

Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association
Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2006

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM, 4/11/06 at 1919 Elliott Ave NW, Olympia, WA 98502.

Present - Lyle Tribwell, Chairman Absent - Tom, Jonah, Jacob, Elsie, Carol (taking care of her ailing parents- yeah Carol!), Cij, Ethan (ex-patriot member who is actually the NWOA VP and chair of the Communications Committee so he just gets a copy of the minutes).

Refreshments were served and there were plenty to go around.

West Bay Park - Lyle designed the park and will present the design to the NWOA board at the next meeting. He'll probably have to take the design to the public hearing on the interim design of the park being held on the evening of 4/20/06 at the Olympia Community Center. Don't miss committee meetings.

Home-Based Businesses - Census of existing home-based businesses in NWOA Ville will be conducted this summer. Business owners will be asked a few questions about their businesses. Their neighbors will be asked a few questions. The questions will pertain to compliance with the city ordinances on such. Owners will also be asked what their future plans are for conducting business in the neighborhood. A second part of the study will include learning what is being done in other neighborhoods in Olympia, other cities in this and other states and other countries to find out what happens to neighborhoods that have businesses mixed in with the homes in neighborhoods. Do they become more vibrant or does it degrade the neighborhood. Does it produce a boom and bust cycle that leaves the neighborhoods devastated or does it create means to draw more money into the neighborhood that is in turn invested in the homes and thus increases the property values and contributes to making the community healthy? This is one step towards understanding how land use decisions affect our community, here in NWOA Ville. If you want to improve your community, the Land Use Committee is the place to get involved.

Jackson St. Path and Pedestrian Destination Project - Due to the shortage of funds and the shortness of the path, this project has been put on a tight timeline. It is now slated for completion by the end of August 2006. The project will include the completion of landscaping using plants collected at the Earth Day Plant Swap and the path will be paved with free wood chips from the Double Tree Arborist on 62nd St (out between the Black Lake Grange and Delphi Rd. where they have some pygmy goats and short legged cattle. Jacob was voted the most likely to succeed and will lead this project to a completion on time and under budget. Jonah will help recruit volunteers and gather needed materials. There was no opposition to this proposal. If you want to get things done to improve your neighborhood, it is a good investment of your time to attend your NWOA Land Use Committee meetings.

Mobile Homes, RVs, and Travel Trailers - A census of this stock will be conducted this summer by volunteers. It will include asking residents what they are planning to do with these vehicles and why they are hooked up to water and sewer. If it appears they are out of compliance with the city zoning ordinances it will be brought to the attention of the code enforcement officer.

Earth Day Plant Swap - This will be held at the Westside Food Co-op

Noon-3 PM on Apr 22nd. Bring plants and stay with them so you can meet your neighbors and take the plants you brought that don't get swapped with you. Speak to Lyle Tribwell about plants he needs for the Garfield Nature Trail and a flowerbed he is stocking at a local church. Talk to Jonah and Jacob about the kind of plants they need along the sunny Jackson St Path. Attend this event and you will meet some more neighbors.

Garfield Nature Trail - The trail is still closed. The landslide that destroyed the bridge (like a freight train out of control cut it in two!, blasted it!, gouged out a gully!, Oh, you just have to go... wait... the trail is closed so take my word for it) at the east end of the trail is the hold up. In the time since this explosion of mud, there have been two mature alders that fell. One hit the second bridge in from West Bay drive and broke a hand rail. The Parks staff reported Monday, 4/10/06 that they have not decided when to open the trail. Lyle walked the trail Monday to do the annual Trillium count and found 13 blooming. This is up from 3 two years ago before transplanting the rest of them from building sites where they were rescued by the amazing Native Plant Salvage Project Volunteers. There will be a work party at the corner of Conger and Rogers on Sat. 4/22 from 9-Noon that will plant the bed with flowering perennials. They don't need to be natives for this bed. They do need to be shade and drought tolerant, though. E-mail Lyle at ltribwell@yahoo.com if you have some plants to offer.

Another successful NWONA Land Use Committee meeting comes to an end. See you at the next meeting eager to build a stronger healthier community for us and our children and any new folks who want to move in, start businesses and be park stewards like us.

The next meeting will be in May but we couldn't agree on a day or location so look for an announcement in early May.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lyle Tribwell,
Secretary, NWONA Land Use Committee