

MINUTES
NORTHWEST OLYMPIA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Tuesday, October 30, 2012, 6:15 to 8:30 p.m.
Garfield Elementary School Multipurpose Room

Board members present: Erica Guttman, President; Scott Bishop, Vice-president; Cathy Visser, Secretary; Jerome Parker, Planning Commission Liaison; Dorothy Gist; Rip Heminway; Susan Tuzzolino; Mary Nelson.

Board members absent: Steve Conway, Treasurer.

Social Hour: The meeting commenced at 6:15 p.m. with social time and food provided by Vic's Pizzeria, the Olympia Food Co-op, 8-Arms Bakery, and Dino's Coffee.

During social hour, participants met informally with Drew Phillips, the designer/engineer overseeing the remodeling plans for Garfield Elementary School.

Business Meeting: The business meeting commenced at 7 p.m. Susan Tuzzolino served as facilitator and introduced president Erica Guttman, who introduced all board members present. Erica thanked them all for their service.

Erica introduced Susan Burgoon of the Sunrise Neighborhood Association, who has been greatly assisting NWONA, and Brad O'Brien of Southwest Olympia Neighborhood Association, with whom we have been cooperating this past year on City communications and joint forums.

Unsung Heroes: Erica called forward several people to recognize them as "Unsung Heroes" in the neighborhood--those who just "do" without any fanfare to make our community better. The recognized heroes are: John Shepard, who daily removes graffiti and cuts down shoes from the wires; Joslyn Trivett, who coordinated, designed, and painted the mural on Olympic Way; Jerry & Renee McCoy, who provide mowing adjacent to pocket park; Kendra Sawyer, who set NWONA up with a functioning email system and blog, greatly improving our communications; and Jerry Parker and Susan Tuzzolino, who worked together to make the table at the Mad Thom Park safer and more beautiful.

Community Policing: Erica next called Lt. Bill Wilson of the Olympia Police Department forward to introduce himself to the neighborhood and explain the new focus policing in the Westside, Downtown, and Eastside sections of the City. Lt. Wilson oversees the entire Westside. He stated that Olympia has seen a 43% increase in burglaries over the past year. He can add patrols as necessary to meet weekly policing priorities. He stated that he is here to work with the community to solve problems and improve public safety. He would like to hear from community members about their concerns anytime and can be reached at 360-753-8255 (office), 360-239-2998 (cell) or at bwilson@ci.olympia.wa.us Following his remarks, a suggestion was made to host a joint police forum with SWONA and Sunrise neighborhoods.

Review of Accomplishments: Erica showed a slide of the 2011 vision created by members at last year's annual meeting and the five emphasis areas identified (see attached). She proceeded to highlight the accomplishments within those emphasis areas:

Neighborhood walkability improvements: This past year has seen the success of our joint efforts with SWONA to lobby the City for more crosswalks on Harrison Ave. Two new crosswalks will be established in 2013 at Rogers St. and Decatur St. The joint transportation forum also kick-started a conversation about the future direction of the intersection of Harrison & Division. At that forum, neighbors also learned about improvements the City has made or is planning to make regarding lighting, safety beacons, paving, bicycle safety, and more.

Regarding the desire for creative alley use, Erica noted that the new Pathways program on the agenda for later discussion might be an avenue for that. Erica recognized Maya Heiland of InterCity Transit and Joseph Becker of Ion Ecobuilding for their work spearheading a beautiful new intersection painting at Thomas & Garfield; Joseph noted that Wolfgang Kahler was the artist. Funding was provided by InterCity Transit as part of its safe walking routes to schools program.

Improved communications within the neighborhood: The past year saw more active use of the NWONA blog for neighbors to learn about events, crime, and news. The process with the Boys & Girls Club was highlighted as a communication success, in that members took active part in those discussions, which ultimately led to a cooperative and successful outcome with the B&G Club leadership seeking more community involvement via NWONA. The Club shared its most recent plans at a forum in September, and vowed to keep the neighborhood informed as it moves forward with its design and construction process. Erica called Rip Heminway to come forward to present on the new *NextDoor* neighborhood communication system. Many neighbors are already using the system, and Rip explained how it works for those not using it, explained the purposes of "groups," and how to set privacy controls and frequency of notifications.

Building community/meeting neighbors: NWONA has spearheaded initiatives under this heading, including maintenance and ongoing improvements at the Mad Thom Park and an Earth Day event at Garfield Nature Trail to remove ivy and garbage. Erica reminded neighbors that there is still more to be done at the Park, including building more seating and herb/vegetable beds.

NWONA did not carry out any of the ideas identified under "**Safety & mutual support.**" These will be discussed in the planning for next year. For the "**Local agriculture, gardening & home-improvement support**" category, many of those items can now be addressed by creating "groups" within the NextDoor system.

Pathways: Kerry Tarullo, Transportation Associate Planner of the *Neighborhood Pathway Project* informed the group that the City has funding (\$125,000 annually) available to develop safe and attractive pathways on public lands that provide safer and more direct passage between areas of the neighborhood. An informational meeting about this project funding will be held November 15, 2012 from 6-8 pm at City Hall. Preliminary applications are due November 30, 2012. Projects that pass the preliminary application process will be invited to apply for funding in April 2013. Erica also pointed out the sign-up sheet for those interested in joining the group responsible for putting together the applications.

Placemaking: Erica introduced Dorothy Gist to review various place-making/community building ideas. Dorothy described the "Little Free Library," "Poetry Post," "Resting Bench," and

kayak storage ideas. She reminded folks to volunteer during the sign-up time at the end of the meeting.

Visioning for Next Year: Susan returned to facilitate the planning effort for next year, and started with a review of last year's unfinished business. There was general agreement to work those tasks in via NextDoor communication.

For new initiatives, the following were identified, along with leaders:

- (1) **Beautiful Sign for Entrances to NW Neighborhood:** Kendra Sawyer, Susan Tuzzolino
- (2) **Food/H2O Security:** Michael Cousino
- (3) **Block Party: Love Our Local:** Paula Connelley, Michael Cousino, Leon Janssen, Susan Tuzzolino, Joseph Becker, Mikaela Stine
- (4) **CERT Training for Disaster Preparedness:** Linda Hansen

The following ideas were also noted:

Report to City dangerous problem of three-way stop on the corner of Rogers and Bowman; develop means to have ongoing, regular meetings with City of Olympia Staff; invite the Boys and Girls Club staff and board to a softball game to welcome them to the neighborhood.

Treasurer's Report & Vote on Dues: In the absence of the treasurer, it was reported that NWONA has approximately \$2500 in its savings account.

As required in the by-laws, the membership voted on dues for next year. The following levels were approved:

\$15/per person/year -- standard

\$25/per person/year -- sustaining

"pay what you can" to replace "low income"

"unable to pay, but please keep me involved by sending me emails"

There was a question about why the by-laws state that membership is by individual and not by household. Board members responded that the by-laws were framed in that way in the same way the Co-op does: that each person should be responsible for deciding for himself/herself to become a member. They further clarified that with the new structure, each individual can choose if and how much they want to pay, so there should be no financial impediment to becoming a "member," but the intention on each person's part should be clear. The board's goal is to seek involved members.

Dorothy Gist made a motion to approve the new dues, Rip Heminway seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Other By-laws Changes and Discussion: Larry Leveen made a motion to modify the language in Article 9 of the by-laws to require that a "financial report" instead of a "budget" be presented annually to the members at the annual meeting. Mary Nelson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Larry Leveen also noted that the by-laws state that individuals must be present at the annual meeting to be elected to the board and further that an individual board member may be removed by a vote of 67% of the board.

Election of Board Member for 2012-13: The following were nominated from the floor to serve on the board of NWONA for the next year: Jean Mead, David Mosely, Leon Janssen, Erica Guttman, Cathy Visser, Mary Nelson, Rip Heminway, Dorothy Gist, Jerry Parker, Susan Tuzzolino, Scott Bishop, and Susan Burgoon. The slate was unanimously approved.

Next Steps: Erica called the meeting to a close and reminded everyone to visit the various sign-up sheets around the room to join committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.