

## Minutes of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

June 5, 2018

Board Members in Attendance: Jane Comeault, Ron Laster, Ken Peterson, Patrick Schmidt

Late: Neon Brooks, Greg Nika

Not Present: Mary Cal Hanson, John Prell

**Call to order** at 7:09

### **Review and approve agenda**

- Ron moved to approve, Patrick seconded. Motion carried.

### **Review of minutes from April 10, 2018**

- Ron moved to approve, Jane seconded. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report – Ron**

- Ron shared with the Board, a thank you letter that he sends to each new NET volunteer together with a check for \$100. Three additional NET members qualified for reimbursement since the last GPNA meeting. It was agreed that reimbursement to newly qualified NET members for necessary supplies and equipment should be automatic based upon past resolution of the Board. After expenses and deposits for the annual clean up, the current balance is \$8943.66.

### **CNN Update – ONI (now Office of Community and Civic Life) – Ron**

- ONI, now called the Office of Community and Civic Life (OCCL) may be planning to downsize the Neighborhood Associations.
- OCCL is trying to create other avenues for different affinity groups to have a voice. The administration feels that the Neighborhood Association (NA) is not serving the whole city population.
- City budget will be finalized in July. But the tentative budget shows NE neighborhood cuts and Central Northeast Neighborhood Coalition (CNN) losing \$11,500/ year. Alison Stoll, Executive Director of CNN has reworked the budget in a way that does not reduce the Neighborhood Association communication budget.
- One possible cost reduction is that CNN might merge with the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

*Neon arrived at meeting*

### **Clean up Report – Jane**

- We had a good turn out this year, possibly thanks to increased signage. We saw a 30% increase in cars and trucks over last year and grossed \$2222. The net revenue is still to be determined with at least \$486 in expenses for signage and parking lot sweeping.
- Had a good volunteer turnout thanks to the Grant Park NET, the church, Master Recyclers, and a few community members. New Seasons once again donated lunch, Starbucks coffee, and QFC pastries for volunteers.
- A huge thank you to Mary Cal and Kate for organizing a great event!

#### **Newsletter and Website Update – Ken**

- The summer newsletter should be ready to go to print next week.
- Prior to the meeting Jane submitted an article from the Beverly Cleary School (BCS) parent safety committee about seismic safety at the Beverly Cleary Fernwood campus. Ken had some questions and comments about the article to clarify the intent. Board members shared concerns about the building's structural safety and suggested that the BCS committee should consider speaking to the State Auditor as well as the State Superintendent of Schools. We will move forward with an article, just need to clarify the point of the article. **Ken will try a rewrite.**
- GPNA would be supportive of inviting the community to donate funds for BCS emergency preparedness, perhaps as a future newsletter article.
- **Could we have an article about the cancellation of the rummage sale?** The school secretary told Ken on the phone that BCS had to cancel it because of equity issues. It was a welcome community event.
- Nothing has happened on the website since Stacey moved. We need a volunteer to help update the content and layout. Ken and Stacey were looking at the Beaumont Wilshire website as a model. **Neon volunteered to help on this item.**

#### **Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) Report – Lis Cooper**

- No NET members were in attendance.

#### **Land Use Report – Gordon's, Jacksons, Burger King, changes to 33<sup>rd</sup>/ Broadway signal, Grant High/ softball diamond – Ken**

*Greg arrived at the meeting*

Jacksons

- Existing building will be demolished. Expected to be retail, 21' tall. Might be roof parking. The new development is not required to have any parking "because there is excellent public transit available" according to the City of Portland.
- Jane and Greg expressed concerns about entry and exit off of Schuyler St. There will be potential for congestion from people turning onto Schuyler from NE 33<sup>rd</sup>.

- Zoning allows up to 45' tall on that site for mixed commercial (which allows for residential).
- This is all very preliminary and if/when the development is further along, they will be required to attend a GPNA meeting.

Gordon's

- The new building will maintain the same footprint and have the same look and feel.
- Will still accommodate the Sullivan's Gulch Trail, if that moves forward.
- Planning to add a rooftop addition for more commercial space, plus a rear patio.
- There are concerns about traffic flow. The designers said that they have successfully rehabilitated historic buildings with no parking. They also said that it is helpful when there is street parking and it can help create a buzzy feel.
- The building is expected to have commercial, restaurant, and retail tenants.
- The existing sidewalk is 9' wide and the city wants the building to have 12' sidewalks.
- Ken shared with the Board three different traffic patterns that were presented at a recent Sullivan's Gulch NA Land Use meeting from the Humber Design Group. Much discussion ensued about street parking vs traffic lanes, and addition of a left turn lane westbound. Some Board members had concerns about reducing the number of lanes of traffic. The three options presented didn't seem like the only three options. For example, why five lanes on the west side and not on the east side?
- Ken conducted a personal traffic survey from 7:30 – 8 am on June 5, 2018 and found that his data conflicted with what was presented at the SGNA meeting by the developer. Note that Grant High School is not operating right now so data would be skewed. **Ron and Greg volunteered to do another traffic study at evening rush hour.**
- Ken shared a draft letter from Sullivan's Gulch NA. Much of the SGNA was supportive of pedestrian safety and less concerned about traffic flow. They are hoping that the neighborhoods have a shared vision to pass on to the developer.
- Neon is generally in favor in making the area more pedestrian friendly and would be okay with a reduction in lanes.

*Neon excused herself at 8:30 pm*

- The Board generally wants to push PBOT to do a comprehensive traffic study in order to make a recommendation on this intersection based on data. There was not consensus or an appetite to support one of the three options presented at this time. **Ron moved that GPNA's position is to contact SGNA and ask them to join us to request a PBOT traffic study before any decision is made regarding a change of traffic pattern as proposed by the builder. Greg seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Ken will draft an email to SGNA, circulate it to members present in the discussion before sending it.**

#### Burger King

- Ken finally got news that Burger King is permanently closed. We have no further information about future development plans.

#### Grant Park Softball Diamond

- Community members were upset when they heard via the GPNA newsletter, that the softball diamond was no longer being included in the Grant High rebuild.
- There was a meeting held at Beaumont Middle School on May 10, 2018. Officials from Portland Public Schools told attendees that due to budget concerns something had to be cut, and it was the softball diamond. They also cited safety issues associated with the proposed diamond. The decision to delete the diamond was made in September 2017.
- Meeting attendees were extremely upset.
- Ken heard there will be a Design Advisory Group meeting in July as follow-up.

#### New Business

- When will we do goal setting? **Ken offered to host something at his home.** He may use Doodle to find a date that works for the group.

#### Adjourn

- Greg made a motion to adjourn. Jane seconded. Time was about 9:12 pm.