**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association General Meeting**

**Feb 9, 2016**

**Patty Pan Cooperative**

Present: Sarah Kaye, Ian Taylor, Lois Harrison, Afifi Durr, Alice Keller, Devra Gartenstein, Bettelinn Brown, Budd Bennion, Harriet Jankman, Erin Middleton, Rodney Tripp, Constance Perenyi.

Meeting called to order at 7:00, chaired by Sarah Kaye because Jean Hilde was feeling under the weather and was unable to be present.

Minutes. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved with revisions.

CON report. The monthly Council of Neighborhoods meeting included a special workshop led by Heidi Schillinger of Equity Matters, addressing cultural competence, skill building, and implicit bias. Attendees discussed the difference between visible culture and invisible culture, and related it to the question of who we connect with at our neighborhood meetings. Heidi will come back in April for part 2 of the workshop and everyone is welcome, but anyone interested in attending should get in touch with Alice Keller or Constance Perenyi beforehand to get up to speed on the material from the February workshop.

Treasurer’s Report. The amount of money in the account hasn’t changed since January. Sarah Kaye reported that she still needs to get Amy Anscher’s signature before setting up the bank account.

Newsletter. Alice Keller will start to work on the upcoming edition soon. She needs material and asked for contributions. Sarah Kaye suggested that Bettelinn Brown or Lois Harrison write something about the issue of homelessness. Rodney Tripp brought up the issue of flooding in neighborhood crawl spaces and basements subsequent to new high school being built.

Event report: storytelling. Thanks to Amy and Jon Anscher for hosting. Attendees told a diverse collection of stories, ranging from emotional to funny. There was a guest storyteller from Syria. There is interest in holding more regular storytelling events, maybe on the first Friday of odd-numbered months. An article in the newsletter could inform the neighborhood and encourage people to prepare. It would be nice to bring in some children as well to tell stories.

Game night. The February 5th event was a success, and Feb 26th was suggested for the next game night. Devra Gartenstein suggested organizing the space better next time.

Neighbor welcome packets. Delivery is being postponed while the info is being updated to include churches, contact numbers, and other things of interest specific to Briarcrest, to make the information more personal and pertinent. It should also include information and neighborhood social media. The packet should also include a good map of the neighborhood. Bettelinn Brown has one, but has had trouble duplicating it in black and white because some sections are in green.

Update from Constance Perenyi. Constance Perenyi suggested possible meeting topics, including public relations and the city’s Open Space Plan. The parks master plan is redone every 20 years, and cities do comprehensive updates every 3 years. Shoreline is currently kicking off a three-year update. Planning for the 145th Street corridor project is wrapping up, and a zoning study is starting. Constance can help organize meetings on these topics (and others). She also provided information on city mini grants, which range from several hundred to a few thousand dollars. The objective of these grants is to create something lasting for neighborhoods. Arts Coordinator David Francis is interested in working with neighborhoods to create places. Patty Pan was floated as a possible location to create an outdoor gathering space. A mini-grant might also be appropriate to replace the sign that used to be at Hamlin Park. Bettelinn Brown suggested coordinating with the city for environmental grants. Affifi Durr suggested a grant to fund a storytelling event like one she attended in the Duwamish longhouse, and inviting a professional Native American storyteller. There are no hard and fast deadlines for mini grant applications; they’re awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Homelessness. Constance reported that homelessness is a big issue and the city is looking for a useful and compassionate way to address it. Lois Harrison spoke about the issue: she is scheduled to have coffee with Rob Beem to discuss it. There’s a possibility of a city council resolution, and Richmond Beach Congregational Church is deeply involved in outreach. 43% of the children at Briarcrest Elementary get subsidized lunch, and this figure indicates a growing number of people living on the edge. Shoreline is becoming less affordable, especially with new development. Lois will do a report at the next meeting, when the issue will be slated as a bigger agenda item. Attendees discussed tapping into kindness and compassion, and also continuing to discuss practical strategies.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.