

Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Monday, August 21, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

Place: 214 Sherman St NW

Present: Greg Black, Tom Connor, Marla Kentfield, Karin Kraft, Carol Juris, Ethan Schaffer
Absent: Diane Gayle, David Mitchell, Jonah Hankin-Rappaport, and Barbara Oswald.

1. **Call to Order, Public Communications** - Tom called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda** – Approved with addition of “Visioning” discussion and Annual meeting discussion.
3. **Minutes Approval** – May and June minutes approved.
4. **Commitment Review** –
 - Tom – Carol got kiosk key from Lyle. Tom contacted Tom Hill (see Land Use report).
 - Greg – Woodruff Park is available on a first come basis for September 16 picnic.
 - Marla – Media notices were distributed on commute contest.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** – No report.

6. Committee Reports

Communications –Marla will get May and June minutes posted to the website as well as letters to and from the city on the port’s Weyerhaeuser deal. E-mail to members and media notice on the September 16 picnic will need to be sent by August 30. Articles for the fall newsletter are due by September 23 to allow for printing and distribution the first week of October. Ethan will check with Jacob on status of website list-serve. Tom suggested that a schedule be implemented for regular kiosk updates. Communications still needs a new chair and additional active members.

Social & Recreation – Picnic - A September block party versus Woodruff Park picnic was suggested by member but the board felt we’d get more visibility and participation at the park. Ethan mentioned that immediate neighbors to the park regularly have potluck barbeques on Saturday evenings so they will likely join us on the 16th. Diane Gayle may help arrange some type of art project and Tom will get Greg the contact at Olympia Fire Department so they can be invited. It was agreed that a potluck with NWONA providing hamburgers, hot dogs & cold drinks would be a good format, from 3 p.m. to dusk, with alternate commute awards at 4 p.m. Karen said our grant would cover NWONA costs to \$200. Tom will check with Russ Lehman about inviting participants to the picnic from the STEPS walk/native plant project.

Annual Meeting – Greg will check with the school when they open the end of the month for a date the week of October 23.

Land Use – West Bay Park – Tom wrote a letter to the city supporting their efforts to get grants of approximately \$2 million from the Interagency Outdoor Committee. The grants would cover near shore environment improvement and aquatic land enhancement through water access. The city still hasn’t negotiated acquisition of Burlington Northern land.

Port – Tom reported that Jerry Parker feels they have a very strong case in the various appeals to the Weyerhaeuser deal. Tom did talk to Tom Hill who says the city has no ordinance related to lighting that might help mitigate the port’s plan to install 17-60’ light poles.

Garfield Trail – Tom reported that the Master Habitat group is willing to help stabilize the slope. The sloughing resulted from super-saturated soils and failure of a storm-water pipe. Repair plans are still under study by the city.

Neighborhood change notices – Tom received notice of planned demolition of the water tank reservoir at Sunrise. Also a neighbor is opposing rezoning to higher density at Division and Cushing.

Raccoons – KIRO news came to the neighborhood on the story of raccoons killing cats. All agreed that the advice to not put food out is best but with the number of fruit trees, blackberries, etc. there is little that can be done to avoid wildlife altogether. Fox have also been spotted and Karin said one neighbor reported sighting a bear.

Transportation & Safety – Commuter Contest – 30 people are participating. Karin hopes the contest will be annual with Intercity Transit potentially taking it on as a follow-up to the bike commute contest in May.

GIS NWONA Map – Tom will contact the city again about getting started on this.

7. New Business

Visioning – City of Olympia staff member Jeff Triron facilitates visioning sessions. This could be a worthwhile exercise for NWONA to help set goals and strategies. Marla suggested it might be a great thing for the new board to consider in November.

Neighborhood Matching Grant – Ethan explained that matching grant proposals are due to the city by the end of September. He suggested that organizational capacity building be considered. A proposal could be written for assistance with membership drive, fund-raising and strategic planning (including the visioning concept mentioned by Tom). Unfortunately Ethan doesn't have time to develop a proposal. Marla suggested and volunteered to submit a proposal for something small – replacement for the Overlook bench that was stolen.

Healthy STEPS Grant – Russ Lehman, grant project coordinator, prepared a walk & bike logbook for Garfield students and Erica Guttman created the native plant “treasure hunt” brochure specific to our neighborhood. About 100 students volunteered to participate. Recognition and award ceremony is scheduled shortly after school begins. It is expected that the full \$2500 grant will be spent. Potential exists for 2 more years of grants.

Garfield dog stations – The Olympia School Board facilities manager, Julie Deruwe, has requested our assistance in creating an 8x11 poster for display at the plastic bag dispenser stations installed at Garfield Elementary ball fields. Marla volunteered to draft something.

GRuB – The board agreed to invite Anne Hirsch of GRuB to our September meeting to discuss a new community garden project near Evergreen Village on the west side of Division St. While it is outside of our boundaries many in our neighborhood may participate.

Annual Meeting – Planning for the meeting will occur at the next 2 board meetings but all are encouraged to consider asking qualified members to run for election to the board. Karin informed us that she and Karl will be moving from the neighborhood. Marla said that due to family commitments she won't run for re-election but is still willing to offer her home for board meetings.

8. Commitments –

- Tom – Send fire department contact to Greg and Olympia School Board facilities manager contact information to Marla. Draft letter to Sam Bradley. Send thank you letter to Lyle (cc to city). Check with association presidents at next meeting on 501C4 status and event liability insurance.
- Ethan – Check with Jacob on status of setting up NWONA list-serve on website.
- Greg – Create flier for September 16 picnic.
- Karin – Send copy of \$1800 city grant contract to board members.
- Marla – Notice to members and media on September picnic. Draft bulletin for Garfield dog stations. Post our letter, the city's response and Jerry Parker's contact information on our website and send an e-mail to our list suggesting that members get involved as they feel appropriate. Draft a NWONA letterhead design. Status of un-cashed \$100 Key Club check. Letter to members re participation. Post agenda on website. Check with city staff on website access.
- All – Contact any friends or acquaintances in the neighborhood who might make a good addition to the board or one of the standing committees.

10. Meeting Review and Next Meeting – Meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next board meeting is Monday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m.