

[DRAFT] NGNA Board Meeting Minutes

2020-02-17

Call to order 6:05

Establish quorum – Attendance Mike Elston, Alesya Berkovich, Linda Van Deusen-Price, Linda Parashos, John Weigant, Kim Kovacs.

Minutes from the January 20, 2020 meeting were approved (Linda Van Deusen-Price motioned approval, Linda Parashos seconded, unanimously approved).

Park Project:

Mike tried to follow up on a number of park-related issues, but because it was president’s day no one was around. He’ll hit everyone tomorrow morning.

Right now, he’s thinking the playground build will wait until maybe mid-March, when the weather is better.

There’s a City Council meeting tomorrow. They have to change the Park Plan for the wellhead location. As soon as that’s in place, Mike will force the path issue. It’s important for the playground build. If the path the city is putting in is ADA-compliant, we can incorporate that in the playground design. It would save money if the city can take care of that, and Mike’s hoping it’ll be wider than what we have currently. John mentioned that he thought ADA-compliance was a given, but Mike wasn’t sure. He also wants to make sure it’s paved and not a dirt path.

The money has been handed off to Active Children. They want to help with the build, as does Nike. Mike wants to get the neighborhood involved as well.

Mike has no information about the timing of the wellhead drilling in spite of asking about it several times.

General Meeting:

Mike wanted to talk to Paula Long in The Dalles regarding the fliers for the meeting, but of course school’s out today. Mike sent her the info and told her we wanted to highlight the playground.

Mike’s hoping the drilling will begin before March 3; it would help with getting people to show up.

We changed the ending time of the General Meeting to 7:45 PM. It’s OK for it to run over a little bit, but we must be out by 8:00.

Mike spoke with Blanca regarding her presentation on the census. He was at a previous presentation she gave and it was 30 minutes – too long for our venue. Linda V. asked what kind of time she was allotted, and Kim replied 20 minutes with questions. Mike mentioned that this is about getting underserved populations involved with the census. He’d like the Latino Network folks to come to the meeting. He thought Blanca was good, but her presentation as-is wasn’t right for us.

Linda P. asked how much time was allotted for Ricki Ruiz, and Kim said it was the same. Linda mentioned that Lori Stegmann also spoke about the census when she was at our October meeting. Mike reiterated how important the census is to our community, and that we need to get the word out so people don't close their doors. A letter will go out first, asking people to respond online. Libraries will have helpers available for those who don't have easy access to the Internet. It should be pretty easy. They're still looking for people to assist. John went to one meeting and was told there's be a follow-up, but he has no idea when or where.

Alesya asked for clarification about the census, which led to a lengthy discussion of what it is, why it's done, and why it's important, especially to our neighborhood.

Mike asked whether we want to invite people running for office to speak at the meeting. Linda P mentioned that Wilkes East formed a policy, whereby if one person running for a specific office presents, then all individuals running for that office should be invited to speak as well. John stated that we could conceivably do that at one of our meetings. Mike asked how the City Council people are elected. Linda P replied that half run now, half later (they alternate). Some are running unopposed. Likely running this time around are Dave Dyk, Karylenn Echols (who said she was retiring, but we don't know that for sure) and Jerry Hinton, who is expected to run again. Linda P also mentioned that those in our area don't really know who State Representative for District 49, Chris Gorsek is, and she'd like to try to encourage him to visit our neighborhood.

Regarding the Land Use report for the meeting, Mike said he hadn't heard from Willy. He thinks he may have gotten a job and so may be too busy to help. Linda P said she's happy to fill in when necessary. Mike didn't think that there was much going on at this time.

We'll close the meeting with an open forum – "If you have something to say, now's the time to say it ..."

Linda P asked if Michael Gonzales will be in charge of opening and closing the building, and we confirmed that was the case. John mentioned that he'd been able to get his church for the June 1 meeting. Now that he's obtained general permission, we can hold meetings there any time the facility is free. One church member needs to be present, which isn't a problem since John's a member. If we have to bring someone in it's \$15/hour. Linda V asked why we're moving to a new location, and Linda P replied it was due to the budget (no funds to open the Rockwood Safety Facility after hours with City staff present).

Mike stated that between this meeting and the next we'll need to look into getting new signs. John said to just tell him what the signs need to say and he'll put something together.

National Night Out

Linda V asked if we want the same entertainment as last year, if it's the same price (\$200). They provided face painting and Elsa. Alesya said her children would like that. Linda P mentioned she thought they'd raised their prices last year, to \$250 or \$300. Linda V confirmed that and said they gave us a break last year. Mike added that we'll have the playground in by then for sure. Linda V also said she'd been in touch with Maggie Anderson from the North Central Neighborhood Association, since they always have a nice event and she runs the whole show. Their NNO event is massive, with games, pinatas, etc. She wondered if we could do balloon animals and face painting (Spiderman last year was a waste). Linda P mentioned that Erica at city hall is a great face painter. Linda V will get more information.

Linda V said Maggie's NA also does big burritos, which they cut in half. They have about 400 people attend. They also do salsa, chips and churros. She doubts whether that would be less expensive than what we've done in the past, though. Mike doesn't want to do Mexican, and would prefer we do chicken like last year. John asked about hot dogs, and Linda V said we'd need a food handler's license to do that. Alesya thought that maybe the license was free. Mike would like to stick with chicken, and suggested Linda V check with Fred Meyer. Linda said she doesn't like Fred Meyer's chicken, and Alesya agreed. Mike said we can just stick with Albertson's, then, but let's make sure we have enough food this time. Linda P asked how we predict how much we'll need? John felt we were too generous with the portions, but Linda thought Becca was pretty conscientious. Alesya asked about jojo's, and Linda V said we didn't have them, we had baked beans, coleslaw and chips. Kim mentioned that maybe we could get the chicken from Albertson's and ask Fred Meyer about other food. Alesya asked how much we spent on food last year, and Linda said \$400 on the chicken alone. Linda V said she'd contact Carol Brown, who has a food handler's license. Mike said we should think about it and discuss it more next month.

Other Business:

We're still trying to work with the Reynolds school district to have them help with the meeting posters. He found out he has to go through a background check to get in the building – he just did that for the VA and there were no problems – but he hasn't heard back from them regarding how to do that here. He'd like to move the poster production here, and use a local school. The graphics instructor at Reynolds High School was really high on the idea.

Linda V has the signs, which she'll put out on Tuesday or Wednesday morning. She'll also email John a picture of the sign so he can make a cover-up for any changes to it.

Linda P said that Michael Gonzales mentioned he has wire hangers for the signs. She went to the office to take a look at them; they're twice as heavy as the ones we currently have. Mike will contact him tomorrow when he's at City Hall. It seemed like no one at the coalition really wanted them, so he should be able to get a bunch. He'll get as many as he can, and what we don't use he'll take to the metal recyclers. Linda P will hand over the surplus "H"s she purchased from Lowe's after counting how many will be needed for the NNO signs .

John wanted to discuss his idea for minimizing traffic disruption due to construction. He said 185th is currently closed; they're digging up the road with big steam shovels, digging trenches. It's next to the cabinet shop building. John feels that a lot of these construction companies don't think the public has any value, and they don't mind putting in very long detours or leaving the road closed longer than necessary. He suggested that someone estimate the traffic count for the days the road is to be closed, and charge the construction company a per-day, per-car fee for the delay. Mike liked the idea, but didn't think it would fly, in fact, he wasn't even sure who to talk to about it. Mike will be a city hall tomorrow and will try to find out. John said he's work on a proposal and will get it to Mike tonight, although Mike suggested waiting until we know who to talk to about it.

Meeting adjourned 7:02 (Linda P made the motion; Linda V seconded; unanimous vote to adjourn).

The next general meeting is Monday, March 2 at 6:00 PM at the Rockwood Public Safety Facility, 675 NE 181st Ave, Portland, Oregon, 97230.

The next Board meeting is Monday, March 16 at 6:00 PM at the clubroom of Rockwood Village Condos, 18550 NE Wasco St., Portland, Oregon, 97230