

**DRAFT Minutes  
NWOA Board Meeting  
February 23, 2015**

**Board Members Present:** Rip Heminway, President; Erica Guttman, Vice President; Cathy Visser, Secretary; Kendra Sawyer, Daniel Einstein, Scott Bishop and Monica Gockel.

**Absent:** Dorothy Gist, Treasurer; Bruce Coulter, Zach Osborn, David Moseley, Jerry Parker, and Susan Tuzzolino.

**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, the minutes are approved via email, then posted on the NWOA website and on NextDoor.com.

**Treasurer's Report:** Our current balance stands at \$2084.83, following the most recent expenses for the NW Volunteer Park.

**Current Project Updates:**

- **NW Volunteer Park** - Erica reported that we were approved for a \$900 carry forward on the grant from the City for the Pocket Park. Jerry, Daniel and Rip have purchased supplies for the table/seating and herb beds. With Joseph Becker's help, we ended up ordering a more long-lasting system for the beds that is accessible to those who can't bend over; it's a kit system we got at a discounted rate. Dan and Joseph got started building the first two of four beds. Joseph provided Kendra with a nice piece of cedar for the sign she is currently finishing for the park, now known as NW Volunteer Park.
- **Scammel Pathway Project** – This project is on hold because there has been no progress on the right-of-way issues as required to continue this pathway project. There was a proposal to see if the funds could be re-designated for another pathway project. Rip will contact Michelle at the City and update her on Scammel and ask her the best way to proceed.
- **Woodard Pathway** – We need to submit volunteer hours to the City for this project. Erica and Daniel were granted additional funding by the City for more ground cover strawberries and fence materials. We need to schedule some work parties for this project. We need to do a weeding, mulching and planting project. There are a few small erosion issues that need to be addressed. The group decided to try to gather folks to work on the path Saturday, March 28, when an Arbor Day project may already be taking place in parts of the Heronry. Dan will talk with the City about that, and Erica and Monica will work on recruiting volunteers to help.

**Upcoming grant opportunities and deadlines:**

- **Neighborhood Matching Grants** – The grant deadline is March 6, 2015 with a \$4000 limit. The summer Fun Fest is one possibility. Rip is going to email Susan Tuzzolino and ask her to take the lead on this grant. Erica also proposed that we ask for funding to design and build the overlook at the Woodard Pathway. Rip suggested that we hold off on this project until current work on the Woodard pathway is complete, especially given the scope of this project. All members present agreed to delay the Woodard overlook. Scott is going to approach the Village Building Convergence to request assistance in planning and designing the overlook project. Erica suggested that we do more outreach to the West

Bay Neighborhood Association, e.g., inviting them to the summer Fun Fest and trying to coordinate activities with them. Erica will send an email to Michelle and Sophie at the City to inform them of our plan to delay a funding request for the overlook and she will request advice about required engineering and planning needed for this project. It was suggested that we use VBC action to address additional projects at NW Volunteer Park, particularly developing an efficient, attractive, and vandal-resistant rainwater catchment system. Scott will take that idea to the VBC planners.

- **Pathways** – Monica will look into possibilities for upgrading the path on Jackson Avenue.

**City Elections – candidate forum ideas and plan** – Members were interested in having a candidate forum. Erica suggested that we hold a special meeting in collaboration with SWONA. We can introduce candidates at the April annual meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2014. We will schedule the candidate forum for May, possibly May 13<sup>th</sup> if that works for SWONA. Rip will speak with Bethany, President of SWONA to discuss potential days for the forum. He will also see if Garfield is available May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Website Changes** – We were able to recover the NWONA.org domain. Daniel has been working on updating our website. He will post a link to the draft website at Nextdoor.com for the NWONA Board to review (nwona.weebly.com). He asked that everyone review the content. He requested photos. The cost for hosting is \$6.95/month. Kendra will review the site for functionality and Scott will send Rip a download of all the past minutes and documents from the old site. Once the board approves the site, we will point the new domain name to this site and bring down the old site.

**Membership update, interim plan** – Monica Gockel, Membership Chair put all paid members onto a 2015 membership list. She will contact all people on the email list via email to ask who is interested in continuing to receive emails from NWONA – and she will remind them of our upcoming April 29th NWONA meeting. She will create an active and inactive email file. Monica will send a draft message to Rip and Erica for review before sending this out.

**Bylaws Update, process for finalizing** – Changes were made to the bylaws at the January 2015 retreat. The next step is to seek approval from the community on the proposed changes. Rip will send out a copy of the bylaws to the community with highlights on the changes and remind them that we will be voting on them at the April meeting.

**Other Business:** As a follow-up action item she was tasked with at the January retreat, Erica gave an update that she is working on a letter to the City leaders about neighborhood interest in supporting code changes to facilitate more tiny house/ADU construction. She spoke with a City planner to get background on how to proceed, and just needs the time to follow up. She will send that draft letter to the whole board for review prior to sending it to the City.

**CNA Update:** Rip reported that the last meeting promoted the sub-area planning group, which is looking at issues such as development and how ADUs affect neighborhoods. It was confusing about the impact this will have on NWONA. CNA leadership says that they want ground-up planning from neighborhoods. He'll bring more information to the next NWONA meeting.

**Adjourn and future meetings:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be March 23rd from 7-8:30 pm at the Garfield Elementary School library at which Rip suggested that we spend time planning the April meeting. Rip will check to make sure that the May meeting time will work for everyone, as our regular date falls on Memorial Day. Erica reserved May 18th (the preceding Monday) as a placeholder when she reserved the library for the year. We need to be sure that day will work for all.