



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 March 9, 2011 Meeting

Minutes

Attending

NWNW Board:

Frank Bird, President, NDWA
Jeff Boly, Vice-President, Arlington Heights
Scott Schaffer, Goose Hollow
Peter Stark, Hillside
Harold Hutchinson, NINA
Bryan Burch, Sylvan-Highlands
Carol McCreary, Old Town Chinatown
Jerry Grossnickle, Forest Park
Liz Kelly, Linnton
Karen Beninati, Pearl District

NWNW Staff:

Mark Sieber, Executive Director
Angela Southwick, Community Resources Program
Manager

Guests:

Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Allan Classen, NW Examiner
Jerry Powell
Pete Colt, NWDA neighbor
Laurie Bird, NWDA neighbor
Molly Danielson, PHLUSH
Bill Harris
Regna Merritt, Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pat Wagner, Linnton neighbor

Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of February 2011 Minutes

Motion 1: Boly moved to approve February 2011 minutes. Stark seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Beninati abstains

NWNW Public Records Policy—Sieber ♦

Sieber passed out the NWNW Policy for Public Records prepared at the board request in February. This policy was developed in order to formalize how NWNW will handle materials that are potentially public record, but not presented through standard channels. The board and the guests commented on the public records with the major points including:

- The current appeals process for a public records decision is to file a grievance that starts with the neighborhood association, then goes to the coalition, then ONI and the commissioner upon final appeal.
- There could be a better process developed to get to a final third-party decision regarding public records requests that doesn't take as much time as the grievance process. Developing this process might be a matter of revising the ONI Standards. Multiple options for the grievance process had been discussed when the ONI Standards were created, though the majority of the group (that contained neighborhood

volunteers, coalition staff and ONI staff) decided on the existing process. A specific process for public record appeals had not been considered.

- The ONI Standards indicates that emails containing neighborhood business are public record. This NWNW Public Records Policy was, in part, developed to address who determines if the emails contain neighborhood business. This policy clarifies that NWNW does not determine this factor, unless a grievance is appealed to NWNW.
- In developing the ONI Standards, the group involved came down heavily on the side of independence.
- NWNW is not a policing body.
- Neighborhoods are required to follow the ONI Standards to continue to be recognized as an official neighborhood association by the City of Portland.
- Some concerns were expressed about the clarity of the rules and if different interpretations could be implemented with neighborhoods determining what constitutes public records. There is a universal standard for determining public records in the ONI Standards. Many felt that the neighborhood associations should have the opportunity review materials that would be placed in their records.
- There has only been this one instance a neighborhood disputing what a previous active volunteer has provided to the coalition on behalf of their organization. After completing their term of service, active board members commonly deliver materials to the coalition, though perhaps not frequently.
- Possession does not equate that something is public record. If the city has county records for which it receives a public records request, the city sends the person requesting the records to the county since the materials belong to the county.

Schaffer proposed adding a 5 business day timeliness statement regarding when NWNW will release the materials to the neighborhood, so the policy reads:

“Documents created through official action by the NWNW Coalition or a member neighborhood association—including minutes, agendas, bylaws, articles of incorporation, policies and formal correspondence—are public records.

*“Documents not created through official actions may also be public record; if presented to the NWNW Coalition, they will be given to the organization to which they pertain within five business days. Said organization shall determine whether the documents are public record as per the applicable requirements of the ONI Standards.**

“Copies of public records will be made available by the coalition staff or by the neighborhood association which they pertain in a timely manner upon request. Reasonable costs for copying may be charged. The NWNW Coalition is not authorized to release documents in its custody which have not been determined to be public records.

*“*Standards for Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, Business District Associations, and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (July 13, 2005 or the most current revision.)”*

Motion 2: Schaffer moved to approve the NWNW Policy for Public Records with the addition the documents be delivered to the neighborhood association within 5 business days. Hutchinson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Options for Graffiti Cleanup & Prevention—Southwick

Southwick covered two options for the remaining \$728 that NWNW has for graffiti abatement projects and discussed the options with the board and the audience.

Option One: Purchase consumable graffiti abatement items and work with volunteers in the neighborhoods and through Central City Concern's Community Volunteer corps to address approximately 5 graffiti abatement projects as allowed by funds available and volunteer capacity. Business support could stretch these dollars farther and would help develop a new partnership with the CVC, which could be beneficial for other projects as well.

- Supports multiple neighborhood projects, estimating approximately 5 projects
- Creates a new partnership with Central City Concern, with access to volunteers that could work on multiple types of projects beyond graffiti abatement
- Ties neighborhood associations to Central City Concern volunteers in a new way. Central City Concern staff currently volunteers on the Old Town Chinatown board, but with the Community Volunteer Corps, the residents of CCC housing would be volunteering for neighborhoods.
- Several neighborhoods have some interest in graffiti removal projects.
- Leverages funds from businesses
- Most bang for your buck.

Option 2: Support a community mural which could be one that already is in process or a new project. This would only benefit one neighborhood with the amount of funds remaining. Completing a new project may be difficult

- There is one existing project at Friendly House or one neighborhood could utilize Murals of Portland to help facilitate a Mural Project.
- Could leverage funds from businesses.

Other comments:

- PGE Park and Max lines have graffiti that need cleaned up.
- Neighborhoods that boarder Burnside could work together to develop a "Better Burnside" project.
- The Portland Business Alliances ends at 9th Avenue, so everything west of that could use some assistance.
- Removing graffiti from all of the bridges across I405 would help the city look better.
- Ivy is a problem in Sylvan-Highlands. The city is relying on volunteers to do work were there aren't funds for public servants.
- The Pearl District currently removes graffiti once or twice a month. Volunteers meet at Pete's Coffee and then disburse to people pick up trash, cigarette butts and remove graffiti.

Motion 3: Boly moved to utilize the remaining funds on option one. Kelly seconds. Passes unanimously.

Web Hosting Options—Sieber ♦

Sieber introduced the board to Canvas Dreams as a potential new hosting service for the NWNW and neighborhood websites. This would increase NWNW web hosting expenditures \$150 per year which isn't currently in the budget, though the fundraiser earned enough money to cover this expense. One of the primary benefits of this hosting service is the availability of a reseller account. Though BlueHost does provide the possibility of hosting multiple sites with one hosting account, a reseller account at Canvas Dreams allows each neighborhood web manager more control of their own set up. The Canvas Dreams account would allow a single point of billing. They are a local, reputable company that uses 100% wind power. BlueHost is not local.

Motion 4: Hutchinson moved to spend the extra money for hosting at Canvas Dreams. Schaffer seconded. Passed unanimously.

Neighborhood Reports

Hutchinson, NINA: Hosted a presentation regarding eco-industrial development at neighborhood meeting. It was under-attended.

Schaffer, Goose Hollow: Met with Clean Sweep folks regarding PGE litter removal, to learn about their policies and how broad they canvass. PDOT shared their plans for extending the hours for parking meetings until 10:00 PM near PGE Park on game nights. Records committee met. Burnside Fred Meyer is being remodeled. Discussed the school bond issue and how it impacts Lincoln High School.

Stark, Hillside: Received some communication funds. Cornell Road Sustainability Coalition is on the short listed for a Metro grant. The Portland Plan fair at the Oregon Zoo was successful show for the Portland plan fair with about 150 attending. It was an impressive presentation.

Boly, Arlington Heights: Concerned with the water system, since the reservoir in their neighborhood, but the issues are relevant to most neighborhoods.

McCreary, Old Town Chinatown: Working on a Good Neighborhood Agreement for the Bud Clark Commons, the new name for the Resource Access Center. The Bud Clark Commons has a new location. Teri Pierson from Resolutions Northwest has been doing a great job facilitating. Neighborhood is pushing for a drug free zone. The Arts, Culture & History Committee is collaborating on communication with NW Evaluation Association. PHLUSH, part of Public Safety and Livability Committee, has been busy dealing with mission creep because there are not a lot of other organizations like them. They're hoping that someone with address toilets citywide as part of the regular city policy. Provided copies of The Crier.

Kelly, Linnton: The last neighborhood meeting was mostly regarding land use including how Linnton fits into larger city plans. The neighborhood is lacking infrastructure needed for additional development. Discussed the school bond issue and how the neighborhood could support it. The Linnton Community Center is having a St. Patrick's Day Event with silent auction to win free beer for a year from Windermere. Admission is \$12 including dinner and live music. All are invited!

Beninati, Pearl: Neighborhood is working on pedestrian improvements like adding stop lights, signs, crosswalks and other infrastructure for safety. They're educating other organizations about the neighborhood activities and contacting businesses and other organizations to donate \$200 per year.

Grossnickle, Forest Park: The Water Bureau asked the neighborhood to move out of their meeting space so they are looking for a new place. The water bureau is installing a pump station where they currently meet. In April they are holding their annual SOLV Clean-up along Germantown Road where people have dumped their garbage over the steep sides of the road. Working on Rural Reserves has been a major project over the last year.

Hyams, NWDA: Addressing long- and short-term parking programs on Mayor Adam's parking committee. They currently have a short-term solution to deal with soccer parking. Worked on an Urban Renewal Area for a while, but it has been scaled back significantly. Air quality advocates have been addressing ESCO and that they are currently operating on an expired permit. They are not doing anything illegal, but it is noxious. They are working with experts on new capture methods. The Parks Committee is getting up and running.

Guest: City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, Amanda@portlandoregon.gov

City Budget

When asked to cut 1.5% of the ONI Budget, this ends up being a 20% reduction because of the significant amount of programs with one-time funding. For example, Resolutions Northwest and the Graffiti Abatement funds are one-time funded.

Graffiti is the new ivy. It is a great community building activity. Though the city has to get the business owners permission to remove the graffiti on private property, volunteers can do the work. With budget cuts, citizens can help. In the next budget cycle, she is hoping to have more money for graffiti, murals, and small grants.

As we are looking to possibly climb out of the recession, think about the resources that you would like to add back versus what we has been cut out, but things are working fine without?

The City Budget is where the decisions are made. If you are interested in ONI, the Water Bureau, Drug Free Zones, Stop Signs, etc., provide your volunteer advice within the budget process.

Help us tell our story!

Some bureaus, like Parks, are great at coming in with statistics about the volunteer hours that help support their programs. Document of the amount of time you spend on your activities. Track volunteer hours, how many people do how much. Fritz keeps a calendar in ½ hour increments. It helps for bragging rights and if you would like to apply for grants.

Crime Prevention

Crime Prevention is considering consolidating their offices downtown. This centralization could help with training and team work. They could come out to neighborhoods as an on-call service. Fritz would like to hear from neighborhoods. What do you think? Amanda@portlandoregon.gov

Office of Equity

The Office of Human Relations will morph into the Office of Equity starting in July. The purpose of this office will be to infuse equity into all of our actions. How is disparity being or not being addressed? How and where does government spend money? What are our hiring practices? This can be difficult to measure, but looking to create long-term and short-term goals that are achievable. For example, the Office of Sustainability started with recycling and then helped people become more knowledgeable about other issues, like green building. Fritz is hoping to grow city's consciousness in a similar way with the office of equity. The purpose of the Office of Equity would be to help bureaus think about the work their doing without doing it for them, like how the community can be more involved with getting to know the police. If someone wants to work on equity issues, but doesn't know where to start, the office of equity could direct you to the right place. Looking at people to get involved.

Citywide Summit

Fritz has been meeting with all coalitions and volunteers from North and East Portland were interested in a Citywide Summit. There was some interest in the room to gather to address issues citywide, get trainings on how to attract new people, etc.

Audience: There are equity considerations with the Portland Plan outreach. Fritz's staff is invited to sit in on the citizen involvement committee meetings in order to help address equity issues and help get the word out. It is challenged to attract new people.

Reservoirs

Audience: Though ONI is going through budget cuts, but bureaus are their budget. Water bills are expected to increase over 80% over the next five years. Please push back on the water bureau budget. In 2004 neighborhoods and community action stopped the capping of the reservoirs. What is the most effective way to address issues with the water bureau?

Fritz: A vote in 2009 saved money because they chose to filter with UV, saving \$500 million dollars. The city is working on receiving a variance to save some more money. When there are hearings without public comments, still send in your emails. Hearings are broadcast on Channel 30. To work with the water bureau, take a fact based approach. It is challenging to deal with the federal government, including EPA and federal elected officials. The proposed rate increases are way too high. In addition to a variance, Fritz is considering ways to postpone construction so people are not burdened with the extreme rate increases. The community needs to organize what they ask for because right now there are a lot of different alternatives being proposed.

Crime Prevention and Emergency Services

Audience: Thanks to the 911 workers and Frank Silva. Seen a downturn in the prostitution and drug use.

Fritz: Emergency Services (911) is working on the questions that the call takers ask during intake. Other useful numbers include 503 0823-3333, Police Non-Emergency; 503 832-4000, Information and Referral at ONI; 503 988-4888, the Multnomah County Crisis Line. Information and referral can get an answer for you nine times out of ten. The Multnomah County Crisis Line can be called when you think someone needs help, and it's not a police matter.

Public Records

It's rare that the newspaper will focus on positive stories. There is a recent ruling in Lane County that if you talk to people in series, even it is not all at the same time, this information should be disclosed. Do things in an open and transparent manner.

Public Comments

The nice thing about what we do is we can reconsider. When submitting comment, send them at least day ahead of time so commissioners can consider what you are saying. Good public policy is created by teasing out the details. For example, the City does housing for individuals and county does housing for families. Commissioner Fish is looking into how housing services could make more sense.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 pm

Next Meeting: April 13, 2011