

# Minutes of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

April 16, 2019

Board Members in Attendance: Neon Brooks, Jane Comeault, Mary Cal Hanson, Ron Laster, Ken Peterson

Other guests: Vivek Kotham, Steve Metke, Laurene Mullen, Lois Okrasinski

## **Call to order and Introduction of Board Members**

Call to order at 7:06

## **Review and approve agenda**

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

## **Review of minutes from January 15, 2019**

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

## **Treasurer's Report – Ron**

- Account balance is currently \$4979.83

## **CNN Update – Ron**

- Historically the city has given funding to neighborhood coalitions, in our case CNN, to be disbursed to Neighborhood Associations (NAs) to use for activities, mostly newsletters and other communications.
- As of July 1, 2020 NAs will no longer be assured funding from the City, it will become a competitive grant process with the idea of granting funding to “non-affiliated organizations” as well. Nobody knows what this new grant process will look like, it is still a work in progress. Eudaly wants to target groups representing a more diverse demographic of community members including people of color and non-homeowners.
- Ron expressed concern not only about losing money for communication, it also could eliminate the funding for NA insurance.
- There has been discussion about a merger of neighborhood coalitions.
- How does Commissioner Eudaly get reports from NAs? From monthly meetings with coalition Directors and Chairs.
- Neon has not been getting the land use meeting notices and needs to ensure she is on the email list. No report on CNN land use for this meeting.

## **Newsletter and Website Update - Ken**

- Copies of the newsletter and neighborhood clean-up flyer were available at the meeting.

- The next newsletter will come out in early June. We don't have a firm date yet, waiting to hear from Beverly Cleary School about timing to sort the packets for delivery.
- Not much progress on the website, the volunteer has been busy with other projects.
- **Comment from neighbors that the meeting dates need to include the time on both the website and newsletter.**
- Possible newsletter article: graffiti hotline.

### **Emergency Preparedness Report**

- No NET member present for a report.

### **Land Use Report - Ken**

- Not much to report this meeting.
- QFC is closed. Owner is MBM Properties and has gutted the space. No word about future use.
- Jackson's site is planned to be a bank.
- The Burger King is of interest to Super Deluxe restaurant. Windows are now boarded up.
- The Aircraft Factory (formerly Gordon's) is constantly covered in graffiti. Ken has been in touch with the owner, Interurban, and they say they await permitting from the City and have plans to change the traffic pattern in consultation with PBOT.
- The Broadway Corridor Project, to rejuvenate Broadway from Lloyd Center to Hollywood, is on hold.
- Neon wondered if it would make sense for GPNA to write a letter to the City or PBOT or both to ask for expediency in moving forward with development at the Aircraft Factory. Or at least for an update on it. However, is possible that PBOT is waiting for Grant High School to be back in session to do an accurate traffic study; since the board has voiced their support for this course of action, the board agrees not to take further action at this time.
- There is a City hotline to report graffiti: 503-823-4000. They work with the owner to have it removed, and if the owner is negligent the City will do it and then bill the owner.
- Update on auto theft bill. Together with the Beaumont NA, GPNA has worked on the auto theft issue. At the request of the two neighborhoods, and with CNN board approval, Ken drafted a letter to Senator Dembrow on behalf of CNN to express concern about the number of auto thefts in Portland last year. A bill has been put forward about this issue this legislative session and is making its way through the legislature.
- Mary Cal brought an article from the Star about a proposed land use change on 3565 NE Broadway to a hotel. It would change from R3 to R1.
- Ron encouraged people to watch a documentary online called "Seattle is Dying".

### **Donations/ Reimbursements**

- GPNA donated an emergency preparedness backpack to the Beverly Cleary School Foundation auction, contents assembled and purchased by Peter Maxfield, Grant Park NET Team Leader. The cost was just under \$100.
- Third time in total that GPNA has donated to the NE Village PDX, the second time for membership assistance to a Grant Park resident. NE Village PDX sent a thank you letter.

### **Election of Officers**

- We have four scheduled meetings per year, with the possibility of extra meetings as needed. Can have eight members at large. To reach quorum need half of elected officers in attendance. Purpose of this group is not necessarily just what you heard at the meeting tonight, but also, importantly, to respond to significant issues as they arise.
- In order to vote on NA issues you must be a member of the Board, with the exception of the Annual Meeting and the Election of Officers when all attendees may vote.
- A slate was presented as: Ken Peterson - President, Ron Laster – Vice President, Ron Laster - Treasurer, Jane Comeault – Secretary. Ron made a motion to approve this slate, Mary Cal seconded. The slate was unanimously approved.
- Vivek Kotham, Laurene Mullen and Lois Okrasinski put their names forward to serve as Members at Large, in addition to Mary Cal Hansen and Neon Brooks continuing to serve. Jane made a motion to approve all five Members at Large, Ron seconded. The slate was unanimously approved.
- Steve Metke is interested in serving on the Board but not ready at present, will circle back in the fall. He is also interested in picking up a newsletter route.

### **New Business**

- Steve expressed concern about the new zoning proposals that would enable fourplexes and other changes. Some specific concerns were about parking and potential to change the neighborhood. Ron gave some context to the Residential Infill Project, which is the policy in question. It is likely to pass even though there have been concerns expressed including a lawsuit by a coalition group. Some folks expect negligible impact in neighborhoods with higher land value because land is too expensive to tear down and rebuild higher density housing. More impact is expected in less expensive neighborhoods – mostly further east of Grant Park.
- Neon had an idea about inviting food carts to either the Jacksons or QFC parking lots. Might not work with existing development plans.
- Neon asked about potential to change the meeting dates; we will consider at the end of the year when the 2020 meetings are to be scheduled.

### **Adjourn**

- Jane made a motion to adjourn. Mary Cal seconded. Time was 8:20 pm.

Next meeting: June 11, 7 pm at the Grant Church