**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association General Meeting**

**January 12, 2016**

**Patty Pan Cooperative**

Present: Sarah Kaye, Ian Taylor, Lois Harrison, Afifi Durr, Alice Keller, Devra Gartenstein, Bettelinn Brown, Padget Dean, Jean Hilde, April Ingle, Yifan Li.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by chair, Jean Hilde. Attendees had agreed via email earlier in the day to start the meeting later than usual because of the State of the Union address.

Minutes. Meetings from the previous meeting were reviewed and adopted without revision.

Council of Neighborhoods report- Padget Dean reported that the topic for the most recent meeting was leaders learning together, with a specific focus on communications. Attendees provided advice for neighborhood communications, emphasizing the insight that there are many resources for reaching out, and it’s best to use as many as possible without underestimating the usefulness of low tech approaches such as word of mouth and bulletin boards. In addition, Gail Schwartz spoke at the CON meeting about the concept of senior villages, people helping others to stay in their own homes. The city is looking for people interested in making presentations about different topics related to the Northwest Neighbors Network.

Communication.As follow up to the discussion about communication strategies, attendees agreed that more than one person should have the key to the Hamlin Park bulletin board. ­­Also, Amy Anscher is working on the new neighborhood website.

Treasurer’s report. Sarah Kaye reported that the organization now has funds of $193. She is in the process of opening an account BNA account at Heritage Bank, but needed information for the other BNA officers on the signature card. Most of that information was completed at the current meeting.

Game night. Snacks and games are covered, and planners are hoping for a good turnout.

Storytelling night. Afifi Durr agreed to invite guest speakers, but expressed concern about having enough space at Patty Pan. She suggested organizing the event around a theme, such as “What’s the worst thing that ever happened to you?” Attendees discussed and agreed on a format: the event will be held on Friday night February 5, beginning at 7. It will last two hours, and there will be an intermission. The anchor speakers will tell stories the first hour, and there will be an open mike the second hour.

Welcome packets. They’ve arrived! The city has given the neighborhood 18 packets, for 18 new neighbors. Jean Hilde suggested a smaller, separate meeting for anyone interested in delivering the packets, so members of the welcome committee can pick up the packets to be delivered and discuss delivery logistics.

Briarcrest Elementary School Garden Project. April Ingle and Yifan Li gave a presentation on a project to create a garden and interactive outdoor space out of an unused outdoor area on the west side of Briarcrest Elementary School. April Ingle is a school safety consultant, celebrating her tenth year in the neighborhood. Watching her first grader son play in space on the west side of the school, she had an epiphany about the potential for that space and emailed the University of Washington Department of Urban Design. The department connected her with a student helper, Yifan Li, who is helping to design an outdoor classroom and garden. The area will have cedar stump benches, a blackboard, a mural on the ground, art hanging on the fence, and raised beds. They’ve applied for a grant through the Whole Kids foundation and are making a video in 5 languages about the vision and the plan. The leadership team discussed ways to team up with the school to make the project successful. Ideas included collaborating with the Hunger Intervention Project and Diggin’ Shoreline.

February agenda. The upcoming meeting will include brainstorming for March-April events, and schedules for recurring events, possibly game night and storytelling every month with a big event once per quarter. There will also be discussion of mini grant ideas. Constance Perenyi will join attend the February meeting, and can offer suggestions and considerations for mini grants.

Meeting concluded at 8:40.