

NWONA Board Meeting Minutes for August 27, 2012

Board Members Present: Erica Guttman, President; Scott Bishop, Vice President; Steve Conway, Treasurer; Cathy Visser, Secretary; Mary Nelson, Dorothy Gist.

Guests present: Maya Heiland, Intercity Transit; and Susan Burgoon, Sunrise/Bing Neighborhood.

The meeting commenced at 6:40 pm at Mad Thom Park.

Treasurer's Report: \$2,600 in the NWONA account.

Maya Heiland, InterCity Transit: Walkability & Intersection Repair Project: She can be contacted at mayahailand@gmail.com. Maya works with youth education at Intercity transit. She works under *Safe Routes to School Corps*. The City of Olympia holds the grant program for education and construction. Goal is to make neighborhoods more walkable for kids to school. Maya is working with Garfield Elementary School to increase opportunities for kids to walk. They have funds to paint intersection murals and are currently considering a mural at Thomas and Garfield on the west side of Garfield school. Due to planned construction by B&G Club and the school itself, the group was concerned about the construction traffic's effect on any new mural painted at that site. Other options were discussed, including the intersection of Madison & Thomas, near the new Mad Thom park. The group referred her to neighborhood educators artists: Wendy Hughes (5th grade at Garfield), Joslyn Trivett (just painted the new mural on Olympic Way, lives across the street from the school), Kitty Koppelman (Co-op), Dylan Kuehl and/or staff at the Mariah Arts School. Maya was also referred to Bob Hodges, Garfield Principal. She will be canvassing the neighborhood to see how people feel about the potential plan. The grant requires a high level of agreement on the design within the vicinity of the project. All Board members and attendees were in favor of having the project move forward.

Traffic Meeting with the City of Olympia and SWONA will likely be held October 10th or 24th in regard to crossings on Harrison & the Harrison/Division intersection--details to come. Joint memos with SWONA and the fact that the City was already looking at crosswalks on Harrison have moved pedestrian-safety projects forward. Additionally, some neighbors sent a petition to the City requesting a roundabout at Harrison and Division. The City is reviewing options for this request, despite limited space at the intersection, and would like to discuss the options with neighbors.

Boys & Girls Update: There will be a meeting at City Hall Monday evening on Sept 17th on the latest B&G Club plans sponsored by the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, and the B&G Club will also hold a forum at Garfield at a later date [subsequently confirmed for September 25, 6:30 to 8 pm].

Erica shared updates from the most recent meeting of the **Coalition of Neighborhood Associations:**

(1) Neighborhood Pathways Program may provide opportunities for NWONA. The City's description of the program: "Neighborhood pathways are short connections for bicyclists and pedestrians that connect streets to parks, schools and other streets where no street connection exists. These pathways enhance mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians by shortening trip lengths and providing comfortable off-street route alternatives. A new Neighborhood Pathways Program was developed as a result of a City Council initiative to improve neighborhood walkability through a program that is based on neighborhood priorities."

It has been piloted by the North East Neighborhood Association, and now the City is planning to roll it out to the broader community. Based on suggestions by the CNA participants, the City will offer a two-tiered application process, which will ask neighborhood groups to submit a preliminary

application describing how a pathway would benefit their neighborhood and why it is a priority for them. The Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee will screen applications and invite full proposals from those that are most promising.

Board members discussed a number of locations that would be good candidates for this kind of program to improve non-motorized access in our neighborhood. The group decided to make this topic a high priority for the annual meeting.

(2) Code enforcement issues. The CNA is now working with the City code enforcement staff to clarify codes and improve consistent enforcement. An ordinance will be proposed to provide options for increased fines for repeat violators. Additionally, the City is in the process of developing a brochure to explain the codes and enforcement.

(3) Bing Street development update: Susan Burgoon from the Bing St. neighborhood shared that an apartment complex is proposed behind the bowling alley. It will be up to 6 stories/up to 70 ft. tall; 119 units that could lead to 633 trips per day. The traffic impacts, among others, are concerns. Parts of NWONA also fall into the same zoning along Harrison Ave. that would permit similar high-rise developments.

(4) Reinvigoration of neighborhood association. The Bing St. neighborhood association has been inactive but Susan is working to revitalize the association, especially in the face of the proposed apartment complex project. Likely boundaries will be Division to Cooper Point, and Harrison to Conger. NWONA Board members recommended having a forum for their community along with the City. She was referred to Jerry Parker and Janine Unsoeld for advice and ideas.

Other Neighborhood Enhancements: Free Library; kayak storage at West Bay Park.

Dorothy & Erica discussed starting a free library at Mad Thom Park or some other place that could benefit from being more of a gathering place; such a library was recently erected in the North East Neighborhood. Dorothy shared that in Portland, one of the free libraries also has a frame to hold poetry from a featured artist. This topic was also noted for discussion at the annual meeting.

Karen Lohmann recently recommended that NWONA spearhead a kayak storage option at West Bay Park. She agreed to follow up with initial inquiries with the City Parks Department. We'll check back with her for a report for a future meeting.

Updates on addressing communications issues.

It was agreed that we still need to maintain multiple ways of communicating with neighbors: (1) website; (2) blog; (3) email; (4) Facebook; (5) U.S. Mail.

(1) Website: After a challenge to figure out who had the current website password, Scott has located it and is once again the webmaster; he will post minutes and other relevant items.

(2) Blog: Jerry is placing things on the blog at www.nwona.org.

(3) Email: Our address at OURNWONA@gmail.com, and Erica checks that regularly now. Most emails are inquiries that Erica can handle independently, but she will forward certain items to specific board members as relevant and share anything that affects everyone with the whole board.

There are still some email addresses that are incorrect and have yet to be resolved. Cathy will work with Steve to find the original member sign-up sheets to see if she can figure out what the correct addresses are or she will look for some other way to identify the individuals and get in contact.

Steve will pass on to Cathy and Erica any new memberships that come in with contact information so that we can be sure everyone is entered correctly and receives communications.

(4) Facebook: Erica and Cathy are still working on a NWONA Facebook account. They discussed names and the group agreed to "NWOLY Neighborhood Association."

(5) U.S. Post Mail: In light of recent updates from Jerry about the post office box being abandoned, the group needed to identify a stable address. Jerry's house was nominated as the NWONA mailing address, though Jerry wasn't present to consent. Dorothy offered her address if Jerry can't do it.

Update/coordination on Mad Thom Park: Repairs, clean up plans, additional improvements.

Jerry, Erica, Dorothy, Cathy, and Maryann weeded, watered and helped clean up the park recently. More weeding and clean up is needed. We need a truck to haul off some garbage on the site this fall. Dorothy will help schedule a fall clean up party.

Planning for annual meeting: Annual meeting is set to be held on Monday, October 22, 2012. A subcommittee was formed to set the agenda and organize space and food: Susan Burgoon, Erica, Dorothy and Susan Tuzzolino.

Next NWONA Board Meeting: Meetings to be held the fourth Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on September 24, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Dorothy Gist's house at 1720 Hays St. NW. Dorothy will send detailed instructions to board members prior to the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.