

# [DRAFT] NGNA Board Meeting Minutes

2020-07-20

Call to order 6:05 PM

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

Approval of 7/2/2020 Minutes – So moved by Mike, seconded by John, unanimous approval.

Treasurer’s Report (Linda Van Deusen-Price) – We currently have \$169, and haven’t spent any money this year. We should get our check for the matching grant by the end of the month. Some will be spent on neighborhood signs, some on the playground dedication.

## Signs (John Weigant)

- He got some information from Michael Gonzales. He’d asked him for data and to put him in contact with the sign shop. It turned out that the sign he was looking at was so faded that he got the flower wrong. The sign that Michael sent had a much more complex flower. He’s hoping they’ll share the pattern with him. He’s not sure if we’re required to use the odd-shaped sign (24” x 30”) with a round cut on the top, which complicates the design. He does have a band-saw that he can get a metal-cutting blade for, but that’s more effort than he cares to put into it. So essentially, he’s still waiting for info from Michael Gonzales. Mike asked if Michael’s indicated he’s looking into it. John responded that it’s been a while since he’s heard from him, and will follow up.
- John feels we should plan to spend any funds on the playground celebration and then set aside the rest for signs. It’s his understanding that we’ll have to return any unspent funds. Linda V said that we’ve always had a little left over, but it just never goes back; she thinks it’s a decent sized chunk would need to be left over before you have to give it back. Mike believes that if we got the money for something specific and then that project fell through, then yes; right now, though, due to all the COVID restrictions in place, he thinks they’re likely to be more lenient.
- John would also like to talk to someone about a memorial bench his church installed at a property next to the church. They’ve decided to sell the property, so the bench needs to be relocated. He’ll talk to the church board about relocating it to the park, but he’s confident they’d be OK with that, and we could put a sign on it as well. Mike thought that there might be an issue with the Parks people. They want everything to be uniform. But it’s worth a try. Mike will be in contact with James Dunn tomorrow and he’ll ask him about that. He asked John for a picture of it, and John said he’d get him one.
- Kim mentioned that the last time we met (7/2) Mike and John were going to try to connect with someone from the sign department about specs for the signs, and wondered if that happened. John said it didn’t, so we still don’t know what the specs are. John will contact Michael Gonzales again to see if he can provide the info or provide the name of someone who can. Mike added that we’re still waiting to hear from them. He said he’d back John up; John will e-mail Michael & copy Mike, and then Mike will contact Michael as a follow-up.

- John added that this really isn't a high priority. It's something that would be nice to get done, but it's not urgent. Linda V. expressed a concern that we need to spend the money or lose it. Mike replied that the delay is on the city, since they're the ones who aren't providing the information.

#### Kirk Park

- Mike stated that with the increase in the virus, we tentatively set the playground build and dedication for August 29-30. We'll assess on August 15 to see if that's doable, based on the current virus spread. He knows it doesn't give us much time, but if we have to we'll delay it another month. That's all we can do; we have no control. Linda V. said that that will keep us from using the postcards to advertise it. Mike thought he could push Michael to do it in two weeks. Linda V. doesn't think Michael can work with that tight a timeframe. Mike will add that to the things he'll ask him tomorrow. Mike thinks that by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August we should have a better idea of what's going on.
- Mike asked if we could have a meeting around the 15<sup>th</sup> of August to discuss. Linda V preferred that we do it sooner. Our normal board meeting is 8/17, but how about moving it a week earlier, to August 10? Those present felt that would be a good date to meet.
- Linda P. mentioned that in the past the school district has printed the postcards, but the last couple have had to go to outside printing. So it would be nice to find out from Michael what resource they'll be using. Mike said that Michael said that they're not using the school for printing any more.
- Mike suggested we talk again on the 10<sup>th</sup> re the celebration planning.
- Linda V. said that if we construct it, people will use it. And we can always hold the dedication down the road. Mike was adamant, though, that we not put a playground in place that people aren't supposed to use; it's a negative for the neighborhood. Kim mentioned that in her walks around the area, every single playground had kids on it, and the fencing that had been put up to keep them out had been ripped up. Linda P. said she's seen the same thing.
- Linda V. asked if we've secured the party trailer from Michael G., and he said no, since the date isn't firm. As soon as we have a good date, he'll take care of it.
- Mike has been in contact with Kimberly at Active Children Portland, and he asked her if she wanted to have people come help. They got to talking about having a futsal court in the park. She said that coincidentally they're looking for five groups who are interested in putting in a court, and Mike said "Count us in!" He's got an e-mail in to Joe Walsh and Jim Dunn, and that's one of the reasons he's calling Jim tomorrow, to make sure they don't have an issue with it. Kimberly will do whatever she can to get our name on the list. John suggested bribing her with signage; for the cost of materials he'd be happy to make signs to whatever design specifications they require. Mike will let her know that.
- John had a question about putting up a sign at Kirk Park. He'll do it, but he doesn't do design; he doesn't know what the sign should say. Mike has a brief statement: "This playground was donated by..." the three groups. Linda P. said there's one private person, too. Mike wondered if she'd want her name on it; Linda's having lunch with her the day after tomorrow and will ask. So it would be Wells Fargo, Pella Windows, Nike, and Joan Albertson (if she approves). Mike would also like Active Children Portland to be mentioned, since they've also been very helpful managing the financial end. He'd like to dedicate it to the children of our neighborhood, too. Mike asked Kim to assist with the verbiage, and she said she'd put something

together. Linda V. asked if we should check with the city on whether there's some specific guidance we should follow (Linda P. said she took the words out of her mouth). John will e-mail Michael. Mike felt we should have some leeway on the signs; the women of the group disagreed, that once bureaucrats get involved they tend to like to stick to the rules. John said it's always easier to ask forgiveness than permission.

- Kim asked if there was anything new on the wellhead. Mike said he spoke with a worker there, and they've put in the new equipment and finished welding the casing that drops down about halfway. Now they'll be using that device that reaches down and pulls up material, and that'll be the process until it's done. He's only had one person from the neighborhood ask about it. It seems to be going according to plan, although it's just a little late due to the virus.

#### ENN Meeting

- The city has a new street sweeper that cost them twice as much as the old one, and what they want to do is create a site where the swept-up material is dumped. He and Linda P were concerned about the potential for it to be ugly and smell bad. What they have is large construction blocks that they'll put next to the wastewater treatment plant on 201<sup>st</sup> & Sandy. It'll be in that same area, and they'll add another road and another gate. The blocks will be in a U-shape, and they'll dump the material in there that'll keep the material from blowing around. Mike asked them about leaves and whatnot that'll rot and smell eventually. They said they'll also put a berm up on Sandy with some landscaping to disguise the area. Mike felt it doesn't sound like something that'll be a big issue to us. He asked Linda P. if the land on either side of Sandy belongs to them? She confirmed that it does; she thinks Boeing donated the westernmost parcel of land where this will be going. It runs almost to 201<sup>st</sup>. Mike said there's wetlands behind and to the north, and the railroad tracks are behind it as well. So he doesn't think it'll be a big concern as long as the city agrees to remove things that'll smell. Linda P. mentioned that this is to reduce the number of trips to dispose of this kind of material. Because of the metal content in the debris they now have to take it all the way to Wasco County. The new property will mean larger loads, fewer trips and will save the city money.
- Linda P wanted to mention that Willy didn't receive notification about the meeting because his e-mail address has changed. She'll provide the e-mail address to Kim.

#### Coalition Meeting

- There was a presentation by someone who works in the transportation department (Mike couldn't recall his name; he was at one of our general meetings to report on the bike path). There's a Metro-coordinated plan to tie 181<sup>st</sup> to Clackamas County. They're going down to 174<sup>th</sup> and then west over to where 177<sup>th</sup> comes in. It's their plan to supposedly provide better transportation for low-income people to get to jobs. Mike feels like all this will accomplish is to allow more trucks to divert off 205, allowing them into the neighborhoods. They told him they'd fix the traffic signals to make it more efficient, but Mike pointed out they still have the Max tracks there; at 5:00 PM 181<sup>st</sup> is totally backed up from 84 all the way to Burnside – and the same going from south to north. He feels we have enough trucks here already, and we don't need more semi's and trucks going through our neighborhood, especially if they'll be sitting in traffic to get from one light to the next. He thought we should be interested in fighting this, as it won't be good for the neighborhood. He'll talk to Wilkes East, but wanted to talk to the NGNA board first. Linda P. mentioned also including the Rockwood Neighborhood Association. Mike doesn't see how this will help low-income individuals. John asked if an environment impact statement has been issued, and Mike said he hadn't seen one; that's a good point and he'll ask for one.

- Linda V. thinks that with Eric Schmidt at the helm (temporarily) that he'll shed more light on the issue. She doesn't think Carol will let it rest.
- John said they'd be better off concentrating on job creation than on the transportation. Mike agreed, stating that they're focusing too much on low-wage warehouse positions (and the warehouses only employ 14, not 114, so they're not big job generators).

Other business:

- Mike stated that when we originally got the letter to support Corey Falls, none of the behind-the-scenes stuff was out in the open. Dave Dyke said he was looking into the 21st-Century Policing Report, and no one can find it. So they're not sure what Falls actually did. He refused the offer of the interim city manager... why would you do that? Mike thinks people took a deep breath and realized that maybe they made a mistake and there are other issues that need to be taken care of. Linda P. said they need to be transparent, and let the citizens of Gresham know the truth.
- Mike added that Carol wrote a letter on behalf of the coalition to insist that we do get some transparency with the new city government. We'll be losing the mayor and a couple of councilors – so there will be three new members on the City Council. Linda V asked about a possible candidate forum, and Mike said that yes, they're hoping to put out a candidate forum for all three positions. Linda V. said it's actually four positions – the mayor plus three. Linda P. said there may be a couple of positions expiring as well as the resignations. Mike thinks it'll be good to have new people involved. He said the forum might be having us send in questions that the candidates will then be asked. Linda V added that Carol's e-mail said that if anyone's interested in helping in any way, to let her know. She said she participated last time and it was a lot of fun. Linda P. agreed – but that's when we could meet as a group; this will likely be virtual.
- Linda V. wanted to know if we'd all seen that they'll start the interview process at tomorrow's City Council meeting to fill the vacant position (Karylinn Echols' position, Position 5). The list of candidates runs three pages. Gelinda, our former NGNA Board president, is one of them. If you're interested Linda P will send it out. She got it from Joan, who downloaded it from NextDoor. Mike asked if we know anyone else; Linda P said she recognizes various names from the City, but to her knowledge, no one else from the neighborhood is applying. She knew Gelinda has long had a desire to serve on the City Council, but was surprised she'd jump in there for a temporary position.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05; the next meeting will be via Zoom on Monday, August 10, at 6:00 PM.