

North Gresham Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

2021-04-19

This meeting was held via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM on Monday, April 19. Present were Linda Van Deusen-Price, Linda Parashos, John Weigant and Kim Kovacs. A quorum was established. Mike Elston joined at 6:30.

John moved that the minutes from the February 15 meeting be approved as submitted, seconded by Linda Van Deusen-Price; motion unanimously passed.

Kirk Park sign:

John asked about moving ahead on the playground sign. He'd like to go ahead and do it, and ask for forgiveness rather than permission. He asked that someone e-mail him the donor names, any logos, and the amounts that were donated (since we decided to put them on the sign in order of donation, high to low). The sign will cost just \$11.35. He recommends putting the lettering on it, putting it up, then taking a picture of it to send to the city. Tell them, "this is what we did," and if they don't like it they can take it back down. John will send out his design idea. (A discussion of this continued later.)

Metro Parks Grant:

John asked to discuss the City of Gresham's upcoming Metro park project grant. John doesn't believe the City should be developing specific parks, since that gives one park all the money. He'd rather see the money spread around. He'd like to see us ask the City to add Kirk Park to the list (it's not on there now) and add a community garden to the park. He felt a community garden would compliment our play structure nicely (parents could garden while their kids play). John moved that the NGNA ask the City to consider Kirk Park for a community garden. John also thinks the well water would be available for watering a garden. Kim said she could see both sides of the issue. She loves the idea of a community garden, but in our area – with its crime and homeless problems – might not be a good choice for that. Linda P said that Nadaka has a locked cage for security. Linda V. asked when we'd have to talk to them, and John said this week. Linda V felt there's not enough time. Kim offered to ask Michael Gonzales if this is even an option. She also mentioned that it's not a big park, and is personally reluctant to use up any more of the green space. Motion died.

Repair Café/Plant Swap

John's church is thinking about holding a plant swap on May 22, and John proposed having NGNA co-sponsor it and also hold a repair café at the same time. Linda V. asked for clarification as to what he has in mind. John hasn't been to a repair café, but thinks it would be a great opportunity to get the community together. Kim suggested letting the church run it, but offering our support for publicity and set-up. Linda V. asked what repairs we'd be thinking about, and said we'd need to get volunteer vendors for it, too. She thought Carol Rulla would have a list of vendors, and she'd contact her. Linda P said that for the Gresham repair cafes, the fire marshal had to approve the electrical connections. No one was sure of what regulations/permissions are needed. Linda P. sent John a checklist earlier about what things need to be considered (check-in sheets, releases, etc.). Linda P. said she'd send him copies of the forms. Kim said she wasn't sure we had enough time to put this together. John felt he had enough to get the ball rolling. Kim said she thought we could agree to help, but was uncomfortable being a "sponsor," since it's



unclear what exactly that entails. Linda V. will check with Carol R, and John said he has homework to do on it.

General Meetings:

Mike joined, and we began the discussion about elections and general meetings.

Mike made a motion to not have an election meeting on June 1. Linda Parashos seconded the motion, passed unanimously. We'll just wait and hold the elections at the October 4 General Meeting (our normally scheduled elections meeting).

Kim asked what folks thought about holding a General Meeting June 1 at all. It would need to be over Zoom. Linda V. thought not, given the poor turnout at our last meeting. Mike suggested having Michael Gonzales send out postcards for a June 1 meeting, and then see what attendance is like. If no one shows up then perhaps we need to disband the neighborhood association. Linda V suggested discussing this at a coalition meeting, since we need to get more participation from the neighborhood.

John asked about sending postcards for both the general meeting and the proposed repair café at his church to get enthusiasm up. Mike said that Michael G. wouldn't be happy about sending out the postcards to advertise a private repair café.

Kim suggested skipping the June meeting, and then look at the October meeting as a make or break date. Linda P agreed, and John added that during these times it's probably not a great idea to make any decisions on disbanding. The consensus was that we not have the June meeting and shoot for an in-person October meeting. Kim made a motion to skip the June meeting, and Linda V. seconded. Unanimously passed.

Park signs revisited:

John asked Mike for a list of donors & the order in which they should be listed. When Mike gets back from vacation he'll contact the donors and see if they can send him their info (John asked for a "Vector Graphic Image"). Linda V. asked if we have any info from the City regarding specifications. Mike and John haven't received any info from them. John once again said that he thought we should just put it up and get the city's permission afterwards. Mike proposed getting together next Monday with John to run down the parks people to get the info we need. Kim suggested putting together the information and sending them a complete design - "This is what we're going to do unless you say no." Give them a short time frame, and then do it if we don't hear back. John thought that was a good approach. He asked for the names & donor info, and Mike said he's have that a week from Friday. Mike would like the donors listed from first to last; Pella Windows was the first to offer funds, and they were instrumental in getting the project rolling. It wouldn't have happened without their money. Mike asked Linda P if Joan wanted her name on it, and Linda said she did.

Linda V. mentioned last month's discussion about the small, brown City Park signs. She said she's been paying attention and lots of parks have the small signs. So, we're not really being slighted.

Linda V asked if we were having a board meeting (scheduled for May 17). Mike said we'll play it by ear,

Kim moved to adjourn, Linda V seconded. Meeting adjourned, 7:05 PM

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 6:00-7:00 PM (Zoom).