January 16. At this meeting, Ron suggested we discuss the criteria for officer positions (e.g., should someone serve as an at-large member for at least one year before becoming an officer; what are the attendance requirements?). It was also suggested that we should ask new at-large members to specify their areas of interest. After hearing about the GPNA need for new board members, Mitch kindly said that he would raise this issue at NET meetings and encourage team members to join our board.
 10. Ken proposed deferring the discussion of the Soda Tax Initiative, as we were running out of time.
 11. A motion was made by Jane to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron. Motion unanimous.

Notes prepared and respectfully submitted by Stacey Tipp