

Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Monday, April 17, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

Place: 214 Sherman St NW

Present: Greg Black, Tom Connor, Jonah Hankin-Rappaport, Marla Kentfield, Karin Kraft, Lyle Tribwell, David Mitchell, Barbara Oswald and members Jacob Rosenblum and Lindsey Rohl.
Absent: Diane Gaile, Carol Juris, and Ethan Schaffer.

1. Call to Order, Public Communications - Tom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Jerry Parker of Citizens for Public Accountability discussed his group's objections to the Port of Olympia's recent Weyerhaeuser log export contract. The group isn't necessarily opposed to the deal, but the process followed including lack of public involvement and potential environmental impacts (traffic, lights, stormwater). They have already won a court case on records request and are planning additional appeals on various required city permits. The exports are being presented as a 9-6 operation, but the lease allows for 24/7 with no upper limit on amounts. A port repaving project includes sixteen new 17' lighting poles and the ships used for export may include log cargo hold plus topside containers. Jerry's group is encouraging neighborhood associations to consider contacting city officials with their concerns related to this contract and related projects.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda – Approved.

3. Minutes Approval – Approved with minor change to Jackson Street project description.

4. Commitment review –

- Greg got approval to use the Co-Op parking space for April 22 plant exchange.
- The city chipper program may still be explored if the sidewalk clearing project is tackled this summer.
- Marla said the reimbursement to Kurt Kentfield could be considered a donation (check is misplaced and won't be cashed). She contacted the Kiwanis adviser to the Key Club and is waiting to hear about the \$100 check. The block grant notice didn't get out and letter to members and posting agenda on website are still to be done.
- Committee budget requests deferred to May meeting. Any necessary expenses will be approved on an individual basis until a budget is developed.

5. Treasurer's Report – David presented the treasurer's report. Karin noted that NWONA's previous treasurer had difficulty determining IRS submission requirements. It was suggested that requesting 501C4 status would simplify IRS requirements. David will check how this would be accomplished and Tom will check with other association presidents to see what they have done. Tom will also check whether other groups have used event liability insurance.

6. Committee Reports

Communications – The committee met on March 30. The hope is still to publish a newsletter in May timeframe, but we will need articles from each of the committees. The concept of a forum on business and how it fits with neighborhood/community may still be viable if others are willing to help with arrangements. We would invite various Olympia business groups, the Alliance for Democracy, neighborhood business people (including from

the Co-Op who are considering moving), and city officials to describe requirements for in-home businesses. Jacob has volunteered to host the NWONA site and set up list serves for more efficient communications. Marla will contact Nancy Lenzi to see if she has resolved the city's problem with accessing our current site. Notice of the Plant Swap will be sent out to members and local radio stations.

Social & Recreation – Greg encouraged everybody to come to the Plant Swap. M/S/C (motion/second/carried) to spend up to \$50 for coffee and refreshments if donations from Batdorf & Bronson and/or San Francisco Bakery aren't possible. Tom noted that Larry Levine has NWONA-owned pump coffee pots. The next envisioned social event is a summer picnic at Woodruff Park. Greg will check with the city about any necessary reservation requirement.

Land Use – Garfield Trail – Still closed but a group of AmeriCorps volunteers will be planting flowers at the top of the trail (Conger & Rogers) this Saturday from 9-12. Marla volunteered some daffodils and will check on whether her Kiwanis group has any plants remaining from previous year's plant sales. Lyle may buy some plants also. West Bay Park – A public meeting for input on park plans is scheduled for Thursday, April 20. M/S/C to have Lyle present as official NWONA input the park suggestions as drafted by Tom and the Land Use Committee (and with amendments by board members if submitted to Lyle prior to Wednesday noon). City Parks – Lyle present a statement on park volunteers at tomorrow's council meeting. He has also been appointed interim volunteer coordinator, a half-time city position.

Spaces Used for Public Enjoyment & Recreation (SUPER) – The group hasn't decided whether they would prefer to be a special subcommittee of NWONA or not. The board did agree that their mission to develop unused spaces for community purpose fits within NWONA. For now, the board agreed to provide NWONA endorsement of their scheduled May 2 forum and their Jackson street project. A notice will be sent to the NWONA list and fliers will be available at the Plant Swap on Saturday. Members of VIP and GRUB will attend the forum.

Transportation & Safety – Bike-ability study – Karin has received 27 surveys of 80 distributed. She asked all in attendance to bike the neighborhood if they haven't recently and fill out a survey. She would like to have 40 surveys returned. STEPS grant – A \$5000 grant was received for a proposed NWONA and Garfield Elementary School partnership to walk the neighborhood and identify native plants. Students will log days walking versus driving with their parents and turn in results to their PE teacher. Awards will be some type of native seedling. Barbara encouraged Karin to consider recruiting assistance from the PTA. Karin will be looking to hire a part-time coordinator (per city policy it can't be a board member). Commuter Contest (\$1800 city grant) – A May newsletter will be good timing for an article on commute alternatives. Walk-ability – Angel Pryzbylowicz and Tom Connor will work on development of the GIS mapping of the neighborhood. Karin noted that the sidewalk brush-clearing part of the project may be difficult to coordinate based on input from city staff who noted that many homeowners don't cooperate. Safety – Traffic calming devices will be installed on Madison between Division and Rogers.

7. Old Business

Olympia Fire Department – Per March 20 minutes, we will consider including the fire department at a summer picnic event.

Neighborhood Tree Planting Strategy – Per March 20 minutes, SUPER will check on city trees for the Jackson Street project. No additional discussion of neighborhood strategy.

8. New Business

Agenda Development & Formatting – All agreed that items and projects specific to committees be covered during those reports. Specific “Background Information” that committee chairs would like published with the agenda should be forwarded to Tom. “Old Business” agenda item will cover items that require ongoing follow up or board decision. “New Business” items may be submitted by anyone and will also include any special mailings that Tom has received that require attention or decision on referral to a committee.

9. Commitments –

- Tom – Draft letter from NWONA on port contract with Weyerhaeuser and send to board members for e-mail approval. Check with other association presidents on whether they have 501C4 status and also whether other groups have used event liability insurance.
- David – Check on requirements for 501C4 status.
- Greg – Check with B&B and SF Bakery on donations for Plant Swap. Check with city on summer picnic at Woodruff Park.
- Lyle – Present NWONA ideas at West Bay Park hearing April 20. Purchase plants as necessary for Garfield project on Saturday.
- Marla – Get Plant Swap notice to media. E-mail SUPER forum notice. Check with city staff on website access. Check with Kiwanis for plants for Garfield Trail flower garden project this Saturday. Send notice to all board members re next communications committee meeting. Status of un-cashed \$100 Key Club check. Letter to members re participation. Post agenda on website.
- Committee Chairs – Consider budget needs for this year.
- ALL – Fill out bicycle survey and send to Karin (336 Sherman St NW).

10. Meeting Review and Next Meeting – Meeting started late and public comment timeframe needs to be monitored. “Live like the lotus, at home and at peace in the muddy water”- Chinese proverb suggested by Greg as ‘meeting review’ comment. Adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next board meeting is Monday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m.