



NEIGHBORS WEST-NORTHWEST

Coalition of Central Westside Neighborhoods

Arlington Heights · Goose Hollow · Forest Park · Hillside · Linnton · Northwest Industrial · Northwest Heights
Northwest District · Old Town-Chinatown · Pearl District · Portland Downtown · Sylvan-Highlands

Neighbors West-Northwest Review Board November 10, 2010 Meeting

Minutes

Attending

NWNW Board:

Frank Bird, President, NWDA Representative
Les Blaize, Forest Park Representative
Judy Gibson, Pearl District Representative
Peter Stark, Hillside Representative
Harold Hutchinson, NINA Representative
Scott Schaffer, Goose Hollow Representative
Juliet Hyams, NWDA Alternate

NWNW Staff:

Mark Sieber
Angela Southwick
Alison Wallisch

Guests

Sue Keil, Director, City of Portland Bureau of
Transportation
Larry Stevens, City of Portland Public Works
Division Manager
Fran Goldstein, NWDA Neighbor
Pat Wagner, Linnton Neighbor
Allan Classen, NW Examiner
Richard Turner, Arlington Heights Board Member
Jake Oken-Berg, Goose Hollow Neighbor
Grace Uwagbae, Mayor's Public Advocate
Norm Rich, Multnomah Athletic Club, Goose Hollow
Board Member
Two additional guests for leaf discussion, no names
indicated

Meeting called to order at 6:26 PM

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of October 2010 Minutes

Motion 1: Blaize moved to approve October 2010 minutes. Hutchinson seconded. Gibson abstained. Motion approved unanimously.

Leaf District and NW Clean Sweep Program Fees

Sue Keil, Director and Larry Stevens, Public Works Division Manager from the Portland Bureau of Transportation attended to discuss new leaf district and Northwest Clean Sweep Program fees.

Program Summary

Keil summarized the history of the leaf removal, funding issues and the program changes. The leaf removal program has been functioning for over 20 years. There have been attempts to cut the Clean Sweep program altogether, but it is a popular citizen program. Ten years ago, PBOT did a survey and leaf collection had a very high ranking and people indicated that they were willing to pay for the program. Service is delivered in 28 leaf districts in areas with larger, more mature trees.

In the past, leaf removal has been paid for with gas taxes. Two years ago, PBOT went to city council after already making a 20% cut in the budget over seven years, requesting leaf removal become a fee for service program. Council directed PBOT to develop the fee schedule. The program was not implemented until this year because they waited for the water billing system to be in place.

Keil indicated that PBOT didn't communicate effectively about the changes in the program. Neighborhood presidents were notified in May 2010 regarding the program with a request for PBOT to come speak to the neighborhood about the changes. The general responses PBOT received was to wait until the program implementation was closer before coming to speak. Keil indicated that PBOT should have insisted on coming out to talk with neighbors.

Currently there is a way to opt out of paying the fee, but the website didn't include all the information about opting out until after the brochures were released. The opt-out provision was updated to include additional allowances.

Stevens attended the meeting to answer questions about logistics. He indicated that though street sweeping occurs twice a year citywide, only some areas of the city receive a leaf removal service. When the leaf removal does occur in an area, it happens once or twice per year. The leaves are pushed into piles and picked up, not swept by the street sweepers. Stevens invited the community to call the leaf line (503 823-1784) with any concerns after the scheduled leaf pick-ups are complete. For example, the city will come to pick up large quantities of leaves that drop after the scheduled event—for example, if the leaves drop late.

Comments

Public Process

Stark commented on the lack of public process involved in implementing this fee. There was no notice until after the fee had already been approved. Residents should have been notified prior to the City Council meeting to be given the opportunity to testify.

Blaize indicated that the opt-out provisions seemed like an afterthought.

Hyams pointed out the public involvement principles recently adopted by City Council. She asked if they were in place in May, would they have impacted how this program fee was rolled out? *Keil stated that she was involved with the development of the principles. She will review the principles again for anything PBOT needs to implement. Maintenance generally works on public involvement in specific geographic areas. The leaf collection fee takes place on a larger geographic area of the city, which was a new process for their bureau. The bureau should have been more insistent about speaking with neighborhoods about the new fee and followed through with the communications.*

Poor Funding Mechanisms for Basic Services

Stark critiqued the fee strategy for funding basic services. Neighborhoods are going to have inequities in service with the large variety of services provide by the City of Portland. If one area needs extra police services or has more parks, are they going to be charged a fee for having additional police or park services? *Keil indicated that the typical citizen process for implementing new fees is to take it to PBOT's budget advisory committee. The Bureau wouldn't usually conduct a public process for every fee change that occurs. People associated with neighborhoods do sit on PDOT's budget advisory committee. She also indicated that Police and Parks are paid for with general fund dollars so they are already funded with tax dollars.*

Blaize asked what other city services PBOT may be considered for addition as a fee for service program when additional services are received. If an area of town has extra bike lanes, will there be a bike license to pay for this supplemental service or if an area receives extra de-icer, will another fee be charged? *Keil indicated that though there has been some discussion about a bike license, there has not been any discussion about changing any additional PBOT programs to fee for service.*

The NWNW board expressed an interest in the PBOT BAC representation, and perhaps every Bureau's BAC, should contain representation from every coalition area. Sieber described the Office of Neighborhood Involvements' Budget Advisory Committee that includes representation from every coalition, various ethnic

groups and anyone that is interested in participating in the process. BAC committee members can participate as little or as much as they want. The only caveat is that when new people join the process, they cannot ask the group to revisit decisions made before they joined the group that year. ONI has expressed some interest in replicating this model in other Budget Advisory Committees.

Disincentive for Public to Assist Clean-up Efforts

Stark indicated that a neighbor in SE Portland commented that she currently cleans up the leaves in front of her home, but the apartments next door do not—so the leaves that were next door quickly blow in front of her home. If she is also required to pay a city fee for the city to pick up the leaves, she – and other citizens – will now have a disincentive to continue doing this work.

Program Equity

Bird asked about the equity in the new program fee. *Keil indicated that the leaf pick-ups only occur where there is a significant amount of leaves dropping onto the street and they use a quantifiable measure to decide where to pick up the leaves. Also the areas where leaves are picked up tend to be higher income neighborhoods.*

General Program Comments

Norm Rich from the Multnomah Athletic Club commented that the leaf clean up is a basic city service and a safety issue. He constantly watches cars attempt to manage the leaves on the hill in front of the Multnomah Athletic Club, with accidents and other near misses occurring. Because of this, he now pays someone to clean-up the leaves on this block and nine other blocks the MAC owns every week. Twice a year is not sufficient. Is there no way for commercial properties for opt out of services the commercial properties are already supplying to the community? *Keil confirmed there is no opt out measure for commercial properties.*

Oken-Berg, a Goose Hollow neighbor, called the Leaf Hotline and was told that each unit in his condominium would be charged \$15 individually because each unit is metered individually for water. Since he has cleaned the small amount of leaves in front of his condo from the very small trees, he wonders if he can file the opt-out form for the entire building. He also asked when he will have access to the opt-out form and when the bill will arrive. What is the response time for the leaf line because it has been several days since he called and he hasn't received a call back? *Keil indicated that he cannot opt-out for the entire building, but she would look into how the billing will work for condominiums. Stevens stated that the billing will be sent out with an opt-out form to each household on the Monday after the last sweep in the area. Stevens indicated hopes the response time for the leaf line will be 24 hours.*

What is the city ordinance that requires property owners to remove leaves in front of houses? *Keil indicated property owners are responsible for maintenance until the middle of street in front of their homes which is not limited to leaves.*

Sieber asked PBOT to look at the pattern of billing because it doesn't match with ownership patterns—sometimes renters will be charged, and other times home owners will be charged. He also noted the distinction between public involvement and information. Finally, he noted that, when sharing information with the public, the average person doesn't care about funding sources. They care more about the fact this is a basic service.

Staff Reports

Solarize Northwest

Wallisch reported that NWNW will be moving forward with the Solarize NW project. Sixteen people came to the initial meeting to volunteer. The request for proposal process starts next week. In January workshops will begin throughout the coalition area.

Neighborhood Small Grants Update

Southwick reported that the 2010-2011 NWNW Neighborhood Small Grants Committee is comprised of:

- Pamela Ake, *Northwest Industrial Neighborhood Association President*
- Janet Filips, *Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital Community Relations Program Manager*
- Leslie Hildula, *Forest Park Neighborhood Association Board Member*
- Jane Netboy, *NWDA member representing Temple Beth Israel & Goose Hollow resident*
- Martin Soloway: *Old Town Chinatown Treasurer board member representing Central City Concern*

Process for Changes to Small Grants Awarded

Southwick reviewed the grant award process with the board. The last several years, the grant committee has met twice in the fall to review the Neighborhood Small Grant applications to award the funds. We have been very clear about the time commitment in order to honor the time the committee members spend, not only in the meetings, but also reviewing the grant applications.

Inevitably, grant recipients come to staff with requests to change their budget from what the grant committee reviewed. Each of these requests has been discussed on a case-by-case basis, and the years the grant committee awarded funds for specific line items, we have been more stringent when considering these requests.

Southwick requested that the board formalize a change order process, allowing staff to approve minor changes to grant recipient budget change orders. However, we would like the board to consider giving the finance committee authority to review and approve change orders if the change involves more than 5% of the project budget or involves significant changes in the nature of the project.

Motion 2: Blaize moved to allow the finance committee to review grant program change orders for over 5% of the awarded amount or over \$100, whichever is greater, or if the change involves a significant change in the nature of the project. Hutchinson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

See attached reports. Sieber is available to review reports in more detail with interested board members. If board members would like to see reports display information differently, report this information to Sieber and he will work with the bookkeepers to accommodate board needs. Six neighborhood state and federal IRS forms have been filed. The other six will be filed with NWNW since they are fiscally sponsored organizations without their own federal non-profit status. Sieber filed an extension for this last filing to accommodate the CPA's other deadlines. The fundraiser earned approximately \$2400 after expenses.

Election of Coalition Board Officers

Motion 3: Stark moved to elect Frank Bird as president, Jeff Boly as Vice-President and Les Blaize as secretary. Gibson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

ONI Budget Process

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement's Budget Advisory Committee has more meetings in December, and the required cuts have not been determined yet. Additional cuts are expected this year. There will be more play in types of ONI and coalition programs that will be cut.

Motion 4: Blaize moved to authorize the finance committee to develop cut models for the ONI budget process. Stark seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Set Next Meetings

The next meetings for the NWNW Board will be in January unless something develops between now and then.

Neighborhood Reports

Gibson, Pearl District: The last Pearl District meeting was annual meeting and elections. There are now seven new board members with 20 board members total. At the next meeting, the board will vote in a slate of officers with a new president. The Loo is moving forward in a different location.

Hutchinson, NINA: The neighborhood is getting ready to announce its food drive. This year the food will be donated to Northwest Portland Ministries in order to directly serve neighbors in NW Portland.

Stark, Hillside: Hillside held their elections the night prior to the NWNW meeting and Stark will continue as president. The Cornell Road Sustainability Coalition completed a second grant, this time submitted to Metro for a demonstration project—the fire truck friendly speed bump. This type of speed bump has a trough accessed in the middle of the road. The troughs are wide enough for fire trucks, but too wide for average vehicles. These type of speed bumps exist in Beaverton, but not in the City of Portland.

Schaffer, Goose Hollow: Elections will be held next week. Tracy Prince submitted her book about the history of Goose Hollow to her editor. Next she will be working on books about the history of Slabtown and Nob Hill. PGE Park is currently under construction.

Blaize, Forest Park: Working on addressing right-of-way issues with a Kinder Morgan tree cutting. The water bureau project in Forest Park had been discussed 10 years ago to feed Forest Heights.

Bird, NWDA: The urban renewal process has slowed down. SERA Architects is considering building a mixed-use four-story building on 23rd and Savier which includes market rate condos. The impacts of soccer parking is being discuss. The traffic committee is on hold.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59