

**DRAFT Minutes
NWOA Board Meeting
December 15, 2014**

Board Members Present: Rip Heminway, President; Erica Guttman, Vice President; Dorothy Gist, Treasurer; Cathy Visser, Secretary; Bruce Coulter; Kendra Sawyer; Monica Gockel, Joseph Becker & Zach Osborn.

Members Absent: David Moseley, Daniel Einstein, Scott Bishop, Jerry Parker, Susan Tuzzolino, and Andy Carter.

Guest: Pat Rasmussen, VBC

Secretary's report, Cathy Visser: Each month draft minutes are sent out via email to Board Members for review and comment. Changes are made if necessary and the minutes are then considered approved, then posted on the NWOA website and on NextDoor.com.

Treasurer's Report, Dorothy Gist: The only transaction in the past month was the November interest of .09 cents.

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
11/30/14	Deposit interest		0.09	2,185.56

Village Building Convergence presentation, Pat Rasmussen

Pat is visiting neighborhood associations in Olympia to promote the VBC, which is a collaboration of neighborhood place-making projects and community-wide events, not an organization. VBC started in Portland about 15 years ago. The goal is to create a sustainable web of neighborhoods. West Central Park is a good example of place making. In August 2015, VBC will help synchronize projects throughout the community, and then coordinate a gathering in the evening so participants can share food, singing and dance. At the end of the 10-day event, "Love our Local Fest" will cap off the event. Another aspect of VBC is teaching skills like beekeeping. Pat is working with the City to review underdeveloped parks and to support small upgrades like new tables and seating. She encouraged NWOA to submit small project proposals to the City of Olympia and to VBC as they will also have some funds available. Scott Bishop was identified as the NWOA lead on projects that could connect with VBC based on previous experience working with VBC and GRuB.

NWOA Board Retreat planning:

Potential dates were discussed. Rip will put out a Doodle poll to the community proposing January 10 or February 1st from 9 a.m. until 12:30 pm to see which date works best for the most people. Agenda items will include: 1) Membership – how to structure, charge and manage it. 2)

Neighborhood Communication – if you're a member, what type of communication do you receive, plus what to expect from NWONA via NextDoor, NWONA Gmail and the website. 3) NWONA Board role definition. Rip asked if someone would help draft a retreat outline and get an email out about the retreat. Dorothy Gist and Monica Gockel will work on this. Rip felt that more than one person could facilitate the retreat. Bruce recommended a timekeeper, and Cathy volunteered. The group agreed that we needed to have clear tangible goals for the retreat in advance. 4) We will also review feedback from the October bi-annual NWONA meeting, ideally with Susan Tuzzolino's support.

Pocket Park Update

The City Neighborhood Block Grant that is funding improvements at the Pocket Park will term December 31. Erica oversaw the original grant submission and checked in with Rip to hear the progress he and Daniel have made finalizing construction plans. The original funding was slated for additional seating in the area with oyster shells, an herb garden in the front area as a buffer from the street, a sign, and secured rain barrels/cistern to collect water for irrigation. We need to provide all our receipts to the City by the end of the year. We have budgeted \$450 for the herb beds, \$2200 for soil, \$750 for seating/benches, \$300 for signage and \$400 for rain barrels. Rip and Daniel will ensure that all purchases for the seating and herb beds are made by the end of the year. They have a shared spreadsheet with a list of all materials needed but haven't had time to make all of the material purchases. Kendra has agreed to be the sign artist, and Joseph has wood to sell to NWONA for the sign. Joseph also has a stockpile of urbanite. Dorothy will check with Drew Phillips to see if the old Garfield cisterns might still be available. Erica has maintained volunteer-hour records for the past two years for all the work on the pocket park, and these will be used as "in-kind" for the grant.

Pocket Park Naming

Ideas for the park were discussed from past meetings and from a list of historical name ideas that Dorothy brought to the meeting. The group decided on NW Volunteer Park. Erica made a motion to accept the new name, Dorothy seconded the motion, all were in favor and there was no opposition to this new name! Yay! NW Volunteer Park it is!

CNA Report

Rip shared info from the meeting. He said that Chief Roberts discussed crimes mapping in the area. The NW neighborhood is a pretty safe neighborhood. A discussion around the best alarm systems came up. Chief Roberts said the best "alarm system" is good neighbors, knowing the patterns of your neighbors and being outside and present in your neighborhood. Rip will ask Chief Roberts to post a few paragraphs about his presentation on NextDoor. Erica stated that when the police spoke at our safety forum a few years ago, they reminded neighbors that while we want to be careful of profiling, we do want to report people who look suspicious or strung out, walking without purpose. Bruce asked about the type of permits required for by door-to-door salespeople. He will look for examples of what the permits look like so we can post a photo on NextDoor. Rip also had asked at the CNA meeting about the procedure for changing neighborhood boundaries. The CNA representative said that NWONA originally created the boundaries and can ask to modify them, especially for neighboring areas that are not already part of a neighborhood association, in which case those members would need to be consulted first.

Pathways update: Erica and Daniel have discussed the need to establish specific workdays well in advance for each of our projects so people can get them on their calendars. Maintenance is NWONA's contractual obligation. She and Daniel will discuss a few dates for 2015 and send them out to all neighbors. We are officially done with the Woodard Pathway project, though we still need to finish the mulching and do more weeding, so a workday will be needed there soon. We need a new lead for the Scammel pathway project. Enhancements are needed to define it as an acceptable and designated throughway, including fencing and privacy plants or a hedgerow. Kendra will explore the opportunity of leading the Scammel pathway project.

Grant Ideas: Kendra would like to explore getting more grants for neighborhood projects; however, she feels that this might best be addressed at the upcoming retreat.

Adjourn: 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be the January NWONA Board retreat and the exact date will be determined via Doodle poll. There will not be another meeting in January.