

**Final Minutes
NWOA Board Meeting
November 24, 2014**

Board Members Present: Rip Heminway, President; Cathy Visser, Secretary; Bruce Coulter; Kendra Sawyer; Susan Tuzzolino, Monica Gockel, Daniel Einstein & Zach Osborn.

Excused: Erica Guttman, Vice President; Anthony Carter, Vice President, Dorothy Gist, Secretary, Jerry Parker, David Moseley

Treasurer's Report, emailed in advance by Dorothy Gist:

09/30/15	Deposit interest		0.14	1,809.52
10/17/14	Ck# 133 - void	0.00		1,809.52
10/14/14	Deposit City of Olympia reimbursement		3,453.81	5,263.33
10/17/14	Ck# 134 Out on a Limb (Woodard Trail work)	-3,453.81		1,809.52
10/19/14	Ck#135 - Nicholson Insurance (Liability ins)	-638.13		1,171.39
10/27/14	Deposit dues collected at Oct semi-annual mtg		558.00	1,729.39
10/27/14	Ck# 136 - Susan Tuzzolino for semi-annual mtg pizza	-166.94		1,562.45
10/27/14	Ck# 137 - Cathy Visser or semi-annual mtg beverages	-15.23		1,547.22
10/31/14	Deposit interest		0.12	1,547.34
11/06/14	Deposit City of Olympia reimbursement for Insurance		638.13	2,185.47

Neighborhood boundary definitions -

A discussion of NWOA boundaries ensued. Rip will bring the map to the January meeting. In general, the back side of the West Bay Drive homes serves as the eastern border, Division St as the western side, Harrison Ave as the south boundary and Crestline as the northern boundary of NWOA. Some members wondered about including other sections of our area in NWOA, e.g., Elliot Drive or Evergreen apartments. Rip will inquire as to the process for changing the boundary with the City.

Membership, Dues collection, Bylaw discussion – The NWOA by-laws state that you have to live in the neighborhood, be 18 or older and have potential to pay the dues to be a member of NWOA, yet we do not have a good process for maintaining an accurate up-to-date membership list. The purpose of NWOA is not clear and how dues will be used is not clearly communicated. Rip was under the understanding that the City has asked us on grant applications for membership numbers. What should be our basis if we don't maintain an accurate active roster? Members present agreed that we should look into how best to accurately track and update the membership roster. Rip suggested that we send out a member list annually and ask folks if they want to opt out or continue. Someone suggested having a way to pay for a lifetime membership, plus memberships at different levels...or at any amount. Susan suggested that dues are important and that all voting members should pay them. She suggested a minimum of \$5 per person per year – and more for those who can afford it. The question came up again about what is the role of NWOA: to take a stand on an issue or to just bring issues forward and then remain neutral. The City does ask us at the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (CNA) meetings and on other occasions about the NWOA position on issues. Given our limited

meeting time and the importance of this issue, Rip suggested that we continue discussion on the issue at the January meeting. Rip would like to have our role more clearly defined so we know how to deal with emergent issues in the neighborhood. Scott suggested a NWONA retreat – possibly a Saturday afternoon for 4 hours. Several members were in favor and a retreat will be planned at the December and/or January meeting to deal with this issue, which has come up every year for several years.

NextDoor moderation strategy – How can we moderate NextDoor effectively? Terms of use indicate many appropriate online behaviors. Some people pulled out of NextDoor after a heated discussion several months ago. At present, Rip, Erica, Susan and Kendra are leads in monitoring the forum. Rip encouraged caution in removing people or conversations because we are reading into intentions when we read posts and intentions are not something we can know in an online environment. He suggests that those moderating the forum consult with each other before acting on a post. He also thinks we should contact the person and let them know what their posts sounds like, and then give them the chance to modify their post, or redirect the conversation directly in the thread as a way to correct the conversation.

Plan for informing the neighborhood on City-wide initiatives – Jerry Parker wanted this on the agenda so, when public meetings come up, we can ensure someone attends to represent NWONA. Rip suggested that we post these in the NWONA Board section of NextDoor to see if someone can attend. Susan asked if we couldn't post this in the general section of NextDoor. The CNA meetings are monthly and Rip agreed to attend regularly.

Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee public forum – The City of Olympia commissioned a feasibility study for potential new properties for parks. The City is presenting these proposals. It's an opportunity to express your desire for parks. Daniel stated that there is a meeting on December 3rd at Jefferson Middle School at 6 pm. There will be another forum at the Olympia Center December 4th at 6 pm in room 200.

NWONA Grant proposal – Rip proposed that we create a small grant process with NWONA funds to do small neighborhood projects. We agreed to discuss the details of this potential grant opportunity at a later meeting or at the retreat.

Naming the Pocket Park – Zach interviewed an elder in the neighborhood who suggested naming the park after a person like the woman who was the Principal at Garfield Elementary for 30 years. Susan reminded the group that Dorothy had sent out an email overviewing the research she had done on park names. Since we do not yet have our NWONA membership structure in place, Rip suggested putting together a Survey Monkey survey with name options and then putting a link to the survey on NextDoor for a vote. Zach will put together the suggested names to date and Rip will draft the survey so that anyone in Nextdoor can vote for the name.

CNA– Rip reported that there was a smaller than usual group. Daniel gave a presentation about the heronry. Other presentations were on the Village Convergence Project, which is

about creating community space. Scott is part of this group and will bring more info about it to a future meeting. Other presentations were on neighborhood center projects and the City of Olympia stewardship project.

Pathways Project, Daniel – Daniel drew up specifications for a split rail fence. The City is going to pay for it. Some additional weeding needs to be done and woodchips need to be laid out. He feels we need one more work party before winter really sets in. He suggested that we have a platform at the top so people with limited mobility can stop at the top of the path and enjoy the view. In the future, Daniel suggests that we install more rain gardens in our neighborhood to help protect fish habitat.

Pocket Park, Rip – Rip and Daniel are purchasing supplies before the end of the year grant deadline for herb beds and will initiate the construction project. They will let everyone know when the work party will be held.

Adjourn: 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be the third Monday, i.e., December 15th rather than 4th Monday since some folks will be on vacation during the holiday season. Planning a NWONA retreat and reviewing topics brought forward by the community at the October meeting will be on the December agenda.