

Meeting Minutes for 4/10/2019

Board members present: Mike O'Connor, Melanie Dittler, Don Stephens, Guy Berliner, Josh Hetrick, Lily Gilbert, Cheryl Crowe, Joanna Jenkins (interim chair)

Absent: Mike Erwin (secretary)

Newsletter editor: Marie Phillippi

Visitors: David Ward

Approval of previous meeting minutes: tabled because Mike our secretary is not available.

Marie received back a \$300 check that had been approved by BAC to go to Sacred Heart Villa in appreciation of their hosting our meetings, but Joe who manages the building refused to take our money! The funds can now be used towards our ice cream social or other purposes. We will ask if they want any acknowledgment of their generosity.

Newsletter update: article on cleanup should include logos for SEUL and Metro. Fee for yard debris to go up from \$15 to \$20 per load. Brooklyn Business Fair and Spring Board Elections. May 6 Friends of Brooklyn Park benefit at Aladdin. Article about Artists and Craftsmen event. Article about Ron Wyden visit at Brooklyn Pharmacy last month to speak about affordable healthcare. Easter egg hunt mention. Also profile of new veterinary hospital for "business focus" piece.

Neighborhood cleanup: Eric has made all the arrangements except for recruiting volunteers for day of. He is looking for at least 5 folks for this. Note that another group is doing a "litter patrol" the same day, which has the potential to complicate getting volunteers for our own event. (Unfortunately, they did not attempt to coordinate their event with ours.)

FoBP story will mention benefit will featuring "Hamburger Petty" and a group doing a Beatles cover of the entire Abbey Road album. Also how you can support FoBP by donating your bottles and cans for recycling.

Land Use committee reports they received a request for comment the City on a variance request by our visitor today, David. He has a fence that was cited by the city as out of compliance with height/setback rules affecting "front yards". (City claims fence exceeds maximum height for its location fronting McGloughlin.) David says he wants the fence for security reasons, as he has experienced incidents of theft on his property. Board members Don Stephens and Lily Gilbert commented that the community garden has concerns about the height of the fence casting shade on garden plots. Board debated how to weigh in on the city's feedback solicitation. (Although the fence possibly casts shade during some parts of the year on the garden, David says that portion of the fence is up to code, as the code variance he has been required to seek by the city only applies to the portion of his fence fronting McGloughlin, not the portion adjoining the garden.) Michael proposed a compromise in the form of a "Good Neighbor" agreement: let David agree to lower the fence that casts shade on the garden by 2 feet, and we will send our feedback to the city in support of his variance. A "Good Neighbor" agreement, although NOT legally binding on the parties, offers a way to build good faith and good will among neighbors, strengthened by its having been witnessed and formally recorded by the board. David initially said he was prepared to enter into such an agreement, and also said he already plans to lower the height by at least one foot in any case on his own initiative, out of his own desire to reduce obstruction of his views. A vote was taken and the board approved by 5 to 2 a letter supporting David's variance, conditional on the aforementioned Good Neighbor agreement. (Two board members wanted to amend the agreement to make the height reduction only one foot, and expressed concerns or objections about making any

mention of the agreement in our letter to the city, on the grounds that the city won't care as it is not legally binding. Note that, although two members of the board did express these objections, David did not. In fairness to him, a copy of these minutes is being furnished to him ASAP to ensure he agrees with them, since they directly concern him.) Josh will draft the letter and pass it around for review by the board via email, as it has to be done in time to send to the city to be considered before they finish deciding on David's variance.

Update on Movie in the Park: the rules around sponsorship have changed! Aladdin Theater has already agreed to sponsor for \$300, and we are probably going to get at least one more sponsor, possibly including US Bank, which may defray most of the cost of the event.

Spring Board Elections: The following sitting board members are stepping forward for re-election:

Don Stephens, Josh Hetrick, Mike O'Connor, Mike Erwin, Melanie Dittler, Joanna Jenkins, Cheryl Crowe, Guy Berliner.

Lily Gilbert says she is stepping down, and Mark Romanaggi is also. The board will confirm officers following the elections.

Treasurer's report: Don presented his regular treasurer's report.

Liaison updates: nothing to vote on. PNDA offered an update on its activities in support of proposed House Bill 2007, which regulates diesel emissions from on-road vehicles statewide. Notable among its provisions is also a possible lifting of local preemptions against idling rules, meaning that Portland and or Multnomah County could finally, for example, regulate idling of buses and trucks around schools. We also met with Julianne Fry from Reed College, who offered guidance on the use of handheld monitoring devices we are acquiring with help from Portland Clean Air, another grassroots group we are working with.

Land Use and Transportation Committee has upcoming meeting next week. We turned in the cards we circulated throughout the neighborhood asking the city to finally honor its past commitments to include and fund a project for river access for our neighborhood. In other news, the proposed Division BRT route looks set to finally move forward after US DOT gave approval for federal funding for the project. Further information is available online: <https://trimet.org/division/>

Melanie reported in her capacity as Greater Brooklyn Business Association liaison that FoBP will have a presence at our upcoming neighborhood cleanup, where they will promote the bottle and can collection drive as a way for neighbors to show ongoing support for their programs.