

# **Minutes of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Meeting**

June 11, 2019

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

Absent: Vivek Kotham

Other Guests: None

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

Call to order at 7:02

## **Review and approve agenda**

- Ron moved to approve the agenda, Mary Cal seconded. Motion carried.

## **Review of minutes from April 16, 2019**

- No changes suggested. Lois moved to approve, Ron seconded. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report - Ron**

- Account balance is currently \$9336.66, including proceeds from the neighborhood clean-up and payments dispersed for newsletter, etc.

## **CNN Update - Ron**

- Ron shared a copy of the Amendment No 4 Grant Agreement. It is the agreement that Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA), under Central Northeast Neighborhoods (CNN), will be under as of July 1, 2019. It is a major shift from previous agreements, particularly in that it is inclusive of any organization and no longer solely focused on neighborhood associations. Funding for neighborhood coalitions for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 has been secured. The grant agreement for 2020 will include a competitive process for funding among any interested community group.
- The criteria for vetting community groups for funding has not been established. It is unclear if groups will be required to be registered not-for-profit or other registered legal entity. A major concern from constituents is the possibility of eliminating the need for by-laws and minutes - specifically accountability, however that is ensured.
- There is an ongoing process held by the Office of Community and Civic Life to determine what the next grant agreement will look like a year from now, as well as the process for vetting applicants.

- Perhaps this is an opportunity for GPNA to consider what we, as an organization, want to focus on and establish as objectives, particularly targeting diversity and equity in our community.
- Ron circulated a draft budget from CNN for 2019-2020. It indicates that the neighborhood associations under the CNN umbrella would receive a larger budget this year - from \$2250 to \$3000. The extra funds are available from a change in staffing at CNN. Ron suggested that CNN revisit that item in the budget.
- The group discussed the possibility of targeting the extra funds to community groups in need, ideally that align with goals X,Y,Z outlined by the Office of Community and Civic Life in Amendment No.4.
- CNN meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at the firehall on NE Sandy; the next meeting is in September. Lois is interested in accompanying Ron to future meetings.

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

- The newsletter has been printed, but not yet distributed. The next newsletter will be published in September. Ken will circulate info closer to the date.
- Ron proposed an initiative to deliver envelopes with copies of the newsletter, information about advertising rates, circulation, etc. Board members could each take 10 or so envelopes and drop off to potential businesses. He will circulate a pdf of the content for comment.
- On website: a volunteer (Sharon) responded to a call for help in updating the GPNA website, but has been struggling to find the time. We are keen to get this done by August 31. Will pursue options for hiring someone. Ron will draft a Request for Quotation to build and manage our website. Jane will communicate with Sharon about the established timeline and her availability.

#### **Emergency Preparedness Report**

- No NET team member present. A few emergency preparedness articles were published in the previous newsletter.
- The NET team submitted a request for a donation of \$100 to buy mapping software. Mary Cal made a motion, Lois seconded, motion carried. Ron will send a check to NET care of Peter Maxfield.

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

- The building owner at the former Gordon's Fireplace shop is frustrated by delays in permitting by the City. Meanwhile vandalism and graffiti persist. There remain concerns about the traffic pattern at NE Broadway and NE 33<sup>rd</sup>.

- Super Deluxe is not going to be taking over the Burger King site. No other news for that site.
- Preliminary plan for a bank in the former Jacksons site.
- Preliminary plan for a pharmacy in the former QFC site.

#### **Donations/ Reimbursements**

- See above in emergency preparedness item.

#### **New Business**

- Some discussion of homeless issues in Portland. A church in Irvington is **contracting to build affordable housing in their** parking lot.
- Ken invited Lois as a returning board member to suggest activities that may have been in place in the past that we should resurrect. Off the top of her head, maybe the foot patrol?
- Neon suggested the possibility of GPNA sponsoring a “volunteer corps” or some other community building event. Some discussion of ideas such as the flower circle at Grant Park, or a park bench, preparing boxes of items for foster kids, or litter clean up. If we did something with flowers or landscaping we could partner with the Multnomah County Master Gardeners.
- Another idea would be copying the CNN program called neighbors helping neighbors. They go around to homeless camps with garbage bags to assist in tidying the area.
- As a first step the group agreed to put an article in the next newsletter to gauge interest areas for volunteerism in the community. Perhaps a sub-committee will form around this in the fall.

#### **Adjourn**

- Ken made a motion to adjourn. Mary Cal seconded. Time was 8:40 pm.

Next meeting: September 17, 7 pm at the Grant Church