



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 December 14, 2011 Meeting

Minutes

Attending

NWNW Board:

Frank Bird, President, Northwest District
Jeff Boly, Vice-President, Arlington Heights
Les Blaize, Secretary, Forest Park
Tommy Huynh, Old Town Chinatown
Harold Hutchinson, Northwest Industrial
Peter Stark, Hillside
Scott Schaffer, Goose Hollow
Claudia Martin, Sylvan-Highlands

NWNW Staff:

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

Guests:

Allan Classen, NW Examiner

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of November 2011 Minutes

Motion 1: Blaize moved to approve November 2011 minutes. Boly seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Election of Board Officers

The slate of NWNW officer candidates, as presented by the nominating committee were: Peter Stark, President; Jeff Boly, Vice-President; and Les Blaize, Secretary.

Motion 2: Hutchinson moved to elect the slate of candidates as NWNW officers. Boly seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Coalition Staffing

Motion 3: Hutchinson moved to go into executive session to discuss NWNW staffing changes. Huynh seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion 4 Blaize moved to exit executive session. Hutchinson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion 5: Blaize moved to continue with the hiring process for the Neighborhood Events & Office Assistant and to accept the redesign of Barrett's position to a Community Support Coordinator. Hutchinson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Staff Report

Sieber reviewed current finances with the board. At this point, NWNW finances are as expected. Sieber will meet with the finance committee to report further details when available from bookkeepers.

ONI Budget Process

Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) is being asked to present 4%, 6% and 8% cut packages for the 2012-13 budget. The total cut amount is not known yet. The ONI Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) has prioritized preserving personnel, as in previous years. A couple of unfilled crime prevention positions are at risk of being cut. Contractors (including Neighbors West-Northwest) are at risk of losing a cost-of-living increase and the administration fee that accompanies the Neighborhood Small Grant Program. The NWNW Board was concerned that cuts could impact

our hiring process. If either the administrative fee or the cost-of-living increase was not cut, NWNW would be able to maintain staffing levels as discussed.

ONI has a very open budget review process. Everyone attending the meetings can vote on the proposed actions. Other bureaus cut their programs proportionally, which could leave some programs without sufficient funds. ONI goes through the budget process as required by the City rules, but then creates the “Right Budget” that looks at the most reasonable places to cut their budget. This maintains the highest level of services possible while cutting the totals required.

Street Sweeps.

This long-time program was originally provided by the City of Portland at the request of the Northwest District and Goose Hollow to reduce the significant flooding in these communities due to clogged storm drains. The sweeps occurred up to four times per year, removing leaves and debris on a prearranged schedule. At the beginning of the program, the City requested automobile removal on a volunteer basis. Later, the City began towing vehicles to increase the program’s success. The ambient sweeping done in the rest of the city was ineffective because of the high use of on-street parking.

Initially this program was billed as a neighborhood program because the PBOT was instructed to implement it by the Commissioner in-charge. Barricades are distributed before the street sweep to indicate when parking will be restricted and provide the NWNW main phone number as a public information resource. Later in the program development, another phone number was added to the barricade so folks could retrieve their vehicles. NWNW was primarily distributing this number anyway. Over the years, NWNW has worked with the city to improve the process, including adding the tow phone number and announcing the program ahead of time. Flyers were mailed to each resident and business announcing the schedule each year and reminders prior to each sweep. NWNW also announces it in the Activist, our newsletter published in the NW Examiner.

Now the program has changed again. Beginning last year, the City of Portland began charging for this service – for the Clean Sweep and removing leaves from the leaf districts. We could not find any evidence that they sent out flyers announcing the sweep. NWNW did not get one. This year’s callers have did not receive a flyer. Usually, NWNW receives a flyer in the mail and many additional flyers to pass out to the community. Over the years, City has referred callers to NWNW as a neighborhood program. The cost of storage and towing has gone up significantly and the city will not adjust the costs for that day. Staff has received many hostile phone calls. Now the program has been reorganized and is not managed well. Though NWNW can still announce the program in advance and serve in an information and referral capacity, Sieber suggested that NWNW write a letter requesting that the city remove the NWNW name and number off the signs. Board indicated that since this is a city program, it is not appropriate for NWNW to be associated with it. Providing the current level of information and referral has become a burden for NWNW staff.

Motion 6: Blaize moved to write a letter to the Mayor, the commissioner in-charge of the Portland Bureau of Transportation, requesting that the NWNW name and phone number be removed from the barricades set out prior to the Clean Sweep. Martin seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Timely Announcements

Hillside, Stark: Hillside has drafted a letter to Mayor Adams expressing interest in participating in the NW Parking plan. If there is a transportation management association, they would like to have a representative sit on the committee. Hillside is concerned about parking poaching in their neighborhood. Stark will send a copy of the letter to NWDA. At the last meeting, Hillside also voted to increase their boundaries to include folks that were land locked – previously these neighbors were only located in NWDA, but had to travel through Hillside to leave their homes. Now resident will have a choice to join NWDA, Hillside, or both – like others on Cornell Road.

Northwest Industrial, Hutchinson: The December meeting was a social and the last day of the neighborhood food drive.

Forest Park, Blaze: At the upcoming Forest Park Board Meeting, Charlie Hales will be visiting.

Northwest District, Bird: NWDA has had some serious discussions with ESCO about air quality and have been negotiating a Good Neighbor Agreement. The discussions about the Conway properties have continued. A new development of 165 market rate apartments has broken ground on Savior and 23rd Avenue across from Besaw’s. The neighborhood has continued work with the Timbers. They have also been working on the NW Parking Plan could impact Hillside and perhaps Goose Hollow.

Arlington Heights, Boly: AHNA has been involved in a very interesting planning process for Washington Park. There has not been a review of the Washington Park Master Plan for 30 years. Park planning needs to be comprehensive because there are so many actors with facilities that impact Washington Park. The Zoo did not want to do a Master Plan because they have been using open space as a parking lot. They have put off this plan for many years. The lot was not to continue after the public transportation construction was complete. There have been meetings with many involved folks. The new Zoo Director's perspective on the parking lot is 180 degrees different from where Zoo was in the 1980s. AHNA went to court to preserve the open space. The new director has admitted that the lot is supposed to be open space, but the neighborhood may need to wait for the timing to be right. The lot is currently used for overflow parking. The Max is now complete and the public transportation can be promoted as an alternative. There are also other satellite parking lots. Unless the neighborhood takes a stand on this issue, the Zoo will do what they have been doing because they have the power. There was a huge gas leak on Kingston because the Portland Water Bureau hit the gas line.

Sylvan Highlands, Martin: SHNA has also been involved with the Zoo's Master Plan process. The Zoo wants to move forward with its own plan separate from the rest of Washington Park, but there needs to be a comprehensive plan. There is a lot of spill over traffic and parking into the Arlington Heights and Sylvan-Highlands Neighborhood Associations which creates several transportation issues that needs to be addressed. This will be an issue for the new mayor. For the next few days, the City of Portland is tearing up Burnside yet again. Is anyone paying attention to why this keeps happening – the street keeps getting worse? Sieber indicated that there is not a strategic plan for addressing street repairs which would allow the bureaus to coordinate.

Portland Downtown, Church: Has been attending Portland Downtown meetings for about a year. He is an activist with PSU and a tenant. His interests include public transportation, for instance the Streetcar fairs will be going up. He is involved with the Transit Rider Union (503 222-2974) which has meetings Monday nights downtown. He is interested in networking with other neighborhoods. From his experience if *The Oregonian* or a large group of riders are vocal, there is some success in addressing public transportation issues. Generally, TriMet has a liberal reputation, but this may not translate into reality.

Old Town Chinatown, Huynh: Saturday Market is open all week before Christmas. Developments in the neighborhood are geared toward social services. There is a new proposal – Multnomah County has expressed an interested in siting their Public Health department near the Bud Clark Commons.

Goose Hollow, Schaffer: Annual Meeting & Elections is in December. An archive of minutes is now on the Goose Hollow website – the minutes date back a number of years with some help from the NWNW office.

Adjourn to Lucky Lab – 1945 NW Quimby to celebrate Alison Wallisch's service to NWNW.