



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

November 19, 2008 from 7:00-8:30 PM at Trenton Terrace in New Columbia.

Attendees

Board Members: Greg Wilhelm, Chair; Erin McGovney, Vice Chair; Renee Jensen-Reinhardt, Secretary; Matthew Denton; Jeanne Knepper; Susan Landauer; Stephen Leiker; Ryan Schera; Sam Thompson. Absent: Betty Johnson, Treasurer; and Virginia Scott

Quorum: Yes

Guests: Jim Schaller, North Portland Business Association

The meeting started at 7:00 PM with Greg Wilhelm presiding. He opened the meeting by asking those present to introduce themselves.

Treasurer's Report

Betty was called out of town. No formal report was given.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee:

Matt gave an updated on the plans of Mayor-Elect Sam Adams and his city-wide plan including schools and migration to Portland. Matt mentioned the meeting with Sam Adams to be held December 1, 2008. Greg informed the members that there was no ICURAC meeting and the next will be held in December. He did mention that the Lombard streetscape project is in the queue.

Events Committee:

Susan deferred the discussion on the PNA Holiday party until further in the agenda. She did remind and ask the board for nominations for the Best of Portsmouth awards, which will be presented at the party.

Voice Committee: Sam provided an update on the plans for the inaugural PNA Newsletter. He handed out Kenton Neighborhood's newsletter as a sample. Erin discussed the grant proposal that she wrote to the small grants program to purchase software and a computer for the PNA newsletter. They discussed the cost of printing 2,500 copies (PNA households), layout and how to distribute the newsletter and how Kenton distributes their newsletter through a volunteer walking group. The plan is to have it completed in advance of the PNA Holiday party. Erin welcomed articles and ideas from the Board and announced the newsletter email address: portsmouthnews@gmail.com. The deadline for ideas is December 1, 2008. The board discussed printing options and costs.

Motion: Jeanne made a motion to authorize the Voice Committee funds not to exceed \$500 for the purpose of producing the first issue of the PNA neighborhood newsletter.

Livability Committee: Stephen updated the board on a meeting held by Portland Parks and Recreation to discuss the Northgate Park. He noted that he was the only one in attendance and was able to choose a space net to be added to the park.

Board Development Committee

Renee indicated that the committee had not formally met and that the Nomination Process is a separate agenda item to be discussed later in the meeting.

North Portland Business Association – Jim Schaller

Jim Schaller introduced himself and described his position and the activities of the North Portland Business Association (NPBA). He also provided information on NPBA's relationship with Richard Ellmyer. He provided the perspective of a business owner in the neighborhood and the need for disposable cash flow and the relationship that has with low-income public housing in the neighborhood. He justified NPBA's support of Richard Ellmyer's efforts by saying that low income housing does not provide the cash flow that neighborhood businesses need.

Jim indicated that NPBA provides grants and that the grant cycle begins the first of January and ends in late March. He recommended that the board visit the NPBA website for details: www.NP-BA.com. He also encouraged the board to shop and use local North Portland businesses.

Jim added that he would like to see a PNA board member to attend their meetings which are held the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Water Lab under St. Johns Bridge. The board members asked if a church or nonprofit would be considered for membership and Jim said yes.

The board asked Jim several questions on the NPBA's geographic region, stance on the Lombard Streetcar and St. Johns Farmers Market. Jim added that the on January 23, 2009 the person in charge of the Streetcar project will be speaking with NPBA and that Mayor-elect Sam Adams will be speaking at their March meeting. Greg thanked Jim for coming and sharing information regarding NPBA.

Membership List

The board discussed the current process of the PNA membership list and duties of the Secretary. Greg suggested to amend the Secretary's duties in the bylaws. Erin suggested that the membership list become the responsibility of the Voice Committee. The board discussed the other changes to the bylaws that would need to take place if the Voice Committee took over that duty – the Voice Committee would become an official standing PNA committee. The board also discussed the need to stay within ONI guidelines when responding to public requests to see and use the PNA membership list.

Motion: Jeanne made a motion that in accordance to Office of Neighborhood Involvement Standards Section 3.1.2. that the Portsmouth Neighborhood Association does not share its membership list with anyone. Sam seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Sam added that the PNA membership list should be used for official PNA sanctioned purposes. Renee' noted that the sign-in sheets need to reflect this.

Clarendon School Cleanup

Stephen announced that 18 people volunteered and participated in the Clarendon School Clean-up Day on November 16 and that it was a success. Susan added that this would be good to feature in the newsletter and they have pictures. Greg thanked those that participated.

Street Car Letter

Matt indicated that the PNA Board endorsement letter for the Lombard Street Car that was circulated via email had not been sent yet. Susan indicated she was uncomfortable with the wording regarding the Forum and consensus. Matt said that he would edit it.

Matt also noted that the Forum should vote on controversial issues. Susan agreed that we should ask for consensus. Greg suggested this be incorporated next year.

Holiday Community Forum

Susan gave a overview of the PNA Holiday party including the potluck and Best of Portsmouth awards. The board discussed the purpose and format of the party and the opportunity to create awareness with a map noting 2008 activities of the PNA as well as providing information about the board. It was also suggested to have a "wishlist" so that those present can suggest activities, projects or issues for the PNA to address in the upcoming year(s). Sam said that he would also contact the fire department and see if they would like to be present and available to the neighbors.

Portland Hope Meadows – Progress to Date

Ryan and Greg gave an update on their participation on the Portland Hope Meadows design group.

New Columbia Update

Greg informed the board that New Columbia has a monthly newsletter. Susan added that it reaches 850 doors in the area. It may be an opportunity to publicize the PNA holiday party. Erin asked to be connected to their newsletter representative.

Portland Village School Update

Stephen said that he did not think Portland Public Schools is interested in leasing the Old Clarendon School to Portland Village School for more than two years because they intend for it to remain "swing space". Stephen asked what we would like to do as a board. It was discussed and agreed to speak at a PPS public meeting and then to submit a formal statement from the PNA board about not wanting Clarendon school to remain empty. Stephen volunteered to speak on behalf of PNA if PNA has an official stance.

Scott Jensen – Reimburse for Website Hosting

Greg inquired about the PNA website hosting that is graciously provided by Scott Jensen. It was agreed nominate Scott Jensen for a Best of Portsmouth Spirit award and to make a donation on his behalf to thank him for his generosity.

Motion: Sam made a motion to donate \$25 to Oregon Humane Society in Scott Jensen's name and to send him a thank you note for his services. The motioned was seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Nominating Process

Renee noted that there were no additional suggestions regarding the drafted PNA Board nomination process that was emailed to the board. The board discussed the nomination application/information sheet and agreed to look at a draft form. They preferred it to be simple and only one page. Renee said the committee would draft one and send it out for review.

New Business

Board meetings: The Board discussed picking set dates for future board and forum meetings and putting them in the St. Johns Review. Erin suggested setting the 2009 PNA calendar at the January Board Development/Planning Retreat. The Board agreed to keep this meeting separate from regular Board meetings and scheduled it for January 6, 2009 from 6pm-9pm. Erin said she will look into space at the Kenton Firehouse. Erin and Sam suggested renaming the PNA Community Forum and calling it a PNA General Meeting. No decision was made at this time.

Treasurer: Greg reminded everyone of Betty's resignation as a board member and board treasurer. He said that she has offered to stay on until a replacement for the Treasurer position could be found. Greg asked if anyone was interested in the position. Matt said he was.

Motion: Susan made a motion to confirm Matt as the new Treasurer. Erin seconded the motion. All were in favor. It was noted that Betty can now step down from as a board member and treasurer and that there is now a vacancy on the board. Greg will send a thank you note to Betty for her service on the board and to the neighborhood.

Portsmouth Neighborhood Plan: Matt mentioned the need to revisit the Portsmouth Neighborhood Plan. He suggested creating a 10-page document. There was much discussion regarding the work involved in revising the plan and if there was any ultimate value to revising it since it is considered voluntary guidelines and unenforceable. It was agreed to be handled at committee level.

Adjourn

Susan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erin seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20pm.

Minutes prepared by Renee Jensen Reinhardt, Secretary.