**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association General Meeting**

**January 9, 2018**

**Patty Pan Cooperative**

Present: Devra Gartenstein, Janelle Woolsey, Bill Dwyer, Lee Keim, Ann Lynch, Sarah Kaye, Afifi Durr, Alice Keller, Jean Hilde, Michelle Pidduck.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by chair Jean Hilde.

Minutes. December minutes were approved with revisions. In particular, Sarah lobbied for more frequent use of the word “poop” in the section on dealing with human waste in the event of damage to the plumbing grid.

Fire department presentation. Michelle Pidduck provided information and outreach on behalf of the fire department. If things go to crap, the department will perform a “windshield survey” driving around without stopping to help to assess where the need for help is most dire. She spoke about basic fire safety: brush and bark fires are most common in summer, chimney fires are most common in winter, mostly from chimneys not being cleaned when they should be. The fire department posts weekly stats on Facebook. Some basic information to keep in mind: space heaters should have 30” clearance. Electric blankets and heating pads can also be dangerous so don’t fall asleep with them on. Kitchen fires are the most common, representing 30 percent of incidents. Change smoke alarms every 10 years. All households should have smoke alarms in all bedrooms and near (but not in) kitchens. Sleep with your bedroom door closed. In case of a kitchen fire, don’t spend time looking for baking soda if you don’t find it easily. Putting a lid on a pot is a simple and effective way to put out a fire. Alice asked about dogs and Michelle responded that fire crews love pets, and love saving pets. They carry pet masks. It’s hard for almost any pet to chew through a fire fighter’s uniform, but if your dog is aggressive, it still helps to mention this when you call 911. Also mention medications when you call 911. Call from a landline if possible.

Treasurer’s report. The BNA’s financial situation is unchanged.

Communications. Derek has moved on to pursue exciting opportunities. Sarah can take over web work and social media in the interim.

CON. The most recent meeting was a pot luck dinner, then Jerry Patterson spoke about learning and practicing leadership skills to bridge differences. He focused on how to get things done while respecting differences. Bill agreed to officially be the Briarcrest CON representative. Attendees spoke about sending Sophia a note acknowledging her contribution, specifically making CON think about the purpose of CON.

Storytelling. The most recent event drew about 10 people. Afifi and Alice thought it went well. Alice said she would like to see more people attending, but quality is more important than quantity. Afifi mentioned that the Seattle Storytellers Guild is still looking for people to tell 1001 Nights stories. The BNA will use its grant from the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council to sponsor a room for the Arab Guild to present additional cultural material such as belly dancing, tea, and art.

Emergency Hub Bill had another meeting with Brian Dixon. They talked about the fact that Briarcrest will have the first emergency hub. They’re not sure exactly what that will involve at this point but it’ll definitely include communications gear. We as a neighborhood need to figure out how we’re going to staff the equipment. Sarah asked whether volunteers need to have a ham radio license. Bill responded that they don’t and Sarah expressed interest. We’ll need to find the people with first aid training and set up systems to communicate about who needs help. Bill stressed the importance of having a plan. Jean floated the idea of using a mini grant for disaster preparedness materials, and attendees agreed to think about strategies for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM