

North West Olympia Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2010

10:00 – 11:30 am (followed by work party 11:30 – 1:30)

**Welcome and introductions**, Robin Ivey-Black, President of Board of NWONA, welcomed the group and thanked those who served as board members during the past year.

8 Arms Bakery – local Olympia bakery gave us a good deal on pastries for the meeting.

Treasurer's report: Have about \$2200. Expecting dues payment today. Sliding scale \$8 – 25.

**Accomplishments from last year:**

Graffiti clean up

Report on organized graffiti clean-up.

Also a volunteer in neighborhood (Mr. Shephard) came forward to say he has been taking on graffiti and pole clean-up as it occurs. Don't need to wait for a special event!! He also takes shoes off wires.

Brick for West Bay Park

Paid for \$500 brick that says "North West Olympia Neighborhood Assn. welcomes you".

Earth Day plant sale

Free plant exchange - -annual event, happened again this year on Earth Day.

Heron rookery

City's position is that destroying heron habitat is prohibited during breeding season. City does not have money to buy a covenant or restriction on property. City will notify NWONA if any development/construction. City relies on federal law that young herons cannot be killed in construction. Lucia Perillo also has kept up a website

on this. Builder had to get an easement over absentee owner's property. Glen Wells property starts adjacent to rookery property but needs to be accessed through heron property. Nest building increased this year. Intent is to create a bulletin board to report sightings. Will re-link to plan for town homes. (Current plan is to expand to 15 town homes.)

#### Representation at city meetings

##### Attention to neighborhood safety and notification of apparent violations

Attention to code violations: City is holding meetings with neighborhood associations to discuss what constitutes a code violation. City will report back more effectively following this series of meetings.

Locally, there is an RV parked in neighborhood which has a lot of activity. It is not compliant with local code and enforcement seems to have immediate effect, but short-term. Neighborhood needs to keep an eye on code violations.

Harrison and Division: lot plan allows a cut-through driving route on bank plan. Sign showed up with notice of "pre-approved" drive-through on lot for sale. Sign changed from "pre-approval" (which does not exist) to "prior approval" but need to keep up on that.

##### Pocket park/sidewalk walking loop issues

NWONA received grant for \$1800 to develop pocket park at Thomas and Madison. City had an interest in restoring because it starts the Garfield Creek. City had to do some earth moving work before the pocket park work could begin. Finally kicked off the development on September 11<sup>th</sup>. LDS church brought 100 volunteers to the project. Did a day of service in our neighborhood. Will be installing benches. The design was done by Linda Andrews (donation by Paula Connelley). Intention of park is to have a neighborhood gathering spot. To complete the design will take more money – may be a goal for next year to acquire more funds for this.

##### Thanks and appreciations:

Marcus Goodman (City), LDS church, Erica Guttman, Linda Andrews, Paula Connelley, special note of appreciation for Kahlil Provo.

Steve Buxbaum attended a meeting last year and is interested in having a more walkable neighborhood. Legally any new house has to have a sidewalk in front of it. Would like to change law so that the neighborhood

could use a pooled fund of sidewalk money to complete existing sidewalks rather than have a patchwork of pieces of sidewalk.

Karen Valenzuela also presented her thoughts about making the neighborhood better. For example, connector streets going through residential neighborhoods are not always helpful to the neighborhood. The policy is to have connected neighborhoods, but need to look case by case on impact on local neighborhoods. County and city need to work together on such issues. Passed around a brochure with her three areas of focus since she has been a commissioner:

- 1) fiscal sustainability (will end this year in the black and will not have to do further lay-offs, but 2012 and 2013 do not look as good);
- 2) preserving natural resources – keep Thurston County beautiful. How to curb urban sprawl. Establishing development impact fees so most does not occur out in rural areas. Need policies to keep that from happening. Also updating shoreline management.
- 3) This Board of County Commissioners think that as we emerge from the recession, the economy will acknowledge the environment. For example, farm lands and forests are a critical resource. Getting local food is important. We are interdependent on local resources!

Questions from neighbors: money to staff jail? Response: New jail is almost built but need money for more staff. Need to move into new jail. Old jail based on indirect supervision. New jail built on model of “direct supervision”: inmates housed in a large area with corrections staff mixed in. Recidivism rates are lower with the direct supervision model, because the inmates are compelled to interact with each other. That model relies on increased staffing. Jail is operated by Sheriff’s office and they need to help with this issue.

### **Open discussion: NWONA Board priorities for next year**

Woodward Lane Co-housing representative attended – representing 27 people who live there and including 8 children. (Having a work party today so could not all attend.) In Phase One are 3 buildings/4 units each. Theme is “living our values in community.” Used green building techniques. Eat three meals per week together, share a common house that has a meeting space and kitchen. Have an open house every Saturday afternoon. Phase Two: in next 3-5 years, build 3 more buildings (Dutch idea that you need about 50 people in a tribe to support each other). Need to have less cars in the community if they are to grow.

Neighbors are welcome to bring requests to use their common space, like to teach a class or use the green space, to the Steering Committee through [info@woodardlanecoho.org](mailto:info@woodardlanecoho.org) or to website at [www.woodardlanecoho.org](http://www.woodardlanecoho.org)

New neighbors, Kate Powers and Steve Einhorn, holding a weekly Uke and Sing activity. Will be at Yenney's, 7 – 9 p.m. Will give out ukuleles at the sessions. "Harmonizing community" – costs \$10 for each group session. Will also look for a neighborhood space to hold these. "Quality Folk" is their website.

Old Opas building on Harrison – just purchased by Carolyn. Will be a frame shop. Have space in the shop – could hold 20 people easily. Will have an artist's market and could be available for small events. If want to hold meetings there under NWONA auspices, would be fine.

John Epstein raised a serious concern re: recent Olympia Food Co-op issues. He is one of the original co-op members, a working member all this time. Tension around the boycott resulted in a violent altercation last night. John asked for NWONA to take a stand on the boycott issue. The debate is about the process that occurred leading to the Co-op board making the decision to boycott. John believes it would be appropriate for NWONA to ask Co-op to reconsider. The real casualty is not financial (a minor hit to the co-op) but to the community, relationships between people.

Suggestion that we hold a special NWONA meeting, announce in advance that this will be the topic of the meeting, and make sure we have open discussion and a vote on whether to send a letter from NWONA.

A few comments from the neighbors present: for example, one questioning the process of Co-op Board decision, one in favor of the boycott because co-op makes political decisions with purchasing every day.

Another new issue: home invasion burglary in our neighborhood. Pay attention to strangers in the neighborhood. Please send any information about crime in neighborhood to Robin. Should continue to make home safety a priority. When Robin hears about such issues, she sends out an email to those who have shared their email addresses with NWONA.

### **Board elections**

New Board unanimously elected: Paula Connelly, Jerry Parker, Mary Nelson Robin Ivey-Black, Alice Lind, Robin Levin, Erica Guttman, Oriana Lewis Seamus Walsh, Susan Tuzzolino, Kendra Sawyer

**Adjourn to work party including park-naming activity at pocket park.**

*Don't forget to update dues payment for 2010-2011.*