

## **Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes**

Date & Time: Monday, January 23, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

Place: 214 Sherman St NW

Present: Greg Black, Tom Connor, Jonah Hankin-Rappaport, Carol Juris, Marla Kentfield, Karin Kraft, David Mitchell, Barbara Oswald, Ethan Schaffer, Lyle Tribwell and from the county Health Department, Linda Stewart. Absent board members: Diane Gaile

1. **Call to Order, Public Communications** - Tom called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Jonah, representing his housemate Jacob, presented the concept of turning unused community spaces into assets such as neighborhood gardens, etc. Lyle said there are ways to determine property ownership and, if city property, to work with the city on use of the resource. It was suggested that Jonah and Jacob work through the Land Use committee to see if this is something NWONA might participate in. The importance of working closely with all adjacent property owners was emphasized.

STEPS grants – Linda Stewart explained the county will be awarding up to 5 grants this year for up to \$10k each for programs meeting the goals of the Walking Partners and STEPS programs. The goal is to have groups (neighborhood associations, schools, businesses) partner to build walking programs that specifically cover the March to August 2006 timeframe, but also that are sustainable to promote better community health. Request for grant proposals will be posted next week.

2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda** – Approved.
3. **Minutes Approval** – December minutes approved with two minor changes.
4. **Commitment review** –
  - Marla sent minutes to the city, member list to board members, and e-mail re stolen bench to members. She has not checked on insurance requirements for neighborhood events.
  - Lyle talked to city park staff about the bench. They will wait a while longer to see if it shows up before considering replacement. The police determine what crimes get reported in the paper including Crime Stoppers awards so we didn't donate \$50 to find the bench.
  - Tom verified NWONA boundaries with the city and suggested that tidelands could also be included in our by-laws definition.
  - Greg verified that no special health permits or requirements were necessary to provide light refreshments at the dance.
5. **Treasurer's Report** – David met with Karin and now has the treasurer's files. Tom will go to WSECU to resolve issues with signature card for NWONA's account. David will be writing a check to reimburse VIP for mandala project costs (approximately \$131).
6. **Committee Reports**
  - Communications** - Committee meeting held January 9 with listed goals including: monthly e-mail newsletter, phone tree and physical mail as needed, printed newsletter April/May and early October, neighborhood forum meetings (1 this year and quarterly if successful), and kiosk/sandwich board, fliers and other media communications as needed. Marla will work with Tom on posting our general board meeting agenda and meeting time on the website and actual agenda by Friday prior to Monday meetings. Ethan will check with Scott Bishop on

possibility of using free list serve software for members and interested parties to subscribe or unsubscribe to e-mail notices.

**Social & Recreation** – The winter dance occurs this Saturday. Fliers have been posted at local businesses and Ethan sent notice to MIXX and KAOS radio stations. Any interested in crafting posters for the dance will meet at Marla's Thursday at 6:30 pm. Membership sign up forms will be available at the dance. Motion, second and approve to spend up to \$100 for refreshments with the understanding that donations will offset this cost.

**Land Use** – Garfield Nature Trail was closed due to a mud slide and may not be opened for months, pending analysis of slope stability by soils engineers. Lyle is staying in touch with the city to restart re-vegetation work as soon as possible. He is also investigating a WA Conservation Corp. grant for assistance with that work and is hoping to begin work on planting a parking strip at the Overlook.

**Transportation & Safety** – Committee meeting was held January 4. An \$1800 matching grant was awarded by the city for the plan that was derived from last year's walk-ability assessment, including a GIS map, March bike-ability, clearing brush from walkways and a summer alternate commute contest.

## **7. New Business**

Winter Party – See Social & Recreation report.

West Bay parklands – The city will close a deal with the port by the end of February for land across from Brawne and will then negotiate with Burlington Northern for additional land. Olympia Rotary offered to assist with park development but requires work be done by fall 2006. They have a landscape design including boat ramp, gazebo and sitting areas. Mort James of the West Bay Drive neighborhood association is involved in this effort. Tom and Lyle plan to meet with city staff and the Land Use committee will consider how NWONA should contribute input to this project.

Sidewalks – Tom reported that a meeting on new sidewalks from Walnut to Bowman and on the west side of division will be held Monday, January 30 from 8-9 pm.

Local protest of neo-Nazi group – The National Socialist Movement, a neo-Nazi organization, held a planned rally this last weekend in Olympia and plans another this summer. Our local Interfaith Works group had more people show up in protest than NSM had in attendance. Tom suggested that NWONA might want to consider a statement in opposition to such hate groups presence in our community.

## **8. Commitments –**

- Tom – Resolve signature card issues with WSECU.
- David – Issue reimbursement check to VIP for mandala project.
- Marla – Send letter to inactive members inviting them to rejoin. Post agenda on website.
- Ethan – Check with Scott Bishop, webmaster, on setting up list serve.

## **9. Close and Next Meeting** – Adjourned at 8:38 p.m. The next board meeting is Monday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m.