

## **BNA Board Meeting Minutes: 11/4/19**

**Members present: Laurie Dils   Cristina Charney   Gayle Magee Steve Mazepa   Jay Elder**

**After 10 minutes of socializing, the meeting began at 6:40 PM**

- 1. Treasurer Report: Barb wasn't here, but the BNA bank balance should not have changed since last meeting (\$700-\$800). Seth Hutt still hasn't turned in his receipts for all the food and supplies he bought for last summer's block party, so the balance will decrease somewhat when he does.**
  
- 2. Code Enforcement Issues**
  - Olympia Avenue Two summers ago, this owner had his house covered with vertical aluminum siding (in a historic district) until the City issued a stop-work order, because he had no permit and wouldn't get one for this incompatible exterior. He was asked to remove the siding and the unused materials in his yard. He recently moved the materials. Laurie sent him a letter two months ago asking him to comply with the rest of the City order. Nothing has happened. Laurie will contact code enforcement.**
  
  - Olympia Avenue The sidewalk in front of this (commercial) property is so badly broken up that many people have stumbled or fallen on it. There have been many complaints. Two months ago, Jay dropped a letter by the office inside, alerting the owners (Quince Place Associates) to the potential liability, and asking whether the owners could fix the sidewalk. There has been no response. It's hard to find anyone in charge in the house, because tenants are usually engaged in meetings. Jay will make another attempt to contact them. If there is still no response, code enforcement will be contacted. Gayle volunteered to handle contacting code enforcement.**
  
- 3. Novemberfest: We have 17 people signed up. There may be more by the reservation deadline Tuesday night.**
  
- 4. Bigelow House BNA has been asked to supply carolers at the BH for their annual Holiday Tour of Historic Homes on Sunday December 8. It's only a half-hour commitment (11:50 to 12:15 on the porch). Other BNAers will be invited to join in. Jay and Steve organize it and be there.**

**Last summer, the BH asked if the BNA wanted to be involved with the BH Ice Cream party. BNA can certainly advertise it and, depending on whether it conflicts with the BNA Block Party, can supply volunteers.**
  
- 5. Bylaws Laurie pointed out that the BNA bylaws haven't been changed since at least 2007 (actually it's more like 1980). She suggested we work on updating them in the next 6 months. She will be attending an ONNA meeting tomorrow, and will ask for samples of other neighborhood associations' bylaws to suggest ideas for needed changes. Jay volunteered to make an initial draft, which can serve as a starting point.**

6. **CNA/ONNA Updates** A stretch of 26th Avenue (busy arterial), between Bethel St and Priest Point Park has never had a sidewalk, and barely a shoulder. After 3 years of planning and lobbying the City, ONNA saw the sidewalk break ground last week. This will significantly improve safety for pedestrians.

ONNA has learned of an artist who creates whimsical, but historically-based maps of neighborhoods. They point out significant spots and events to make walking tours more interesting. The neighborhoods in ONNA will collaborate to see whether to have one created, and what should be on it.

CNA has sponsored three community events in the past 3 months. The first and second were seminar for neighborhood leaders that gave ideas for how to discuss difficult topics, where people were polarized. The goal was learning how to do this with minimum drama and maximum consensus.

7. **Neighborhood Matching Grants** The BNA has been successful in getting 5 matching grants from the City in the last 5 years, worth about \$10,000. We match the City's money with our labor. The funds allowed us to build the trail, park benches and picnic table at the Bigelow Springs Park (BSP), and then to create the gardens. Other grants allowed us to clear the eight-acre behind the Bigelow House of 10-foot blackberries, with the help of goats. Then blackberry roots were dug out, cardboard and mulch was spread, and 10 fruit trees were planted.

The BNA didn't apply for a matching grant last year. If there is interest, we will this year. Possibilities are a summer outdoor movie night at the BSP, re-landscaping the BSP gardens and hill-side with drought-resistant plants, or clearing weeds, re-card-boarding and mulching in the Bigelow House Orchard. Anyone in the BNA can come up with an idea. If they are willing to spearhead the project, Jay volunteered to guide them through the application process. In the meantime, we need to schedule regular BSP cleanup and maintenance parties.

Steve volunteered to research what is involved in, and the expense of, putting on a BSP movie night.

8. **Website Updates** Include new resource contact info, update board member info, create (with occupants' permission) maps that show who lives where in the neighborhood.
9. Next Board Meeting will be either January 9 or 13. Laurie will put out a Doodle-poll

Meeting ended at 7:45 PM