

MINUTES OF THE OHMHA SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 BOARD MEETING

Board Members Present: Wendy Carman, Jack Cederquist, Frank Commiskey, Emily Eisbruch, Greg Jagst, Anne Karabakal, Peter Mooney, Jerry Schulte, Amy Seetoo, Martin Torch-Ishii, Nadine Wong

Resident present: Rebecca Priebe

THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

Jerry Schulte moved and Anne Karabakal seconded that the board approve the proposed agenda and minutes from the May meeting. It was unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No formal treasurer's report was presented but Wendy Carman reported that about \$1,000 was received since the May/June meetings. It was not clear if this was higher than in previous years for the same time period. The toilet bill was paid from two years ago.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Greg Jagst discussed the smooth printing and distribution of the newsletter. He thanked the various volunteers who helped with the distribution, including Isaac Francis, a new volunteer who had a large distribution route. Special thanks to Emily Eisbruch for the newsletter drafting/writing.

Jack received a question at the annual meeting about the label/sticker that would acknowledge the paying members on the newsletter. A couple of residents contacted Wendy to ask about their membership status after reading Jack's note in the newsletter regarding the membership/address. Jerry suggested including a list of the people who paid/acknowledging them in the newsletter. Amy suggested asking volunteers to label the newsletter with address on it. It was generally agreed that distributors of the newsletters should write a personalized thank you on the face of the newsletter for paying members – Jack indicated that he does that already.

FALL FESTIVAL

Greg announced good news about plans for the Fall Festival. This year they plan to increase participation to include the Bromley neighborhood and Thurston PTA. In previous years, only one tent was rented but this year two tents are planned to accommodate the larger expected audience and various activities. Space will be doubled but at a higher expense.

Frank discussed the various activities planned including food, fundraising and children's activities and a rough proposed timeline for the various activities including various musical acts and the birds of prey demonstration. He also discussed the Thurston Nature Center activities that are planned including the amphitheater dedication and the

celebration/labeling of the trees growing in the nature center. He plans to invite some key people to participate.

Frank indicated that the Kiwanis would have a table at the festival and Amy asked about how people get invited/asked to participate in the tent and asked about the potential participation of the AAUW (American Association of University Women). Frank and Amy will follow up offline to further a AAUW/Nature Center/Thurston relationship.

Jack asked about any financial contribution to the costs of the tents/toilets from other participants – Frank said that Thurston PTA will contribute. No budget for the festival was presented but Greg mentioned that the cost of the additional tent will increase the expenses from years prior. Frank indicated that the PTA would help offset that cost. Frank is not prepared to present a budget. The idea of a tip jar to ask for donation at the fair was also discussed along with membership forms.

Jack has reached out to the mayor, council members and local officials. So far Kirk Westphal has confirmed as well as a police department representative.

Greg discussed the need for volunteers to help man the various tables (food, membership), raffle and emcee duties. Jerry will help with food table. There is a plan to add filming of the festival to help our social media presence. Emily is working on identifying a volunteer. Rebecca Priebe indicated that she would be willing to help.

Amy will work with Greg to come up with a sign highlighting the list of activities and schedule.

Amy, Jack and others will try to obtain donations/raffle prizes from the surrounding local businesses. Greg distributed a business raffle flyer for volunteers to canvas the neighborhood.

GEORGETOWN ENTRANCE

Jack thanked Suzan Karabakal for taking care of the plants at the Georgetown entrance – not a lot of watering was needed given the rainy season but everyone agreed that the entrance looked nice.

GEORGETOWN ENTRANCE BRICK WALL

Jerry reported that the person that he had in mind to do some design options moved out of town. He has identified a new contact to use photographs of the current entrance to propose some redesign options to be presented at the Fall Festival to solicit feedback from residents and potentially donations.

Jerry made the motion for expenditure for \$100 to obtain these redesign options, Amy seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

BURBANK ENTRANCE

Martin volunteered to help with the weeds/trash that are around the new trees.

NIXON NORTH/SOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Jack summarized the proposal and the various planning meetings for the housing development around Nixon/Dhu Varren. Jack mentioned that this is not exactly in our neighborhood or Ward but relates to us regarding the Nixon/Green/DhuVarren intersection and traffic. Jack is in touch with other groups that have been more vocal about the issue. Jack asked about how involved the board wants to be. General discussion led to an overall agreement that our role was to provide information to the residents regarding the proposed Toll Brother and Bleznak developments and that it was reasonable for the Board's position/concerns to be how increased traffic resulting from such a development would affect our residents.

THURSTON NATURE CENTER

Frank gave an update that the TNC is moving forward with the restoration plan. The engineering aspect to work out what has to occur to save the pond/restore the pond is progressing – the first phase of engineering study is complete. Full construction drawings are expected in the new few weeks (this has cost about \$15K) and should give an idea of the costs of reconstruction (\$100,000-300,000). The TNC will have 6 months to raise money for construction to start June 2015 and end September 30, 2015 – otherwise the TNC has to request permit renewal. They would need the funding for construction by April 2015.

The TNC plans to share more information in a forum on October 27 (location TBD) and intend to invite the mayor, Dr. Cheryl Swift and others. Frank shared a draft version of the plan to be presented at the forum. Frank discussed his engagement with OHAC and neighbors around the pond and Amy proposed engaging with the Sierra club and other local conservancy groups.

Next meeting dates:

November 11 at 7pm

February 10 at 7pm

May 12 at 7pm

Greg will work on reserving the Clague Media Center for these dates.

Round Robin

Amy: She is the AAUW (American Association of University Women) Ann Arbor branch President-elect.

Martin: If we are going to take a position on the Toll Brothers development – will we do this over email? Jack has several key points to discuss – sidewalk, Bromley, OHMHA, lighting, traffic.

Frank: He will take care of the street signs to announce the Fall Festival.

Pete: The Yellowstone water main project is finally done – Pete will write this up for the next newsletter.

Emily: Talked about a reminder flyer for Fall Festival – Greg mentioned that this was not planned for this year but will plan on getting these distributed. Want to think about setting up community forum in February at our next meeting.

Greg: Will do reminders to PTA, Bromley and volunteers for OHMHA. Will ask Praveena to organize distribution in Bromley. Needs volunteers for the Fall Festival to solicit donations for business raffles. He inquired if the Board was supportive of opening the raffle prize donation to businesses outside the immediate neighborhood. Board members were in agreement as long as it was a legitimate business.

The next OHMHA Board meeting is Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Clague Middle School.