

GPNA Board Meeting Minutes: September 17, 2019

Present: Neon Brooks, Jane Comeault, MaryCal Hanson, Ron Laster, Vivek Kothari, Lois Okrasinski, Ken Peterson

Guests: Peter Maxfield, Marissa Morby, Stacey Tipp

1. Call to Order, Introduction of Board Members, Consideration of Stacey Tipp as Member at Large

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm, introductions followed.
- Jane made a motion to have Stacey Tipp rejoin the Board, MaryCal seconded, motion carried.

2. Review and approve agenda

- Ron motioned to approve, MaryCal seconded, agenda approved.

3. Review and approve minutes from June, 2019 Board Meeting

- Ron made a motion to approve the minutes, MaryCal seconded, minutes approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Ron presented a current Treasurers report. The ending balance is \$7219.92.
- Ron hired a neighborhood youth to deliver advertising packages to local businesses and one new advertiser ensued from approximately 85 packages delivered. He covered Hollywood, both sides of Broadway, and up Sandy.
- We may consider either hiring to a young person again, or having board members volunteer to do it.
- Lois asked for a copy of the advertiser rates and newsletter to keep in her purse to solicit new advertisers. **Other Board members interested in delivering packages to neighborhood businesses that they know and frequent should reach out to Ron and he will supply the materials.**
- Ken was reimbursed for his expense of paying for the website domain.
- Ron will have business cards printed for new Board members. **All Board members without business cards should get in touch with Ron with the pertinent information.**
- Neon asked if it would be useful to look at an annual report on our budget. Ron gave a sketch of what it looks like, which is fairly static.

5. Central Northeast Neighbors Update and Discussion of Code Change 3.96

- The last meeting of CNN did not have any substantive discussion.
- Code Change 3.96 has been a contentious issue among neighborhood associations.
- Ron circulated several items via email to keep the Board apprised of developments on this issue over the summer/ since the past GPNA meeting. There was a group of people from various NAs who met and took action over the summer, especially voicing opinions to the city on the lack of outreach and input from NAs. The main areas of concern were about the omission of open meeting policies in the new code and especially the process for developing the code change and lack of public input.
- Unfortunately the people in the City of Portland who had knowledge and experience working with NAs were fired from the City.
- Is there a vehicle for public input between now and November 15? It is unclear. The draft Code 3.96 keeps changing. GPNA does not have another meeting scheduled until November 12.
- Should GPNA take any action at this time? Not necessary. We took action and made our position clear through the letter from CNN sent last month.

6. Newsletter and Website Update-preview of new GPNA website

- Fall newsletters were circulated at the meeting and will be delivered to the delivery hubs this week. Ken thanked all of the contributors.
- Sharon Colombo, a volunteer community member updated the GPNA website. It is a huge improvement over the previous website! Thank you to Sharon for getting this done.
- We could use more photos on the website, contributions are welcome.
- Ken has some more content for history of the neighborhood. **Ken will send it to Sharon with instructions about where to put it on the site.**
- **Add the PO Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213 to Contact Us page.**
- The Facebook page is not maintained; should we take it down? If we keep it live, need to link to the new website.
- **Ken will ask Brian for admin rights on the facebook page.**
- Peter said he is familiar with a tool that will allow posts from one app to multiple apps.
- **Ron will email Sharon about using the masthead on the newsletter.**

- We will add a link to the Grant Park NET team. **Jane to communicate with Sharon about this.**
- We will give Sharon free advertising in the upcoming newsletter, **Jane will connect with her for a 1/4 page.**
- **Jane will work with Sharon to arrange a training on the website.**

7. Neighborhood Emergency Team Report

- The NET team is meeting tomorrow. Meeting monthly, focusing on exercising, less on talking/meeting.
- Had a parent reunification drill at both campuses of Beverly Cleary (Fernwood and Hollyrood). Put out a survey to parents following the event and had about 80 responses, almost all positive. Going to repeat the drill for Beverly Cleary School on the afternoon of September 26.
- On October 17, there will be a city-wide earthquake drill run by city-wide NET teams. It is a three hour event starting at 6 pm.
- Peter thanked GPNA on behalf of the NET group for the \$100 donation for the mapping software ArcGIS.
- There are about 35 active NETs in Grant Park.
- PBEM is looking at revising how NETs are distributed, instead of neighborhood boundaries, by “cells”, with the goal of achieving better coverage in the city.
- PBEM is planning to publish a pocket reference - both for preparation and in the event of an earthquake or other disaster.
- Is there a tool to assist neighbors in gathering information among each other? It is illegal for NET to maintain such a database (privacy concerns), but it is totally fine for neighbors to do it among themselves. **Peter will share something he is familiar with among the Board.**
- Lois mentioned the BEECN station, site 13 at Irvington School, that is closest to most of us in Grant Park. She volunteers for that. They do communication checks four times a year, each volunteer knows how to operate it.
- There is an emergency cache of rescue supplies - dust masks, crowbars, forms, canopy, etc - in the neighborhood also. There is no food and water in it.

8. Land Use Report-Discussion of RIP

- Most current information about commercial properties is on Page 7 of the Fall Newsletter.
- The Oregon legislature passed a state wide law that any city over 25,000 will require greater density and smaller homes on lots. Portland had adopted

something on its own, but now all cities are meant to consider the statewide law and perhaps revise. Some people in the City of Portland are opposed to the Residential Infill Project for fears of greater density having an adverse impact on the neighborhood.

- Neon wrote an article in support of the Residential Infill Project in the recent newsletter.
- Ken brought up an item he circulated via email from Multnomah Village NA, there was discussion about whether we should donate to their cause. Neon and Jane felt that it was not a balanced presentation of the issues and would be opposed. The idea was deferred.
- **Ken will circulate some information about upcoming meetings on the RIP and other reading resources.**

9. New Business

- Marissa is a resident on NE Knott Street. She is concerned about the speed at which people drive on Knott. Marissa talked to the woman who runs the Safe Streets program, shared her concerns and asked for speed enforcement. PBOT said they will refer it to the City but it is up to the City to take action (or not). Ron mentioned the City has the option of putting up a speed sign, either instead of or in addition to a police car with radar. One point of frustration for Marissa is an unclear process about how to take action on this problem/ what else she can do.
- **Jane will forward the info and email exchanges about a potential GPNA-specific speed sign from several years ago; perhaps GPNA should resurrect this idea.**
- **Marissa will write an article for the next newsletter about the speeding problem on Knott.**

10. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.