

BNA Minutes 6/14/16

The meeting started at 7:10 PM with Seth Hutt, Barb LaForge, Patty Sievert, Deb Walter, Steve Mazepa and Jay Elder present.

1. Seth asked anyone if they had news to share before we started the meeting. Everyone knew of someone who had just moved to the neighborhood, and wanted to officially reach to and invite them to join the BNA. It was decided that a Welcome Letter would be written by Steve, to be given to new people.

Jay said that neighbors had reported new squatters on the the East Bay Condo property again. The Condo has given police permission to go on the property if necessary. We decided to do more frequent walkthroughs and monitor the property.

2. Seth reviewed what has happened at the Bigelow Springs.
 - Last years's grant work at the springs was completed, planting bulbs and new plants. The bulbs did very well. The survival rate of annuals was bad, and we'll need to replant at some point.
 - Deb suggested the bulbs planted next to te benches might be relocated, since they tend to get squashed
 - Seth asked how people like the blue glass on the trail. Deb and Barb said little kids really like it, and want take pieces home. Jay said an older couple had said that it made the trail harder to walk and use a wheelchair on. We decided to move the glass to one side of the trail, and that kids are welcome to take pieces.
 - We were just approved two more grants at the Springs:
 - Installing an Asahel Curtis Panorama of Olympia sign in concrete at the top of the hill, near where the picture was originally taken.
 - Creating a level concrete pad for the picnic table, with a security ring to secure the table.

3. Seth went over the Bigelow Orchard project. Right now, Seth, Jay and Britt have cleared all weeds and dug up all blackberry roots, except for a remaining 200 square feet. They have also spread minerals that will encourage plants that compete with blackberries, and covered the weeded area with cardboard.

Now that its cleared, the Bigelow House Museum realized there should be an archaeology assessment done of the plot to check for Native American or even Bigelow family artifacts. Our project is stalled until they decide the sope of the survey, and then do it.

We had another grant for the orchard approved. In the Fall, we'll mulch the entire lot, plant 9 fruit and nut trees, along with blueberry, serviceberry, black currant and elderberry bushes. We'll also put up T-bars and nets to prevent deer from eating the plants. All of this is paid for by grants, but well need BNA volunteers to do the work. Eventually, this will be a neighborhood garden, which can supply fruit and nuts to all residents

4. Seth then brought up that we need someone to be a Parks Department liaison for the BNA, and a Block Watch captain.

Barb LaForge volunteered to organize Blockwatch captains for each block. Jay will give

her EMail addresses of BNA members interested in Blockwatch

Deb Walter volunteered to be the Parks liaison. She'll work with Sam Baker to create a work plan for Bigelow Springs park and generally monitor what needs doing there, like mowing schedules and tree trimming.

5. Seth returned to the need to get more people involved in the BNA, especially younger ones.

He suggested returning to a quarterly newsletter in May (when grants are approved and work parties begin), August (the BNA picnic and Fall work parties are organized), November (Novemberfest and a holiday event), and February (grants applications are submitted and much City business occurs).

Steve asked people to Email him the things we want included on the BNA Welcome Letter he will create in the next few weeks.

Jay said that we should invite anyone interested to board meetings, which might spark involvement. He also recommended that next year, we cut back on grants for the parks, and focus on work parties that benefit our residents in particular, like neighborhood cleanups, beautification, code enforcement, etc.

6. Seth asked for ideas on the BNA block party/annual meeting this year. Everyone felt we should again shut down Olympia Avenue between Quince and Eastside, and have it on National Night Out (Tuesday August 2) between 6 and 8. We still have \$200 in the BNA account, so we can supply free hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, beverages and picnic-ware again. Other food will be supplied by potluck.

Barb suggested we publicize dues again (\$10 single, \$20 family per year) and collect them or donations at the party. She also suggested we show what we spent dues on last year so people will know their money was spent appropriately.

Steve said that not only should we invite City officials, but representatives from the Bigelow Museum.

Seth reminded us that we will reelect the president, treasurer and secretary for another 2-year term at the party. He suggested we let everyone know ahead of time.

7. Updates requested for the website: Links to the Downtown Strategy plans, info on the Food drive, info about ONNA, new newsletter. Newsletter will come out in July (instead of May). Members were asked to Email Jay suggestions for what to include

8. • Next meeting Tuesday July 26 at 7 PM.
• Next work party, early July (TBA)
• Things to work on: People running stop signs at Quince & Olympia and Quince & Prospect

Get on the Facilities schedule to fix potholes and possibly repave Quince and other streets

Welcome new neighbors

Schedule next work party