

Minutes of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

September 18, 2018

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

Other guests: John D'Avolio, Peter Maxfield, Lois Okrasinski

Call to order at 7:06

Review and approve agenda

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

Review of minutes from June 5, 2018

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

Treasurer's Report – Ron

- Current balance is \$8533.66. Some concern about newsletter advertisers, the current list is thinning.

Treasurer's Position Discussion – Ken

- Due to dual roles on the Board and with the volunteering of a new treasurer, Ron resigned.
- **Greg volunteered to become the new Treasurer.** Ken made a motion for Greg to become the new Treasurer. Ron approved, Neon seconded and the Board approved the motion.

CNN Update – Ron

- Ron attended a CNN retreat in the summer as one of GPNA's two representatives on CNN. At the retreat, the group agreed that the future of the Neighborhood Association/District Coalition was of prime importance. There is a movement at the City level, to dismantle the neighborhood association model. A sub-committee was struck, including Ron, to survey other neighborhood coalitions to engage them to begin a broader dialogue regarding perspectives and determine next steps, if any. A major concern of the CNN is that the Office of Community and Civic Life has not engaged the neighborhood coalitions or associations for advice on future direction.
- Transportation, pedestrian safety, land use, crime, development, community engagement - these are issues that come through the neighborhood associations, and this is a primary role for the NAs. It would be a shame to dismantle NAs. The claim that they don't necessarily represent under-represented folks in the community, is not because NAs don't welcome all people. It's a different dynamic.

- The current contract is due to expire in 2020. It is a performance contract for money. The City gives money to district coalitions and the district coalitions disperse money to NAs for communications (newsletters) and to cover our insurance.
- Discussion about the benefit of neighborhood coalitions, how to diversify representation on coalitions and NAs, and value that each brings. Ken raised the idea of sponsoring National Night Out to help build community.
- What is the impact on GPNA specifically? In addition to the fiscal ramifications of the policy direction, (We get a budget from CNN to publish our newsletter. They also cover our insurance), Ron is concerned about the process for the change, ability to respond to proposed changes and overall impact on community engagement.
- As a related, but separate item regarding CNN, **Neon volunteered to take over from Ken as GPNA's representative at the CNN Land Use Committee.**

Newsletter and Website Update – Ken

- No progress on the website. Stacey Tipp was helping Ken with an update to the website. There is a neighborhood person that volunteered to help us with the technical aspects. Is Beaumont willing to share source files? **Greg can help bridge the communication. Ken is going to introduce Greg to the Grant Park web volunteer and Greg can then connect them to the Beaumont-Wilshire website manager.**
- Ken is looking for articles to be completed by next week. However, there is very little in the way of article-worthy content. No news on neighborhood land use issues. Still nothing concrete about the Burger King. Potential articles: “what does it mean to be a good neighbor?”; Grant High alumni trying to preserve historic murals; some email responses to newsletter issues of traffic; Grant High remodel update; NE Village has an article to contribute; Lois has one article in mind; there might be something from the Beverly Cleary (BCS) Safety Committee; BCS PTA may contribute future articles. **Jane will ask Rachel if she would like to contribute an article about the front door security.** Possibility of a NET article.
- Can we publish email responses as “letters to the editor?”. Yes, we can. But we should have a system of vetting what gets published and what doesn't. Alan Claussen is the Editor of the NW Examiner, he might have suggestions for criteria that we can use. Other possible helps are The Star. Some possible criteria: must be germane, no libel or slander, neighborly tone, does not represent views of board. **Ken will draft some criteria and circulate.**

Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) Report – Peter Maxfield

- They are meeting tomorrow night. After the spring training session, another thirty people joined as members. Have moved into exercise-based meetings as opposed to coffee talk. Doing a Scenario Village training session this Saturday.

- John P: are there ways that GPNA can support? Peter: yes. GP NET is trying to figure out what kind of equipment do they want to acquire and where/how to store it. They will come back to us with a request eventually.
- Office of Emergency Preparedness hired a new employee who is tasked with creating some guidelines/ operations plan.

Land Use Report –Ken

- No news.

PBOT/ PSU Traffic and Transportation Class Project – Greg

- There is a class offered through PSU, it is open to students in the urban planning program, as well as community members by application. Last meeting saw a great deal of discussion about the intersection of NE Broadway and NE 33rd. Greg submitted an application to the class with the idea of using that intersection as a project; he was accepted. You must attend every Thursday 6:40 – 8:40 pm starting next week through December. Optional bus tour Saturday October 27. Greg has international travel during at least four sessions. He asked the group if others would be interested in attending the class instead, or as a team representing GPNA. Mary Cal is willing to tag team on the class if that is an acceptable alternative. Greg will speak to the instructor.

New Business

- No new business.

Adjourn

- Greg made a motion to adjourn. Mary Cal seconded. Time was about 8:44 pm.