

Notes of BAC business meeting, June 13, 2018

[agenda item titles in *italics*, decisions in **bold**, discussion in regular font style]

attending:

Melaney Dittler (board – chair pro tem)

Andi Moore (visitor)

Jerry Wagner (visitor)

Marie Philippi (newsletter editor)

Brenda (Trimet representative and visitor)

Mark Romanaggi (board)

Tom Vinacci (visitor)

Lily (board)

Mike O'Connor (board)

Josh Hetrick (board)

Guy Berliner (board, secretary pro tem – substituting for Mike Irwin (not present))

First order of business, confirm officer roles among those elected in last general meeting

roles to confirm: Ben Tarne, chair; Joanna, vice-chair; Don Stephens, treasurer; Mike Irwin, secretary; Mike O'Connor moved to confirm, Guy seconded, board unanimous

Action taken: officers confirmed

Trimet representation from Brenda on SE Boise/Mall parking lot, et al:

Currently gravel and not up-to-code, construction originally planned to begin in May on improved parking lot, now rescheduled for this month around the week of the 25th, or else first week of July; project includes landscaping, stormwater, and lighting improvements; no lighting or landscaping planned for rear, but some in front; lights should be directed low enough not to affect neighbors; existing wall separating lot from neighbors behind will be kept; notice will be provided to immediate neighbors prior to beginning of construction; project to include 26 spots, including 3 motorcycle spots, roughly equivalent to current use. The project is projected to take three months until completion.

Discussion:

Q: How many Trimet conductors use the lot now?

A (Brenda): Mostly used by facility and operations staff, not conductors.

Q: What about encouraging Trimet staff to use Trimet themselves to get to work, if possible?

A (Brenda): We do already encourage that, by providing complementary passes

Q: How many parking spots are elsewhere in use along the same stretch of 17th?

A (Brenda): About a hundred

Q: What details are known about the landscaping?

A (Brenda): It will be relatively extensive, and mostly in accord with city requirements.

Q: Did it not get reduced thanks to variance requested and received by Trimet?

A (Brenda): Yes, that is correct.

Other details (Brenda): Part of the lot is not planned to be paved, and could offer additional space for landscaping. Also, another concurrent project scheduled nearby, in the Trimet yards themselves, is the replacement of concrete bus parking curbs/wheel stops, for which notice to nearby neighbors will also be provided. The duration of this project is expected to be six weeks, and will create significant noise, although should not disrupt traffic.

Gideon bike/ped bridge: Design reaching 30% completion in July; trying to prioritize avoiding impacts to adjacent businesses; HAND will get a walking tour of the site and Trimet also wants to invite BAC representatives; planned for last two weeks of July

Q: Has Trimet made any plans yet for the triangle lot at SE Pershing?

A (Brenda): Yes, it has been sold to a company called NW Sustainable Properties; will probably be residential development; the owner is associated with the board of PNCA, so the thought has been suggested of dedicating it to student housing, but due to conflict-of-interest rules, it cannot be explicitly made student housing, but may be “geared” towards students.

Q: What is to become of the 17th and Holgate property?

A (Brenda): It is not currently on the market

Brenda: Trimet’s new general mgr is inviting members of the public to come to “listening sessions” so that he can receive input into any and all matters concerning the public and Trimet. We can raise any questions about these and other plans at upcoming listening sessions.

Neighborhood cleanup recap (courtesy Eric Wieland, organizer and fmr BAC chair):

Total cost of cleanup (charged by Heiberg, reimbursable by SEUL): \$2500

Profits: \$1700, including \$100 in metal recycling; although the scheduled cleanup open hours ran for one hour less than past years, we still cleared more profits from the event than ever before; Eric suggests for future events that we ensure there are two people assigned to handle cash and give directions to drivers, one stationed at SE Center and one at SE 16th (at least one driver cheated and dumped off a large truck full of junk furniture and drove away without paying because we did not have enough volunteers covering all the incoming drivers from both of these directions); forms for reimbursement are already submitted to SEUL and those funds should be forthcoming (although that can take 3-4 mo); SEUL asks us to collect a long forms-worth of statistics about the “haul”, which is difficult for us to do (most of the items on there currently have to be left “NA”, for “not available”); Eric suggests we partner with a charity in advance next time, which can perhaps streamline the process, and perhaps allow for more effective handling of reusable/recyclable items and better record keeping, which SEUL might appreciate.

Reedway overpass support letter (Josh):

At the SE corner of SE McGloughlin and SE Reedway a bike/ped bridge crossing has been proposed, but is currently languishing at the end of a long list of other proposed improvements citywide; SMILE has requested SEUL to seek an advanced timetable for the improvement via inclusion in a regional bond; they are asking each southeast neighborhood to weigh in in favor of this and endorse a bridge over SE 17th & SE Reedway;

Guy: motion in favor of endorsing the support letter

Lily: seconded

Board: unanimous

Action taken: Reedway overpass support letter endorsed

Friends of Brooklyn Park update (Melaney):

Program scheduled to start next week; funding is almost complete (~\$17k of \$25k); official 501c3 status already obtained; GBBA membership has been asked to sponsor days at the park (eg, \$500 sponsors one day); letters are going out to all GBBA members; the Aladdin auditorium has been secured for a possible talent show featuring neighborhood kids to raise funds for the program, after Melaney spoke to the owner; this event could happen towards the end of this summer, to start raising funds for next year. This summer’s program is scheduled to run Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 12p-8p throughout the summer, with Craig Montag once again volunteering to lead it.

Mark Romanaggi: what about a midsummer fundraiser, to make up the balance of funds required?

Melaney: Yes, that is a possibility.

BLUTC (BAC Land Use and Transportation Committee) Update:

Lily and Josh are meeting with Leah from SEUL for a “training session” on participating in the city’s land use and transportation planning process, 4:30 tomorrow at Rose City Coffee; these meetings are informal and ad hoc and can be arranged at the mutual convenience of Leah and interested board members of neighborhood assns.

South Reach Visioning Workshop (Lily):

Lily went (Don had planned to go but missed it); Lily thought it was sparsely attended by the community (city staffers outnumbered the public, she said); after introductions, the meeting was divided in three “stations”: surrounding neighborhoods, natural resources, and recreation. Staff facilitated “brainstorming” by members of the public, writing ideas on easels. Lily emphasized concerns originally raised by Don, to the effect that our neighborhood has been promised repeatedly for decades that it would get priority for improved river access, but it has never happened. One map displayed by the city indicated a proposed crossing of McGloughlin at SE Haig that would be “triggered” by any significant development there. We can possibly use the statement made in the Central City ‘35 plan saying something to the effect that “river front neighborhoods should all enjoy river access as a basic neighborhood amenity”; ours is probably the only residential neighborhood in the entire city that completely lacks such access.

Melaney: Unfortunately, no money has been allocated to any of the South Reach plans that emerge.

Lily: Right now, the city is taking comments on their “existing conditions” report, to document concerns about existing conditions. An open house is being scheduled for the fall, to be followed by a “discussion draft” early next year. Interested members of the public should email riverplan@portlandoregon.gov, submit comments by 16 Jul. Emily Roth from Parks and Rec said we can get a tour of Ross Is. Has to be done with an escort, as most of the site outside the sand and gravel mine is an exclusive wildlife refuge.

Newsletter update (Marie):

Items currently scheduled to appear:

July 25 general meeting

FoBP developments

Loaves and Fishes/Meals on Wheels impending shutdown

(Catholic Charities owns it; Marie called to see if we can still use it; Joe from Meals on Wheels is the manager of the space. They are short \$200k due to govt funding cuts. Currently they plan to consolidate and move away all their Brooklyn operations to Moreland Presbyterian. We still don’t know whether and for how long our own (BAC) meeting space will be available.)

National Night Out

Ice Cream Social, Sep 9

Movie in the Park, Aug 9 (“Greatest Showman”); GBBA-sponsored block party is tentatively planned to coincide with it Thursday night (needs to be confirmed);

Summary of neighborhood cleanup;

New yoga studio being started by Heather Williams taking over the former Hazel and Pear space;

Story about last general meeting and business fare;

Marie agreed to reach out to Joe for further info on plans for the space being vacated by Meals on Wheels, so that BAC can plan accordingly to prevent disruption to our meetings.

Neighborhood Walking Tours

Melaney is once again organizing a walking tour on the west side of Brooklyn for Jun 21, to be led as before by Eric Wheeler of “Postively Portland Walking Tours”; price is being raised to \$15. Facebook and Nextdoor events have been created to advertise it.

GBBA Aug Movie in the Park sponsorship (Melaney)

Blaine from TheLamp adjacent to the Aladdin has agreed to supply food; will approach Pok-Pok, Upside Down, Teutonic Wines, et al. Possible “Biergarten” at Bushwackers. US Bank offering parking lot space for event.

GBBA general update (Melaney)

GBBA membership now comes with a window placard, cost is currently \$100/yr; thirty out of six hundred businesses in the “greater Brooklyn” area have signed up so far.

Op-ed on new apartment building nearing completion on Milwaukie between Rhine and Rhone (Marie)
Marie proposed writing a piece on the new apartment building under construction on Milwaukie between Rhine and Rhone, pointing out the structure’s lack of compliance with the spirit (and now, the letter) of city planning codes intended to maintain neighborhood character, the imposing footprint of the building clashes with the scale of adjacent structures, and the developer did not show courtesy of engaging with the neighborhood in advance (although the size of the development did not trigger such a requirement, other developers with comparable projects have done so). However, she has not written the piece yet, and there is not enough space remaining to include it in the upcoming letter. Although the board did approve the op-ed (with disclaimer) at previous meeting, consensus is to “let it go” for now.

July 25 General Meeting

Discussion occurred on the BAC mailing list during the past two weeks about topics for the upcoming July 25 general meeting. At a previous BAC business meeting, we agreed to use some or all of the meeting to discuss air pollution issues in Brooklyn, as a followup to a previous discussion at the general meeting in January. Meanwhile, a working group of representatives from multiple neighborhood associations has had several meetings to discuss followup actions on the larger problem of air pollution citywide, especially diesel particulates. A proposal was advanced and supported at the most recent working group meeting to request BAC to dedicate the entire July general meeting to the air pollution problem, and broaden the scope to invite subject matter experts, members of the public, electeds, and candidates for office to a broader discussion on the problem and actions that can be taken to address it. Concerns were raised that this may be “hijacking” a neighborhood-centric general meeting. However, there are no other major topics already proposed for dedicating substantial time to at the meeting. Also, the air pollution problem has a major and disproportionate impact on Brooklyn neighborhood specifically. Also, we have a window of opportunity to raise the profile and gain traction on the issue with the city, with the help of other neighborhoods. Proposal made by Melaney to devote the first half hour of meeting to neighborhood specific topics, possibly 15 minutes of Q&A with Rep. Rob Nosse (tbd), and the remainder to the proposed air pollution “town hall forum”.

Action taken: board agreed to host air pollution forum at upcoming Jul 25 general meeting, 7:45-9pm

Board member contact sheet

Marie will email the updated board member contact sheet out to board members on the BAC mailing list

Interim chair rotation

Guy agreed to accept the role of interim chair for our next business meeting; we have been rotating the chair role pending Ben Tarne’s return from sabbatical.