

NWONA Annual Meeting

October 13, 2009

1. Thanks to Olympia Co-op for salad and cider!! Followed by fun ice-breaking activity.
2. Announcements:
 - Thanks to the Community Youth Services for neighborhood graffiti clean-up
 - Thanks to Scott Bishop for maintaining website, www.nwona.org
 - Jeff Holcomb: Transition Olympia. Crises facing communities. A person in UK came up with the idea of “transition town” – maybe we can do small things to improve our own community (12 step program to get off oil addiction) even if we can’t solve all the problems of the world. Outside work e.g. building with natural materials, gardening, saving seeds; internal work e.g. community discussions. Passed around announcement of upcoming events. Salon, speakers, “blue line march” from Farmer’s Market (follows projected shoreline if sea level rises) on October 24. Movement called 350 (ppm of CO2 in atmosphere to try to get to).
 - Susie Vanderberg: There are study groups around town on “low carbon diet”. Use a booklet to figure out your carbon footprint. Passed information around and looking for people to attend these meetings.
 - Greg Black: Community Sustaining Fund/Procession of the Species dance party on Halloween. (Benefit for these two organizations.) Costumes, live music. All ages at Eagles Ballroom. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Procession sponsors the Procession and other cultural activities in town. CSF awards money to local groups working on social justice issues. Remember to round up at the co-op! That money goes to CSF. New cycle of grants this fall.
 - Guy: Tall Trees Stewardship project. Brings young people and community members together to be stewards of local parks. Have worked on planting trees and getting rid of ivy in Garfield Nature Trail. Will continue to do restoration through the spring. This is a pilot project started by a neighborhood member, Justin Hillier.
 - Evan: working with local neighborhood gardens (e.g. Scammell, Thomas, etc.). May see emails about this activity.
 - Trail on Woodard: as a neighborhood association, can apply to make this into an official trail.
 - Community café – look for announcements of those local activities.
 - Introduction of board members.
3. Accomplishments of this year:
 - Speed trailer put up in the neighborhood. City followed up with warning notices to speeders based on license plates.
 - Crime and graffiti: Tackled these issues as a priority in NWONA this year. Had a community meeting about how to stay up to date on crime and graffiti. Police attended meeting to talk about what we can do to help keep neighborhood safe. Since the meeting, the incidence of crime in neighborhood has gone down. Graffiti clean-up kits from city and brown paint. Have neighborhood scan of where graffiti is on Quest and utility boxes. Let Robin know if you would like a graffiti kit.

- Plant exchange – on Earth Day, set up table for exchanging plants at Co-op. Will do again next year.
- Update on West Bay Park: Soil remediation is now done. November planting grass. January opening date (on paved areas). Three crosswalks will be put in (Brawne and at foot of nature trail). Phase 2 – 13 acres – no funding for it yet. NWONA donated \$500 to Rotary Park.
- On our website: meeting minutes, activities of the association (www.nwona.org)
- Posted questions and answers to city council candidates: 1) 2 biggest issues for West side of Olympia; 2) Lack of sidewalks; 3) Sweatshop-free procurement of t-shirts and ball caps; 4) Open dialogue about future of city and development. Check the website for their answers!
- Email list of neighbors and friends created this year; distribute notices and news through this email.
- Applied for and received a grant for \$1800 for pocket park development at Madison and Thomas. Idea to create a gathering spot, resting spot. Will use money to plant and build a kiosk. City water resources staff will restore the headwaters of creek (pull out invasive, smooth the contours of land during October) before we can plant. First we need to hold a design meeting. We have submitted a site plan to city. Kahlil will take names of people who want to participate in a work group. October 25 proposed date for first meeting. Need to purchase top soil and chips for paths. Sign up to help!

4. Goals for next year:

- a. What makes our neighborhood unique
 - Coop, alternative transportation, nature trail, sharing culture, diverse housing, mix of renters and owners, 15th Labor Day block party, spontaneous community events, west side arts walk, Sage's, dog socializing, community supported bakery, Milroy hostel, big trees, gardens and abundant food
 - What we want to see more of: low income housing, support for renters to transition to owning; more resources for low income people; official dog park; more community gatherings at Sage's; more city edible landscaping; grant money going to residents to do the work needed; outreach to people who need to be fed, looked after; bike delivery of food from coop; bridge from ravine connecting North neighborhood to Division; better preparation and response to natural disasters (slow response after snowstorm e.g.) – first aid, neighborhood check-ins; food preservation/gleaning, cider presses.
- b. Food and gardening
 - Annual cider press parties; fruit map with location of food that people need help with; work with gleaners and Thurston County food bank to share excess food with those in need; chickens around NWO – feed-buying co-op, phone tree to help with chickens when out of town; predator problem in neighborhood (esp. coyotes getting into chicken coops) – need relocation. Deer fences needed for community gardens (work group for deer fences). Garden installation parties/raised beds. Dandelion parties. Skill inventory in neighborhood – health care, communication, mechanics, tools in emergency. Towards greater self-sufficiency.

- c. Role of local politics and stewardship.
 - Importance of NWONA as facilitator/clearinghouse. Serve as clearinghouse for activities in neighborhood. Especially conduit from city to neighbors – when to get involved. Steep terrain – run-off to Budd Inlet. Need action to slow run-off and keep contaminants out. People for Puget Sound opportunity. NWONA host neighborhood to get together, education about issues, training. Promote ideas: conducting workshops with Tall Trees, native plant salvage, rain gardens, earth-friendly gardening. Tree pruning practices. Bring experts to match the interests of the community. KAOS for public services announcements, TCTV to get word out about activities. ZIP car model – neighborhood truck share? E.g., just need access to truck for a day.
- d. Recreation and parks:
 - Get rid of cars. Jackson and Sherman scary for bikes. Giles – lots of pedestrians and no sidewalks. Integrate sidewalks with rain gardens. ADA ramps integrated into sidewalks. Traffic calming (Rogers and Garfield). Speed bumps, stop signs, build narrower streets. Walking loop to Muirhead from pocket park.
 - West Bay Park – more people will come to NWO. Set aside land controversy -- federal fish and wildlife is the trustee of this land and are not allowing walking/bike trail. Capitol Lake becoming estuary, will that open opportunity?
- e. Safety:
 - Pedestrian and bike safety important
 - Relative definition of what is art and what is graffiti. (Some people think tagging is art.) Could neighbors post a “please don’t tag this fence” e.g.
 - Alternative community safety standards – e.g. don’t always call police if there is a dispute.
 - Check with older people in neighborhood to make sure they are OK.

Nominations for BOD:

Willing to serve next year: Robin Ivey, Jeff and Kari Ann Holcomb, Robin Levin, Mary Nelson, Kendra Sawyer, Beth and Kahlil Provo, Alice Lind, Paula Connelley, Jerry Parker, Steve Conway. Thera Black moved to approve the slate; it was approved by membership.

Idea: post ideas for committee and seek volunteers for those (e.g. Larry Leveen could be a liaison but can’t be Board member because of role on planning commission).

Next BOD meeting set for November 2, 2009 at Robin’s house, 6:30 p.m.