

Briarcrest Neighborhood Association General Meeting
September 13, 2016
Patty Pan Cooperative

Present: Jean Hilde, Lois Harrison, Devra Gartenstein, Sarah Kaye, Glinda Matthews, Amy Anscher, Eric Friedli, Erin Middleton, Ann Lynch, Harriet Tibbets, Emily Schuel.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM.

Meeting minutes. The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report. The bank account now has \$250. It would be nice to find something to do with some of the money, such as a donation or a project.

Newsletter. The next issue is slated for October, and will cover the holidays. This issue will be Emily's first; all relevant information and files have changed hands. We'll look into seeing whether the city will print it for us, but this would be contingent on their not restricting the content in any way.

Summer picnic. Sarah's and Jean's best guess was that there were a little over 30 people there. This was fewer than last year, though it still felt like a successful event. The lower turnout may have been because there was less outreach than last year. We discussed the possibility of asking for a donation for burgers next year. The city reimburses us for up to \$300 in expenses, but that money can't go to pay for "entrees".

Storytelling. The most recent event was held on September 9 at Amy and Jon's house. It was well attended and nearly everyone told a story. The next storytelling evening will likely take place on the second Friday in November, pending further discussion.

Hospitality packets. We packed and delivered 52 packets to new neighbors. The packets included an assortment of flyers provided by the city, as well as a lovely map created by Jean's daughter. We'd like to assemble and deliver the packets on an annual basis. Jean is getting a list of new homeowners quarterly from a realtor. She's also posted on Nextdoor looking for incoming renters interested in receiving packets.

Shoreline Parks and Recreation. Eric Friedli attended the meeting to solicit input about projects that might benefit the neighborhood. The discussion began with thoughts about whether or not he should be wearing a tie.

Parks and Recreation conducts a review of potential projects every six years. The review can be basic but they're making it more extensive this time, especially in light of the rezoning around the Light Rail stations, which allow for more density around the stations (145th and 185^{th St.}). These stations will open in 2022 or 2023 so this is a good time to buy new park property because property values will increase.

One item under review is the future of the Shoreline pool, which was built as part of the Forward Thrust program in the 1960's. Shoreline's pool is one of the oldest from this program that hasn't yet been renovated. It would cost around 6 million dollars to make the pool last another 20 to 30 years, and it would cost about \$700,000 to keep it operational for 5 years. The pool is owned by city, but built on land owned by the school district. This property is the closest parcel to Light Rail, so its value is increasing.

As part of the six-year review, Parks and Recreation is asking community members what other improvements they'd want in the other city parks. They're holding meetings with stakeholders, and conducting surveys and focus groups, especially with demographics that are typically hard to reach. They've posted an online questionnaire and are hosting a series of meetings to present current research and invite additional comments.

Lois emphasized the importance of preserving woods, trees, and quiet places, which will be especially important as density increases. Eric responded that the highest priority recorded on the surveys that were conducted was for green spaces and the need for an all-ages, city-run environmental education program. Erin pointed out that she is currently running an environmental education program for preschoolers, which should be on the department's radar. She also spoke to the dangers of using crumb rubber in playfields. Eric insisted that the material is safe as long as children don't put it in their mouths, and Erin responded that children will undoubtedly do just that.

When discussing the difficulties of building a pool or rec center on the Fircrest property, Eric commented that Briarcrest is "Not centrally located." Attendees expressed frustration that Briarcrest is often overlooked, maybe seen as a "poor" neighborhood because of its disproportionate amount of low income housing, especially compared to other Shoreline neighborhoods. Hamlin Park is an asset but it divides the neighborhood, and separates it from the rest of the city. Lois pointed out that Briarcrest schools have highest proportion of subsidized meals in the city, and its residents speak 44 different languages. She spoke to the importance of serving this neighborhood in particular, especially because residents are less likely than residents of more affluent parts of the city to be able to travel to take advantage of recreation options.

Amy asked about the most effective way to communicate our wishes and concerns. Eric suggested one email now, and then more emails later in the year in response to the tentative plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.