

# NGNA Board Meeting Minutes

2019-11-18

Call to order 18:06

Establish quorum – Attendance Mike Elston, Linda Van Deusen-Price, Willy June, Linda Parashos, John Weigant, Kim Kovacs, guest: Jennifer Truxton

Minutes from the October 21 meeting were approved (Linda Van Deusen-Price motioned approval, Linda Parashos seconded, unanimously approved).

### Land Use Planning:

Mike asked if John was able to make the meeting. He said he showed up at the City Council chambers at 3:00 PM but found it was at City Hall instead. He got there at 3:02 and the public comment period had already closed. He stayed for the entire meeting. Council said they'd received a letter from the neighborhood association about a light at 185<sup>th</sup> and Marine Drive. There was some discussion as to who'd be responsible for the area, the City of Portland or the City of Gresham. Lina P said the slough to the river is the City of Portland, and so Gresham should be responsible for it. Mike said that Willy should call to find out; his impression was that the street was Gresham. Linda said just the east side of the street was Gresham. Willy will call.

Mike read an e-mail from Carol Rulla regarding a proposed draft for Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN) info. In the ENN there's a section about traffic: Changes to Surrounding Streets. In theory, residents can contact a project's planners, but Mike didn't feel it's ever been effective. He said that traffic comes up at every single ENN meeting but it never gets addressed; he thinks there's a disconnect. John added that there aren't any staff at the ENN, only developers, and they're supposed to inform staff but he doesn't think this happens. Linda P said she scrutinizes the minutes, and the City does do traffic impact studies. John said he'd go to the ENN meeting on 11/19 at 3:00 regarding the change in zoning from light industrial to a commercial corridor; the feeling is this will be a good thing since it'll be better than more empty warehouses.

### Park Project update

Mike is trying to get a hold of Ben Sanford regarding a new estimate, but he hasn't gotten back to him yet. The last conversation they had made it sound like they would have money left over. Mike would like to sit down with them again; he'd like a sketch of where things will go. He's thinking swings on one end, ADA on the other.

Mike has spoken to the Gresham Water Department and we are for sure getting a wellhead. It'll take four months to put it in. Mike suggested they start installing it next fall and go through the winter, and they were amendable to that. Because it'll be disruptive, they may give us money for sound blocks. John would like to talk them into a smaller pad, more like 30x30, but Linda P said she thinks he's looking at the very old equipment at the fire station. John wanted to know what the timeline was for changes to the water rates, since Gresham rates should go down after the installation of the wellhead; Mike said he didn't have information on that.

Linda V asked if we've included the cost of some sort of donor appreciation plaque? Do we need additional funds for this? Mike replied that it's been planned. Ben has a metal plaque that can't be trashed or torn down.

Mike spoke with Tina regarding the Wells Fargo grant. Tina felt the money would be deposited in the next day or two. That'll finalized all the funding, and then it's just a matter of Joe transferring the money from the City to the 501(c)3.

Linda mentioned that we may have dropped the ball re Fred Meyer, since sending a letter thanking them for their support this summer didn't happen. Kris F would know the manager's name. Linda will send Kim letterhead, and Kim will compose a letter to them.

Mike's looking at probably putting the park in in March. We'd want it open by late spring. Willie asked if there were any concerns about the concrete curing during the wetter weather, but Mike wasn't too worried about it.

#### NNO Survey Results: Compiled by John Parashos

Linda presented the information from the NNO Survey compiled by John Parashos. 15 or 16 people completed the survey. 75% said wanted to see a neighborhood recycling event or "clean up the garage day" or some such event. She thinks they were alluding to the old type of neighborhood cleanup up at Kirk Park with the dumpsters. 50% of those people wanted to have a fundraiser to have a slush fund for other events that might come up. 37.5% wanted a newsletter. 37.5% were in favor of establishing a team of volunteers, although it wasn't clear what type of volunteers they were looking for. Many people said they'd be happy to help with anything we had, but we didn't get names. On public meetings, 50% are "very likely" to attend the meetings. Since some of the NGNA board members completed the survey, it's possible we skewed it. Very low percentage said they'd be part of a volunteer committee. Suggestions for future activities: Block party; pancake breakfast; repair café (but there's already one scheduled for March); have a way to meet more of our African American neighbors; more events like NNO; movies at the park; organize 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. There was a comment suggesting we make NNO more diverse, but what that means wasn't specific. Most people are happy to receive e-mails, but no mention of NextDoor.

Linda V mentioned that these are all expensive. Willy asked if we have non-profit status; Mike explained.

Mike said Play-Grow-Learn is interested in getting opportunities in the park. Things like a movie night may be something we can coordinate with them. They're also interested in having sports activities there, maybe just having kids out there playing flag football. Linda P: something like Gresham's Summer Kids in the Park thing? Mike said yes.

Linda V said she likes all the ideas, but they're all costly. Mike said there may be funds available, but it also involves getting someone to coordinate. For example, Wilkes East got money to create a newsletter, but who actually does the work? Linda V feel the only way we can do it is if we get more matching funds. Linda P said their grant helps with the newsletters, but the city didn't pay for postage. Volunteers go out & hand deliver them. They also have businesses that advertise in the newsletter which may help with costs. It's quite an undertaking. Mike thinks that at least in today's world Nextdoor is the way they'll have to go.

Jennifer suggested a Facebook page. Linda P thinks that would help. Jennifer spoke at length about her experiences with it. Kim will give it a shot.

John asked that we read into the record a thank-you to John Parashos: "Thank you, John, for the survey, and for the community benefit of simply doing it." John made the motion; Willy seconded; approved unanimously.

#### NGNA Goals for 2020 –

Mike said that we *have* to get more people involved. He knows young people are busy, but we can't continue to rely on people in their 70s. Linda suggested using Facebook to really do a big push on selling the association to the neighborhood; use it to find out what people want. Mike agreed, and said we should see if Facebook would open more doors. The Play-Grow-Learn partnership may also help us grow. But over the next year we really need to concentrate on getting people to the meetings. Willy suggested having one of the meetings in the park. John mentioned moving the Board meetings there. Mike said we should shoot for having the June General Meeting in the park. Jennifer said she'd help with the Facebook postings. She also suggested an Easter egg hunt in the park.

#### Other business?

For the General Meeting, Linda P mentioned that she'd attended a Wilkes East Neighborhood Association meeting. Kelly Landavazo was a guest speaker on emergency preparedness, and she did a great job. She made it sound simple. She brought workbooks, and made quite an impression. She thinks she'd be an excellent presenter at our next General Meeting.

Mike is going to send the group an email from someone who's involved with an international hosting opportunity (short-term host – a couple of weeks - not long-term). It's lengthy, and may make a good Facebook post.

Linda P also mentioned that there were a lot of younger people at the Wilkes East meeting. Kris came up with the idea of, instead of just jumping into a position without any idea of what it entails, make them members-at-large so they can see how it all works and what's involved. Kim asked if we could only do that at the annual meeting or if it can be done at any time? Linda said it's an elected position. Mike expressed concern about having too many elected positions impacting the quorum, and though maybe calling it an "apprentice" position would be better – so not elected.

Willy asked what schools are in our neighborhood; the group said just Hartley Elementary. Linda P also mentioned that we're in the Reynolds School District, but that encompasses parts of Portland, Gresham, Fairview, Wood Village, and Troutdale.

Linda P mentioned that Ricky Ruiz will be running for Carla Paluso's seat in the House of Representatives, district 50 (we're in 51). Mike asked if Laurie Anderson will be running again, and Linda thought she'd be retiring. Both she and Carla have been in their positions a long time.

Meeting adjourned 6:53 (Linda P made the motion; Linda V seconded; unanimous vote to adjourn).

Next Board meeting is Monday, January 21 at 6:00 PM at the clubroom of Rockwood Village Condos, 18550 NE Wasco St. Portland Oregon, 97230