

MINUTES
NORTHWEST OLYMPIA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SEMI-ANNUAL ALL-NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Board members present: Erica Guttman, President; Rip Heminway, Vice President; Dorothy Gist, Secretary; Cathy Visser, Secretary; Susan Tuzzolino; David Moseley; Jean Mead and Scott Bishop.

Approximately 69 neighbors attended.

The meeting was held at Jefferson Middle School. There was a chance to meet neighbors, share food and peruse topic tables.

Topic tables included: Pathways; Summer FunFest 2014 planning; placemaking; Olympia Planning processes (shorelines and comprehensive plan) staffed by Todd Stamm of City of Olympia; West Central Park; and community safety/policing (staffed by Amy Stull and Lt. Bill Wilson of Olympia Police Dept.).

Treasurer's Report:

07/05/13	Honeybuckets Puyallup	-140.00		2,951.33
07/22/13	Event Pro (generator, fuel, stage cover	-172.00		2,779.33
07/29/13	Ck# 0111- Dorothy Gist for weed burner	-50.67		2,728.66
07/31/13	Deposit interest		0.22	2,728.88
08/05/13	Ck# 0112- Susan Tuzzolino (Fest insurance, chalk, paint)	-150.25		2,578.63
08/05/13	Ck#0113- Kendra Sawyer (printing for Fun Fest)	-105.81		2,472.82
08/06/13	Ck#0114- Olympic Mountain Ice Cream	-96.98		2,375.84
08/07/13	Ck#0115- Mike Cousino (Fun Fest games prizes	-33.70		2,342.14
08/09/13	Ck#0116- Nicholson Insurance (Pathways)	-638.13		1,704.01
08/31/13	deposit interest		0.17	1,704.18
09/03/13	Deposit: City of Olympia reimbursement for Ck#0116		638.13	2,342.31
09/30/13	deposit interest		0.14	2,342.45
10/24/13	deposit 1 dues check		25.00	2,367.45

President's Report: Erica introduced NWONA Board members, thanked everyone for attending, and introduced those staffing topic tables. She touched on some of the community projects completed or in progress over the past year and encouraged everyone to visit the topic tables, including the Pathways Project, West Central Park, Community Safety/Policing, Fun Fest Neighborhood Party, Placemaking and Communications. She reminded folks that NWONA has two primary ways to communicate with the neighborhood: The NWONA website and email list and Nextdoor.com. She reminded neighbors that our main goal is to expand communication and participation in neighborhood activities. Thus, we would like everyone to be part of NWONA regardless of their ability to pay. However, she encouraged neighbors who are able to pay dues at whatever level they can afford. The funds gathered through dues are used for events like the Fun Fest, food at our annual meetings, and as matching fund for grant applications for community projects such as Pathways, pocket-park development, etc.

Erica gave a brief overview of recent NWONA-sponsored accomplishments.

- Pathways Project: We received two City grants to create safe and functional non-motorized pathways at Scammel and Woodard. We're the only neighborhood in Olympia to be following through on two grants.
- Over the past two years, Mad Thom Pocket Park was built with community support and small City grants. Designs for more seating and planters have been developed by Jerry Parker and we now need neighbors to engage in carrying them out with funding provided by the City through a grant we wrote. This past summer, the neighborhood focused on sheet mulching along the street around the new fruit trees and shrubs to eliminate the need for regular mowing that had been provided by kind neighbors for years in that area.
- The Summer Fun Fest was a major accomplishment. NWONA funds were used for the project.
- Transportation: two new crosswalks are still in the making. About two years ago, SWONA and NWONA lobbied the City for safer crossings on Harrison and the City responded with plans for two new lighted crosswalks. These crossings were supposed to have been installed by the end of October. NWONA will continue to follow up on this with the City to understand what is happening in the process now.
- Placemaking: We've had little libraries, benches and poetry posts being planned and/or built in the community.
- We amended our by-laws around the collection of dues and frequency of meetings.
- We co-hosted a community forum with SWONA on community safety and policing.

Board Nominations:

Rip Heminway asked for nominations from the floor and the following volunteered: Dorothy Gist, Erica Guttman, Rip Heminway, Cathy Visser, Jean Mead, Susan Tuzzolino, David Moseley, Dan Einstein, Scott Bishop, Jerry Parker and Erin Volz. There was a motion and a second to accept the slate of Board members; a vote was taken and all were in favor.

Pathways Project, Daniel Einstein: Daniel discussed the Woodard Project and the Scammel Pathways project. These projects are overseen by the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). There will be ongoing grants available for future projects. If you have an informal pathway near you that you'd like to see improved for pedestrians, consider writing a grant to do so. The Woodard project has complexities such as utilities, drainage and steep slopes. To date, the neighborhood has put in about 250 volunteer hours. The project is on hold for now for the winter since it's not safe to work the slopes during the wet months; work will resume in the spring. Daniel and other volunteers put down straw waddles and silt fencing to help prevent run off. The goal is to complete this project by fall 2014.

Summer Fun Fest, Susan Tuzzolino

Susan thanked everyone who participated in the Fun Fest, which was held the last Sunday of July, with special thanks to the small committee that carried out all the planning and implementation. The second annual Summer Fun Fest (2014) will be held the last Sunday of July as well. She would like to know what the neighborhood wants to happen at the Fun Fest and how each person might help make it happen. She encouraged people to sign up to help--the event is not possible without contributions from a dedicated group of core volunteers.

Placemaking, Jean Mead

Jean said that placemaking seems to be unfolding in more informal vs. formal ways, e.g., folks aren't interested in formal meetings on this issue, but little free libraries are popping up in the neighborhood. If you want information and ideas, see Jean. She encouraged folks to sign up to help with placemaking.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m., and participants continued visiting until about 7:50 p.m.

The November NWONA meeting will be held on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Woodard Co-housing community room.