

In attendance tonight: Ken Peterson, Ron Laster, Mary Cal Hanson, John Prell, Kate Davenport, Gregg Sneller and Stephanie Hemstead all members of the GPNA board of directors. Guests included: Jane Braunger and Neil Malling who are invited guest who will present information about the Northeast Village PDX (NEVPDX) non-profit organization. Also in the lineup tonight is Danielle Voisin who will present some interesting information on Urban Forestry.

Ron started the meeting off with a round table of introductions and a motion to approve the agenda. This motion was seconded, voted on and approved unanimously.

Next up was the April minutes which the secretary did not make available so this was tabled until the next regular meeting.

As Ms. Voisin was not in attendance yet we skipped right to the info on the NRVPDX group. Mr. Malling gave a delightful overall presentation of the history of this group, its current sites of operation and also the current plans in action to develop 8 groups in the greater Portland area. This is a non-profit organization with the primary goal of trying to keep the elderly neighbors in their homes for as long as possible. The group does require a monthly fee of approximately \$40.00/couple/month. This amount may vary depending on the number of members and the requested service. Although there may be some sort of tiered payment plans as participation and user use increase. Services can fall into a full range of set ups including simple transportation assistance, phone call checks to members up to contact with service professionals (plumber, electricians, etc) who will agree to perform services at a reduced rate for members. Neil and Jane are also looking for volunteers and members in the area to start setting up simple services. The contact info can be found on line at www.NEVILLAGEPDX.org. The meetings for this group are at the Rose City United Methodist church at 5830 NE Alameda, just east of Sandy Blvd.

Moving right along, next up is Danielle Voisin from the Portland Urban Forestry. She is here tonight to explain what the Urban Forestry (UF) in Portland does and how neighbors can get involved. The overall plan is to empower the neighborhoods to understand and improve the urban tree canopy, primarily in the public right of way. She is also passing out info to try and recruit volunteers to assist the UF to obtain this info. Volunteer leaders are trained in tree identification and there are 2 on call arborists to help ID certain trees. The data points of emphasis include: tree species, width, health, size of the planted area. There are also workshops on how to prune trees, maintenance and planting of the correct trees for the space. Packets were passed out with more information. The sign up deadline is January 15, 2015. Danielle also mentioned that there will be new tree codes coming out in January.

Ken Peterson was up next to bring the group up to speed on some Land Use issues. The reps from Sullivans Gulch and NEBBA and Ken will be doing a meet and greet with the business that were just incorporated into the join NA of Sullivans Gulch and GPNA. The new "20 year" comprehensive plan will be discussed with these businesses as things may be changing in the area re: development.

There's been no new news re: the Dog Off-leash area (DOLA) in Grant Park or the improvement of the tennis courts either.

Demolition issues were next on the docket. This is a very hot issue at the moment and there is change in the works re: demolition of homes in established neighborhoods at the City of PDX. Letters have been written and sent from other inner city NA to try and curb the destruction of neighborhood homes. No motion was made re: this issue or of the letters sent onto the GPNA at this time.

Kate Davenport is up next with the Treasurer report. She presented a years report handout to the group with all items in order. This is available upon request. After review by the GPNA the discussion brought forth the thought of

increasing the charge of our advertising spaces in the newsletter. Also mentioned was that with the increased charge would be an additional ad on the website. Kate will check with Katy Asher at NECN re the variance of reimbursement this year from \$1000.00 to only \$736.00 and report this info back to the group. It was also mentioned that ~ \$1500.00 is available to “play with” and give out to appropriate groups/year.

Another small issue was brought up as there were 2 complaints re: one of the pictures that a business used in the newsletter. After a brief discussion it was decided that Kate will contact the owner of the business to relay concerns from the neighbors but not request a different picture to use in the ad space.

Next up is the status of NECN. There was discussion of the formation of some separate smaller neighborhood groups. Concern was mentioned re: officer insurance if the groups break from NECN’s coverage. Ron will contact 2 different insurance companies to find out how much this might cost.

Currently Katy Asher is the interim director at NECN and all of the officer positions are filled. These positions are primarily filled with members from only 2 or 3 of the neighborhoods included under NECN. Those neighborhoods currently have slightly different issues of interest than does GPNA. It was again mentioned that the activities of the NECN board members must be clear and separate from the NECN staff. And coming up with a useful Mission statement should enhance that separation.

The Broadway/Weidler Alliance (BWA): Ron passed out a handout of the MOU (memorandum of understanding) from this alliance. There were some concerns about this “draft” copy has been approved and mentions some of the rules and regs of this group. Primary concern for Ron was not having “open meeting laws”. The purpose of the request for GPNA to sign in with this group would be to choose representative from the various NA who can speak/vote without the delay of having to get the approved consent from the NA due to time sensitivity of some of the issues. Both John and Ken are interested in being the reps from GPNA at the BWA. A motion was presented that both John and Ken be allowed to be a “subcommittee group” as representative from GPNA in the BWA/NEBBA, the vote was seconded and unanimously passed.

The Portland street fee was started off with a “Dear neighbor” letter from the group SE Uplift. This group is a collaboration of several of the inner SE NA. They’ve drafted a letter to the City of PDX and it will be sent to the City of PDX. At issue is the possible position that the city council is taking to pass this street fee vs a street tax. If it is considered a tax the people can deduct it off of their taxes whereas a fee can’t be deducted. Most NA are opposed to the process the city council has used to present and push through this fee. The idea is also being pressed as it should be voted on by the people. The city will vote on this in February, 2015. A motion was put forth that the GPNA will conceptually support SE Uplift’s letter to the mayor and the City of PDX. Ron will draft a letter and send it out to the GPNA board members for review. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

One last item was brought to the floor by John. He was wondering who is responsible for the property just south of the NE 33rd off ramp from I-84. And if there could be something done to enhance it? It looks like it is in the Kern NA boundary. Nothing was decided about this at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:15

Minutes taken by Mary Cal Hanson, GPNA secretary