

NWONA Board Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2014

Board Members Present: Erica Guttman, President; Rip Heminway, Vice-president; Dorothy Gist, Treasurer; Scott Bishop; Bruce Coulter; Zach Osborn; Jerry Parker; Susan Tuzzolino; Kendra Sawyer; Andy Carter; Monica Gockel; David Moseley
Excused: Cathy Visser, Secretary; Daniel Einstein.

Other Neighbors: Otavio Lima

(1) **Review Bylaws:** Rip handed out bylaws and reviewed NWONA's purpose as stated in the bylaws. Erica gave background on how our purpose came about. Jerry noted that we should clarify in writing that we don't take positions but empower individuals to do so. We discussed possibly adjusting our boundary definitions *vis-a-vis* West Bay. Our original boundaries were set prior to the establishment of West Bay Neighborhood Association; thus, our stated boundary on the east side goes to the shore of Budd Inlet.

We decided to explore this discussion in the future. Rip will bring a big map to the next meeting.

Another point arose for future discussion: whether we want to ask for actual "dues" or just contributions. This topic was added to the bylaws-discussion agenda item at the next meeting.

(2) **Monthly meeting expectations & agenda setting; meeting dates:** We currently meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 pm in Garfield Library, with these exceptions: a different date in May if there's a conflict with Memorial Day; either no meeting or an earlier meeting in December; no August meeting. Meetings in June and July take place elsewhere, TBD (likely at Page Street Cafe in 2015 pending approval). Meetings last one to one-and-a-half hours. For the remainder of this year, we have reserved Garfield Library for December 15 and May 18; all others are the fourth Mondays.

Rip proposed that we set an agenda and promote it to the whole neighborhood about a week in advance. Everyone concurred. He will take responsibility for making this happen.

Rip will also post meeting/agenda information in the primary NextDoor stream to remind the whole neighborhood about meetings.

Rip set up a new NextDoor group to promote communication amongst board members specifically. Individual communications will show up for anyone who is a member of that group as part of their NextDoor stream, but everything we write there will be visible by the entire neighborhood.

(3) **Elections:** Dorothy Gist is willing to serve as treasurer for one more year. Monica might want to learn about it for taking it on next year, so will possibly shadow Dorothy. Dorothy was unanimously elected to continue. Cathy has volunteered to be secretary again. She was unanimously re-elected. Erica and Andy volunteered to be co-vice-presidents; everyone agreed. Erica nominated Rip to be president; all were in favor. Rip and Erica agreed either of them would be sure to participate in the Coalition of Neighborhood Association (CNA) meetings the second Monday of every month.

(4) **NextDoor Leads:** Rip asked for volunteers to be additional leads on NextDoor, as he is the only lead for our neighborhood: Kendra, Erica, and Susan all volunteered. Rip suggests we all discuss issues as they arise. Rip agreed to add these three as additional leads. Dorothy asked that the whole board help steer conversations in more positive directions.

Andy suggested that we add maintaining productive communication on NextDoor to the agenda next time to discuss. He'll prepare some talking points for next time.

(5) **Membership rolls:** We need to clarify who has responsibility -- the secretary or treasurer -- to maintain the membership rolls and add new names to our gmail list/invite them to join NextDoor.

We need to have an overall list of who wants to be a member.

Dorothy will follow up with Cathy about what she does with the information from Dorothy after the treasurer receives checks. Scott volunteered to assist with creating the database.

Andy asked that we discuss having a "real" membership list. He could help with this. We need to clarify what it means to be a "member" of NWONA vs. just living in the neighborhood vs. being on NextDoor. This should be a

(6) **Updates on neighborhood initiatives:**

(A) Pathways: In Daniel's absence, Erica provided an update on the Woodard project. NWONA once again purchased liability insurance, and will be reimbursed by the City. The planting on October 19th was successful in getting all plants into the ground. Erica would like to do additional planting over the winter (mostly snowberry live stakes and possibly more strawberry ground covers) and the whole area still needs to be thoroughly mulched. Daniel is working on getting additional loads of mulch and he and Erica will work together to create another work party where mulching is the main focus. Erica thanked Andy & Vivian Carter for hosting the event and providing snacks, and also noted that WSU Native Plant Salvage volunteers provided a lot of support for the planting.

The City will be finalizing their funding on this project soon; Daniel is preparing a budget for fencing supplies.

Erica recommends that we schedule work parties in advance for the whole year to stay on top of maintenance for the pathway.

The Scammel St. pathway is still on our agenda when we are ready to move forward with it with City assistance.

(B) Pocket Park: Erica noted that there are several outstanding obligations to the City under our block grant from the City for completing infrastructure on the Madison/Thomas pocket park, including:

- (i) Sign: Kendra offered to make a wood-burned sign. We need to resolve the name issue. Rip suggests we incentivize the naming. Susan suggests that we ask Garfield students to name it. Members discussed that it would be nice to recognize our history. Zach volunteered to check with Michael Olson for some history. Deb Ross wrote a book about the Schneiders; Dorothy will ask her for ideas.
- (ii) More seating areas and herb planting beds: Rip and Daniel are still planning to work on the benches and planters. Zach, David, Scott and Susan all volunteered to help. Jerry will still help as he can, given his injuries.

Erica will re-send the original grant proposal to all board members.

(7) **Neighborhood Centers**: City of Olympia wants to support pedestrian-friendly neighborhood economic centers. Jerry pointed out that our neighborhood, North East Neighborhood Association, and Wildwood stand as models. In our neighborhood, the Olympia Food Coop and Page St. Cafe are an example of a neighborhood center; in NENA, it's the San Francisco St. Bakery area.

The City is accepting comment until October 28th at <http://olyspeaks.org>. There will be a Planning Commission meeting at which people can make comments: Monday, Nov 17, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

(8) **Local Business on Website**: Scott asked if NWONA should have a searchable function to allow business owners who live in our neighborhood or conduct business in our neighborhood to post on our website.

The board generally liked the idea, with the following additions:

- (a) We post a disclaimer. Andy will write the disclaimer.
- (b) Susan and Dorothy suggested a sponsorship idea, in order to raise funds for musicians for Summer Fun Fest.

Andy made a motion that directs Scott to promote businesses on the website. We will have two tiers of promotion: one for businesses that sponsor FunFest and the other for those who don't offer financial support, but want to be recognized as local businesses.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Rip directed Andy and Scott to come up with a proposal and implement it. Kendra volunteered to create a special sponsorship banner to identify those who provide financial support. NextDoor will be a big part of marketing. We can also use our gmail list. The City has a list of home businesses, which will likely be a good starting point.

(9) Treasurer's Report: We collected approximately \$558 in dues at the annual meeting; meeting expenses were \$182. After the City reimburses us the cost of liability insurance for the Pathways project (pending), our account will stand at \$2185.

(10) Annual Meeting Thank Yous: Susan Tuzzolino graciously volunteered to write thank-yous to these businesses for their support at the annual meeting: Dino's and Tora brought coffee. The Coop provided salad (ask Dan who made the salad so they get special thanks). Vic's provided four free pizzas.

(11) Informing the City on City-wide topics: It was articulated that we could and should do a better job informing the neighborhood of city-wide initiatives, municipal code and budget realities. We did not have time for this full discussion but everyone agreed that this should be an agenda item for the November meeting. Susan agreed to send out the notes from the annual meeting as a place to start with this conversation.

Adjourn: 8:30 p.m. Reminder: Next meeting is November 24th in Garfield library.