

Minutes of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

January 15, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: Jane Comeault, Mary Cal Hanson, Ron Laster, Patrick Schmidt
Absent: Neon Brooks, Greg Nika, Ken Peterson

Other guests: Lois Okrasinski, John Reilly, Karin Welch

Call to order at 7:10

Review and approve agenda

- Add annual clean up to New Business.
- Jane moved to approve, Mary Cal seconded. Motion carried.

Review of minutes from November 13, 2018

- Mary Cal moved to approve, Jane seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements (Tentative Roger Dowell QFC)

- Ron invited Roger Dowell, Manager of QFC to attend so we could thank him and the store. They have been good neighbors and cooperative when we raised various concerns over the years. He did not respond or attend.
- The store told board members that this store was not profitable and has not been profitable for several years. People tend to shop there for a few convenience items and do major shopping elsewhere.
- Lois shared that David, a favorite employee who was very helpful to customers, is going to transfer to the Stadium location.
- One neighbor, Karin, shared thoughts about Kroger trying to move shoppers from our QFC to another location on Burnside or Fred Meyer. The company is under pressure from online and other options. But this QFC has been serving a different demographic, for example, older shoppers, lower income shoppers, homeless people, young people getting snacks, and others who are underserved. She tried to call several 1-800 numbers but has not received any substantive information.
- Ron explained that there is little to nothing we as a neighborhood association can do to prevent QFC from leaving. He urged concerned neighbors to send letters or cards to express heartfelt sentiment.
- John R. shared his family's unhappiness with the store closing and his feeling that this is culturally disruptive for our neighborhood. Some options in response: boycott Fred Meyer. There are a lot of people who are invested in this store and maybe they can collectively send a message.

Treasurer's Report – Ron

- Account balance is \$6429.66

Emergency Preparedness Report

- No NET members were present. Let's communicate with both Lis Cooper and Peter Maxfield for future meeting communications.

CNN Report – Ron

- Contracts between CNN and the City are renewed every two years, usually with an eye to a ten-year plan. This year's contract is different.
- Ron highlighted amendments in the Grant Agreement. He stated that many people feel that the way the new Grant Agreement is written lends itself toward dismantling Neighborhood Associations and Coalitions.
- There are goals around inclusion. Can we as a NA provide evidence of being inclusive? Can we reflect on whether we are or have been exclusive? Does our Board reflect Grant Park's demographic? How do we measure inclusion? No metrics provided in Grant Agreement.
- Some inclusive actions: Grant High debate team, NE Village grant to an African American woman, grant to Lee Owen Stone preschool, Grant Park Church, could add a sign "all are welcome" with our meeting advertisement signage.
- CNN committee is going to look to identify under-represented groups in our neighborhood, reach out to these folks and explain who we are as a NA, how we can help them, make them feel welcome.
- Ron brought the Grant Agreement for our information. We do not have the ability to "do anything" or propose changes to it.

Grant Request – NE Village PDX

- We received a grant request for \$500 to provide a subsidy to potential members who couldn't otherwise afford to be a member.
- Membership for the NE Village PDX costs \$495/ year for a full membership.
- Ron is on the Board and abstained from vote due to conflict of interest. Ron did not write the grant request, or share any information about GPNA financial position.
- Mary Cal moved to support the grant request, Jane seconded it. Motion carried.

Newsletter Articles

- Deadline for articles is March 4. Needs to be delivered before April 16 (board meeting).
- Ideas:
 - Something on inclusion? Diversity? Ron is going to ask if CNN has any articles on this topic.

- Neighborhood clean up article and advertisement. Call for volunteers. Mary Cal will look up last year's content and reuse.
- Lois has an idea for something and will pass it on to Ken/ Ron. Content: encouraging people to use Grant Park.
- Ron has suggested at CNN that Newsletter Editors get together and share ideas for articles that are cross cutting among NAs.
- Article about QFC closing. Ron will reach out to Roger to see if he has information that could be shared publicly. Include a thank you.
- Article about upcoming Board elections: officers and duties. Ron will do this.
- Construction update on Grant High? Does Ken have information?
- NET update? Ron will email Peter Maxfield. Could it be a quarterly suggestion for how to get started on emergency preparedness. Put a dotted line around to invite a cut-out.
- Car break-in article? Mary Cal shared information about a way to protect key FOBs from being scanned.
- CNN Forum on RIP? If this is planned in advance of the newsletter deadline we should advertise.

New Business

Annual neighborhood clean up.

- Mary Cal will spearhead the event and reach out to Kate Davenport to see if she is interested in helping again this year. Jane will assist day-of and as needed leading up.
- Tentative date is May 18th. Mary Cal will check with Earnie/ Grant Park Church for availability of parking lot. MC will also touch base with CNN to coordinate.
- Lois will ask around to help find volunteers for the event.

Residential Infill Project (RIP) - Ron

- Discussion about the objective of the RIP. Some neighborhood associations are taking positions on this.
- Some concerns raised around: how does this impact public transportation, community services? How will this create affordable housing? How will this change the feel of neighborhoods?
- CNN is planning to hold a forum on the RIP, Ron will share any developments on this topic.

Adjourn

- Mary Cal made a motion to adjourn. Patrick seconded. Time was 8:35 pm.