



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Portsmouth Neighborhood Association

April 22, 2008

Meeting at University Park United Methodist Church, 4775 N Lombard.

Attendees

Board Members: Greg Wilhelm; Betty Johnson; Susan Landauer; Stephen Leiker; Matthew Denton; Renee Jensen-Reinhardt.

Jeanne Knepper notified the board of her absence prior to the meeting.

Public: Richard Ellmyer; Erin McGovney

Treasurer's Report

Betty presented the treasurer's report for review.

Rosa Parks Elementary School Traffic Improvement Plan

The Board reviewed Portland Department of Transportation (PDOT) proposed traffic improvements submitted by Stephanie Noll. PDOT is seeking the PNA's endorsement of the existing, proposed short term and proposed long term improvements. Greg made a motion to endorse and consider with further review the following listed below. Stephen seconded:

- Endorsed:
 - Short term (already approved)
 - Alaska/Trenton, Woolsey to Chautauqua – 5 traffic calming tables (\$4k)
 - Alaska at Tamarack Apartments – Marked pedestrian crossing and ramps (\$2k)
 - Alaska at Chautauqua Place – curb ramp (\$1k)
 - Trenton at Newman – Marked/Signed crossing (\$1.2k)
 - Short term (proposed)
 - Portsmouth at Newark – Vegetation clearance (\$1k)
 - N Woolsey, Willis/Lombard – 5 speed bumps (\$4k)
 - N Winchell, Woolsey/Chautauqua – 3 speed bumps (\$2.4k)
 - N Russet, Lombard/Chautauqua – 2 speed bumps (\$1.6k)
 - Chautauqua at Willis (Federal Funding requested) – 8 countdown pedestrian signals (\$6k)
 - N Fessenden, Columbia Way to Portsmouth – 7 speed tables (\$15k)
 - Chautauqua at Willis – All way stop investigation (\$3k)
 - Long term (proposed)
 - Alaska at University Park – Sidewalk (\$6k)
 - Willis at Woolsey – Mini-roundabout (\$10k)

- Consider with further review
 - Short term (already approved)
 - Chautauqua/Alaska (Federal funding requested) – Pedestrian refuge island (\$20k)
 - Long term (proposed)
 - Chautauqua at Alaska (Federal funding requested) – 2 Pedestrian refuge islands (\$54k)
 - Willis at Chautauqua – Roundabout (\$200k)

Mathew made a motion to amend the PDOT traffic improvements motion by Greg to add the following to the endorsed list. Stephen seconded.

- Short term (already approved)
 - Chautauqua/Alaska (Federal funding requested) – Pedestrian refuge island (\$20k)

All were in favor.

Letter of Support for Lovely Street Resident Grant Proposal

Susan described a grant request to the Metro North Portland Enhancement Committee Funding Program by Kim Spir to obtain funding to help the neighbors along the railroad line running North/South near the Lombard Fred Meyer (aka "The Cut") deal with a skunk problem. Kim proposes using the funds to educate neighbors, help cleanup their yards, pay for traps and bait. The plan is to relocate the skunks, not euthanize them. Stephen made a motion that PNA supports skunk abatement grant proposed by Kim Spir. Greg seconded. All approved.

New PNA Board Member

Erin McGovney is interested in becoming a board member, so she took time to tell the board about herself. Erin lives in the 5800 block of Hudson. She is a realtor that has lived in the neighborhood for a little over a year. She is particularly interested in land use issues. Stephen nominated Erin to be a new board member. Greg seconded. All were in favor.

Committee Reporting

Susan discussed our lack of committee reporting. In general, anytime a committee meets or makes a decision, the committee needs to submit a very brief report to be reviewed at the next board meeting. The Secretary will include these reports in the minutes.

Interest in Lombard Street Car Project

Matthew and Greg recently attend the PDOT meeting describing a possible street car in our neighborhood. Specifically, PDOT is proposing a street car that runs along Lombard from Interstate to St. Johns. It will have tracks in the road and will look like the existing street car in downtown. PDOT also indicated that other forms of transportation (e.g electric busses, MAX, etc) are not being considered. The street car could be a slow moving version that stops very frequently and behaves like a car or an "express" version that would stop less frequently and would synchronize with the stop lights. Other neighborhoods are being considered too, so streetcars will be allocated to neighborhoods based on how enthusiastic each neighborhood is about having it. Matthew and Greg are involved in the committee. Greg moved that the PNA participate in the community study to see if a streetcar is a good idea for Portsmouth Neighborhood. Stephen seconded.

Lawn Signs about Portland Hope Meadows

Greg informed the board that he had been talking with his neighbors and not many know that the lot in question is allocated to Portland Hope Meadows Corporation. As discussed at the Forum, the board wants the neighbors to be aware and get interested. He proposed having a sign(s) posted indicating: "This is a proposed site for Portland Hope Meadows." The board discussed the topic and potential alternative sites for the signs other than the actual property which is owned by the City and may not allow a sign to be put on it. The board proposed other possible messages such as: "Proposed site for low income housing. Weigh in on the subject. What do you think about it? Contact: ???"

Richard Ellmyer supported the sign idea and presented a two paragraph document related to the issue. The first paragraph addresses PNA support of the letter sent to PDC from ICURAAC to "divert all future PDC funds for public housing from the Portsmouth neighborhood to other interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area districts with less than a 15% public housing client population." The second paragraph is a statement indicating that PNA opposes the use of the former John Ball School site by the Portland Hope Meadows Corporation. He gave his background on the issue and requested that the board vote to approve the statements.

The board discussed the situation and agreed to address the paragraphs as separate issues. The board reiterated that the PNA board has already publically expressed its opposition to the John Ball School site to be used by the Portland Hope Meadows and that there was no need to vote on it. After much discussion and discussing a motion to delay this topic, it was agreed to propose another statement. Greg made a motion to approve the following statement:

"The Portland Neighborhood Association (PNA) opposes the use of the former John Ball School site for Portland Hope Meadows. The PNA wants to be more involved in finding a more suitable use for the site."

Renee seconded the motion. All were in favor. No opposition. The motion passed.

Regarding the first paragraph, the board agreed to address this topic at a separate board meeting. Richard Ellmyer asked that it be put on the next agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Minutes prepared by Greg Wilhelm and Renee Jensen Reinhardt.