

MINUTES
NORTHWEST OLYMPIA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Monday, April 22, 2013

Board members present: Erica Guttman, President; Rip Heminway, Vice President; Cathy Visser, Secretary; Susan Tuzzolino, Scott Bishop, Jerry Parker and Jean Mead. Liaison to SWONA: Leon Janssen.

Semi-Annual Business Meeting Recap:

Erica asked for feedback about the April 9th NWONA bi-annual business meeting. Overall, members felt that the meeting was a success – it was well attended (about 75 people came) and promoted community participation. Participants were asked to sign in and share their contact info/email addresses. Cathy has the sign-in sheets at this time. She will get them to Rip so he can add emails to the NWONA email contact list, check them against the NextDoor contact list and invite additional folks to sign up for NextDoor. Leon will explore “Mail Chimp” email service as a possible way to improve efficiency and ease in emailing people. Mail Chimp is designed specifically for group emails and is less likely to be filtered out by settings that block spam.

Susan T. felt that people were able to gravitate toward their interests rather than sit through things they may not be so interested in hearing about. Erica felt that we were able to have rich conversations around a variety of topics in a relatively short amount of time. There was obvious community engagement and networking occurring, so much so that Leon opted not to do his planned engagement exercise at the beginning of the business meeting. The group is in agreement that more informal small-group sessions are a good way to go in the future.

One suggestion from a community member at the meeting was for improved neighborhood resiliency/emergency preparedness planning, with a specific interest in creating a community root cellar. The contact is Diane Grace at (360) 705-2026; she is currently working on a blueprint around these issues that should be available later this spring or early summer. At that point, we will likely invite her to a special meeting with neighbors who want to work on this topic, and we hope she'll be interested in tabling at the summer festival.

By-Laws: Leon Janssen asked if he could officially be noted as the designated liaison to SWONA, and the board agreed. The exercise of carefully reviewing our by-laws recently revealed that NWONA by-laws require members to live in the neighborhood. Since we have two board members who don't live within the neighborhood boundaries, we are providing special "liaison" designation so that we can all still collaborate as neighbors, benefit from attendance at meetings and help us build cross-neighborhood ties. Thus, Leon will be the NWONA liaison to SWONA and Susan Burgoon, if she's willing, will serve as Bing/Sunrise Neighborhood liaison.

Summer Fun Fest: At the business meeting on April 9th, Susan and Leon hosted the Fun Fest table. The event will be held on July 28. Several people signed up to help with the event. Susan sent out a “Doodle” poll afterward to folks that signed up to help. She is hosting a meeting tomorrow night, April 23rd at 5:30 pm at Traditions to engage folks to work on the summer party. She has the application necessary for renting the ball field. The application specified that we must present a certificate of insurance. She is not comfortable signing the application until

NWONA resolves the insurance issue. Erica suggested that we bring the question of liability insurance to the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (CNA) to see what other neighborhoods do in this instance. Rip will send a message to the CNA board, and Rip as we have the same questions about whether we would need insurance for Mad Thom Park as well. Scott suggested that Susan T. ask the NE Neighborhood Association how they insure their annual Love our Local event. Erica suggested that we look into the price for single-event insurance. She will provide Susan T. with a contact and Susan will inquire about the cost to provide this one-time event insurance. The group asked Susan to fill in the application, include her name, but not sign it. She will include a note saying that we are working on securing insurance for the event. Jean Mead has the application for the street closures -- more details to come on this issue next month. Jerry Parker asked that we request a volunteer attorney from the neighborhood so we can run questions by him or her, but a decision was not made to do this.

Pathways Project: It appears that we will receive two City of Olympia Pathway's Grants for pathway improvements -- one at Scammel and one on Woodard. More information about these projects will be posted on NWONA and NextDoor in the near future. It's uncertain if we'll receive the full funding we requested or not; review is still underway.

Mad Thom Pocket Park Grant: Erica announced that NWONA is likely to be awarded our full grant request through the matching grant to continue improvements at Mad Thom Park; funding is pending Council approval on May 7. Jerry asked how we plan to proceed to get folks involved in the design and implementation phase of this grant, which includes raised garden beds and additional seating. Erica suggested that Jerry set a couple of dates for such meetings and then advertise on NextDoor to encourage neighbors to help. Jerry agreed to do this.

Coalition of Neighborhood Associations Update -- Erica received some graffiti vests from the City that can be worn when folks are removing and covering up graffiti. This helps prevent confusion about what folks are doing when they are cleaning up the neighborhood. Erica will post the availability of the vests on NextDoor and see if anyone is interested in using them.

Wood Moisture Meters Available:

At the business meeting, Dan Nelson of Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency left moisture meters with us to be used to help people determine if wood is dry enough to burn. Wet wood causes more pollution and increases the risk of respiratory issues. Rip agreed to hold onto the moisture meters and make them available to the community. He will post their availability on NextDoor, once he retrieves them from Dorothy.

Summer Work Parties: Jean Mead reported that six people signed up to help with the poetry posts. For the little free library, five people signed up -- both carpenters and artists; three people signed up for general place making -- one specifically interested in the kayak storage at West Bay Park. When we explored this in the past, concerns about the kayak storage were around liability, among other things. Jean said that it is important that someone take a lead on managing the little libraries. Jean and Dorothy will get together to discuss how to proceed in mid-May. In the meantime, Jean will send a note to the people who signed up at the recent meeting and in October to let them know that they will be contacting them again soon to move these projects forward. Susan T. suggested a Doodle poll to get a meeting going. The goal is to have at least

one poetry post and one library functioning by the Fun Fest on July 28, 2013. Jean will let Cathy know if she needs help finding the information on those who signed up on October. Susan and Erica offered to help Jean if she needs support for setting up a Doodle poll.

Request about Boys & Girls Club Project: NWONA was asked by a community member to respond about the NWONA position on the Boys and Girls Club. NWONA does not take a position on these types of issues, but rather facilitates communication and support for citizens to engage in the City's processes, as was discussed at our last bi-annual business meeting – and as is now reflected in the recently revised by-laws.

May NWONA meeting: We would normally meet on May 27th, but that is Memorial Day. Rip will do a Doodle poll to see if folks can meet May 20th, 21st or 22nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.