

NWONA March 9, 2009

Present: Robin Ivey-Black, Alice Lind, Kendra Sawyer, Mary Nelson, Michael MacSems, Beth Provo, Kahlil Provo, Thera Black (Robert absent)

1. Minutes: approved with amendment that Thera was present.
2. Treasurer's report: balance \$607 and \$1729. Reported interest income, need to research what we need to do about that. Names of Board members updated on website.
3. President's report:
 - Crime report: series of burglaries on West side of Olympia during daytime, mid-February. Crime series stopped after police got onto the people suspected involved. Suspect juvenile males who live in or have relatives in area. Advice: lock doors and windows; keep eye on neighbors.
 - Robin posted a notice about crime in area at coop and on kiosk.
 - Continue to let people know that we are aware of crime in area via website, etc.
 - Robin attended coalition of neighborhoods meeting. They have a google site – Olympia Neighborhoods.org. Their next meeting will include discussion of graffiti clean-up. Had presentation from People for Puget Sound. They would like to talk to us. Will be doing a restoration project in Garfield Nature Trail. Also presentation from Perennial Gardens on rain and edible gardens. April 6 next mtg.
 - Robin met with Joan Machlis. Joan asked us to write to City Council about city reaction after snow storm. City planned to have a review of this, but now have no plan to do this. Robin will draft letter and send if no majority objections. Also talked with Joan about graffiti. Will like us to do a neighborhood clean-up in Spring. Need to plan for a Spring day with temperature over 50 degrees.
4. Updates from last meeting:
 - Scott willing to continue to maintain the website. Beth will send email address to Alice so Alice can send minutes to him.
5. Update: Pocket Park
 - Thera brought handouts – draft application, photos/map of nature trail.
 - City just announced that there is money available for sustainability grants.
 - Thera and Michael visited the site tonight – were outnumbered by the NWONA Board. So obviously interest in the project exists.
 - Add some language about participation of Tall Trees and Conservation District.
 - Have a planning event to kick off after we submit this application.
 - Put a sign at the site to alert the people who have already shown interest (Kahlil will do this) that we are applying for grant to support their work.
 - Sustainability – establish committee (with seat on BoD? Or attends BoD regularly) and commit to sweat equity of BOD and others. Design would be low-maintenance, so 2 work parties a year would keep them up.

- Need to finalize budget etc (Kahlil will draft) for construction, design, site plan.
- Add process for communication with neighborhood people to assist with plan. Could spend \$\$ to mail flier to neighborhood via Apex.
- Thera update the current draft. Kahlil will put in some details to Thera draft; send around to NWONA and call meeting to get additional input.
- Robin will follow up with SW Association about pricing of benches etc. for their park.

6. New business:

- Tall Trees Youth Stewardship project attended at 7:30 to present project: Justin Heller (Tall Trees, email youthstewardship@gmail.com) and Kandi (Thurston Conservation District). Urban forests are important for many reasons – Garfield Trail is an example of public forested area. Covered with invasive species (ivy and blackberry) – interrupts natural processes and takes over native habitat. In natural setting, too much invasion for baby native trees to grow up and replace the old trees. Key time to remedy that problem. Neighborhood stewardship important role to help urban forest restoration. Tall Trees takes youth from high schools and community college to help restore forest – only a one year project (first goal). Also has goal of city support for neighborhood groups (also writing a manual for this); third goal to work with neighborhood groups who want to work on this project. City Parks Dept does not have vehicles to remove the ivy once pulled. If NWONA had a work party a couple times a year, city would likely support with removal of ivy. Could join the Tall Trees group – next work party March 28, 10 - 1. Could train then and also willing to do a training specifically for us to learn how to take over when the project is over. (Volunteer and Parks staffer at city – Todd – would be a liaison at city.)
- Typical work party has a couple hours pulling ivy off trees, then spreading wood chips and planting native plants – cedar, hemlock, grand firs.
- People for Puget Sound doing an educational event April 11 which will probably include a nature trail event. Westside Watershed Days. (Don't know details but want to educate about rain gardens, etc.)
- Early summer, will finish manual and would love to train some NWONA folks. Will give us notice a month ahead and we can get volunteers together.
- Neighborhood Sustainability Grant – Justin would be happy to partner with us on the pocket park grant.
- Kandi's program has grant funding focused on Deschutes watershed – has resources to offer: native plants, educational event support, tools to support restoration work days, etc. Left contact info: Kandi Bauman, kbauman@thurstoncd.com, 754-3588, ext.136.
- Would like us to RSVP to his email if you are going to participate: youthstewardship@gmail.com, then he will respond about what to bring etc. We can also post in kiosk (Kahlil will do). Justin's number is 753-8922.

7. New business:

- Rotary point: Propose that we buy a brick to support Rotary Point park. Spell out name of Association. \$150 fee for brick. Mary will check out and report back to us.
- Earth Day: last year had 4 hour plant exchange at coop. Would be ideal to also distribute membership fliers for people to join NWONA; also will try to prepare handout re graffiti clean-up date. Send notice of this to Scott to post on website. Agreed to do this again this year – Sunday 19th, 11:00 – 3:00. Mary will be lead on this project.
- Renewal of nonprofit status. Association became inactive in October. Old contact (Jake) alerted Beth. Beth filled out the Secretary of State application -- \$45 needed from Treasurer (Mary will do THIS WEEK).

8. Action items for next meeting:

- Plan a second General Meeting in order to recruit for summer projects?
- See above for interim meeting on park application if needed.

Future meetings at regular time and date, 2nd Mondays, 6:30 p.m. at Robin's.