

NWONA Annual Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2004

Garfield Elementary School Multipurpose Room

Minutes Recorder: Samantha Chandler

Intro: President Leveen opened the meeting at 6:15

Welcomed new and returning members

Some members expressed interest in meeting being later

Year in Review and Accomplishments of the past year:

Reported by Larry

← Bowman Ave. walking route from Division to Jefferson Middle School was improved summer '04 with construction of a sidewalk. We lobbied the City to do that project after the sidewalk on Bowman from Rogers to Division was built.

← After 2 years of lobbying the Planning Commission and the City Council, Bowman (from Rogers to Division), Rogers (from Harrison to Bowman), and Brawne (from Rogers to West Bay Drive) were reclassified from Major Collectors to Neighborhood Collectors. This makes them eligible for traffic calming and will keep the roads narrower if reconstructed or if redevelopment occurs in the future.

← NWONA endorsed parks and neighborhoods measure, which passed. This means there will be gradual funding for sidewalks in various areas of the neighborhood:

- Division from Conger to Walnut
- Brawne from West Bay Drive to Rogers
- West Bay from Harrison to Schneider Hill
- Elliot from School to Cooper Point Road
- Division from Walnut to Elliot.

← After 5 years of organizing and lobbying, the City is finally in negotiation with Port of Olympia for purchase of West Bay property as a waterfront park.

← Other accomplishments will be mentioned by committee chairs later in the meeting.

General questions from members and answers from Larry:

Q: What is the West Bay Park going to look like?

A: West Bay is still being studied, as far as how it will be developed. There will be public comment during this process.

Q: Are there going to be sidewalks on every street?

A: No. There is a very regimented list of priorities for funding (mentioned earlier in the meeting). Major Collector and Neighborhood Collector streets near parks and schools that have no sidewalks on either side get the highest priority. The City will be constructing sidewalks on one side of these streets only. There is not enough funding for both sides. "Local Access" streets, the most minor streets are not addressed by the funding measure passed this Fall.

Q: Any speed control device projects coming up (the Rogers and Milroy intersection being specifically mentioned because kids bike and skate through it without stopping at Rogers)?

A: Elliot may be on the project list (Larry was not sure). He encouraged citizens to

contact public works the city to suggest areas which needs traffic calming. Others encouraged people to join the Transportation and Safety committee of the Association. Also, Greg Black urged everyone to commit to never speeding in any neighborhood since traffic calming wouldn't be needed if everyone simply followed the rules.

Q: What do we do about sidewalks being obstructed with plants or debris?

A: This is what is known as a "code enforcement issue," and involves a different part of the City than the one that builds sidewalks. Call City Code Enforcement and they will send out a letter to let them know that the situation must be addressed. The City then follows up to make sure the problem was fixed. If not, the homeowner can be fined.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Drutz

Steve is moving out of the neighborhood and NWONA will be looking for a new treasurer, between now and early spring. There is not that much fiscal traffic, so the workload is pretty easy.

In NWONA's budget since 2000, \$650-\$850 in Membership Dues collected per year (we budgeted for \$600 in dues this year). Most of the money goes to information dissemination, and events like this one. Grant money from the City also comes through our books, for specific projects like the kiosk at the top of Garfield Trail, as well as native plant restoration efforts along the trail. This year we received a grant for a project call the Garfield Nature Trail Overlook which you will hear more about later. Copies of the budget were made available to the membership. Association bank account balances before the Annual Meeting costs were \$63.49 checking and \$1106.09 savings.

Board Of Directors Nominations and Elections

Larry Leveen

Larry will not be serving on the board due to being appointed to the Planning Commission. Also, due to house-moves and other commitments, several other board members cannot serve again next year. Thanks to Paul Brewster, Ann Butler, Stephen Beck and Steve Drutz for serving.

The board meets approximately 6 times per year, and NWONA usually has 4 general meetings per year where we try to do fun and informative stuff. The Annual Meeting is one of those general meetings. The board has latitude to decide how and when meetings happen, and what they focus on.

Nominees for the board were gathered by Hugh and Larry before the meeting. They include: Margaret Barrette, Greg Black, Lyle Tribwell, Erica Guttman, Marla Kentfield, Tom Connor, Hugh O'Neill, Steve Drutz (until spring).

We also take nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Are there any? Seeing none, let us call for a vote for the slate of nominees. **The slate was passed unanimously.**

Committee Presentations

Transportation and Safety

Larry Reported

Karen Kraft has volunteered to chair the committee next year. This group helps oversee project designs, and makes recommendations to city on traffic calming and sidewalk projects. Other things the committee might do are organize "blockwatch" crime prevention programs or emergency preparedness efforts in the neighborhood. Bowman sidewalk and Bowman-Brawne-Rogers street reclassification victories were mentioned earlier in the meeting, so to save time, I will yield to the next committee chair.

Land Use

Lyle Tribwell

The committee's efforts have focused on Garfield Nature Trail, ivy removal and replanting with native species. Work parties usually happen once a month for three hours on a Saturday. NWOA has received grant money from the city for construction of an overlook at the outside corner of Percival and Madison. This will entail removing blackberry brambles and garbage and an unsightly traffic barrier, and landscaping the area with native plants. A trail viewing area will be maintained.

Garfield students are helping with this project. The school has been actively involved in use of the trail, and volunteers have been teaching them about invasive and native plant species. Info on this project will be in the kiosk, as well as through notification from the City.

The Land Use Committee can also deal with zoning and annexation issues, trails in neighborhood, etc. Please join up.

Social and Recreation

High O'Neill

We plan social events, such as the annual and general meetings, and are in need of more volunteer energy and time to make things happen. The meetings can be focus on whatever the committee wants. Please join up!

Communications

Paul Brewster

This committee's goal is to make sure info about city and neighborhood events and meetings gets out to membership in a timely fashion. Ideally, it would also help information flow from the membership to the board as well.

We update the Garfield Nature Trail kiosk with information, stay in touch with what other committees are doing, pass on that information to membership. This year we launched a website at www.nwona.org.

This year we did not have an annual paper newsletter, but we can do this if there is energy to make it happen.

Paul will not be available to help on this committee next year and encouraged others to sign up to help the association.

Meeting Closing

Larry thanked Vic's Pizzeria and the Olympia Food Co-op for their generous donations/subsidy of food for the meeting.

We can now enjoy refreshments and the music of Bevy, an eclectic, local, all-women band unless there are any other questions or comments.

Greg Black recognized Larry Leveen for his five years of leadership, and encouraged others to get involved in the association,

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.