**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association General Meeting**

**May 9, 2017**

**Patty Pan Cooperative**

Meeting called to order at 7PM.

Present: Lois Harrison, Bettelinn Brown, Afifi Durr, Alice Keller, Jean Hilde, Devra Gartenstein, Paul Kowalski, Nicki Rios, Ian Taylor, Sarah Kaye, Janelle Woolsey, Emily Shuel.

Minutes. April’s minutes were approved as amended. Alice suggested that we add, “Submitted by” at the end of each month’s minutes. Agreed.

Treasurer’s report. Sarah reported that we had $84, but money was pouring in as she spoke, so moments later we had $86. Alice suggested that we use the newsletter to encourage donations. Attendees discussed the possibility and difficulties of offering advertising in the newsletter, including the consideration that this might be an issue for the upcoming edition where the city is paying for the printing. Devra suggested that Patty Pan sponsor the next mailing (after the upcoming one that will be paid for by the city), and then we can mention in the newsletter that there are ongoing opportunities for other businesses to sponsor.

Newsletter. Emily included a slip with the mailed copies of the last newsletter reminding people that they can get the content by email. Two people took her up on it. The next issue will come out at the beginning of July, and it will be short because the city is paying to print and mail it to all the households in the neighborhood. It should include information about the two upcoming events (the picnic and the storytelling workshop), and we can post anything that doesn’t make its way into the newsletter on Facebook instead.

Mini-grant update. Amy is getting quotes for printing yard signs. We’re aiming to have the signs ready to hand out at the picnic. Jean passed around mockups that her daughter, Grace, designed, tentatively going with the copy “Briarcrest celebrates kindness.” Grace will donate her time, which will go towards our matching volunteer time for the mini-grant. Amy is hoping for ideas for the mini-grant application to help answer the question of how the signs can help build diversity. To get them out to people, we can also mention in the newsletter that they will be available, and we can have them to hand out at the storytelling event. Bettelinn suggested that, because the school is also called “Briarcrest”, we should add the word, “neighborhood” to the content of the signs. Sarah asked about the price difference for multiple designs. The general feeling among attendees was that we won’t need more than 100, though Bettelinn thought we should order more. The amount of money the city is willing to give us may determine how many we order. Emily suggested a two-sided sign with different designs, and also wondered whether we need stakes. Attendees liked the idea of a multipurpose sign that you can put either on a stake or in a window.

Grace Cole Park update. Ian reported on his progress regarding the Briarcrest entrance to Grace Cole Park. Mamie Hollinger from the park association took him for a walk in the park and told him about its history. The park association has officially agreed to support his entrance proposal. He also went to the Parks and Rec Open Space meeting to make sure this idea is in the plan--it is. He’s now looking to build a coalition of interested parties, trying to expand the number of people and number of organizations involved. It’s becoming clear to him that this project needs to be implemented through Lake Forest Park channels, but Briarcrest can provide labor. It would be nice to have promotional materials, such as photos and history, or a video. Bettelinn suggested contacting Vicky Stiles at the Shoreline Historical Society.

Norm Brecke storytelling. We have two months until the event. Jean asked Norm for marketing materials, and was hoping to get posters to Curtis Campbell before the end of the school year to distribute to schools with students who fit into the designated age range. Other promotion ideas include spreading the word online and through the YMCA, posting flyers at Central Market, and also having info available at the next storytelling at Amy and Jon’s. Jean raised the question of whether we want to target Briarcrest and Bettelinn said that we do because our neighborhood is so interesting, so difficult to bring together. Emily proposed targeting Shoreline and Lake Forest Park with signs, keeping the advertising local but not strictly local. Jean will ask Norm whether we can videotape the event. Sophia proposed $5 to $10 as the suggested donation and there was general agreement that the amount and the approach felt about right. Devra suggested processing payments with Square, and will look into the logistics.

BNA storytelling. The May event was well attended. Some people had clearly practiced. Jean reported that there had been some misunderstanding at the event about using the hour glass. It worked for some people but others were uncomfortable about it. Afifi responded that the hour glass is better than having someone timing because the person telling the story can see and self-regulate. Alice pointed out that it’s better to know while it’s happening that you’re going over the allotted time, and Jean added that timing is distracting by nature. We’ll give everyone a choice of how they want to be timed. The main point is for everyone to have a chance to tell their story.

Garbage. Jean enlisted the help of the high school to help clean up litter in South Woods, and students spent a few hours cleaning garbage. They filled nine bags, including some stuff that was really gross. There seemed to be people staying there for extended periods of time. Jean suggested a combined cleanup bringing together the neighborhood and the school. We’ll talk about this more at the next meeting and Jean will continue forwarding emails. Bettelinn contacted Earthcorp for help maintaining South Woods. They’re going to come in the fall, which is the best time to kill some of the invasive species. She is looking for additional ways to involve the school district. Lois pointed out that, if people are living in the park, there’s a homelessness issue.

Elections. Ian acted as electioneer. The four incumbents ran unopposed. Jean, Alice, Sarah, and Dev will continue in their roles for another year

Introduction. Ian introduced Niki who he invited. She’s a gardener and wants to connect with other gardeners.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37.