**MINUTES of the BRIARCREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION – DRAFT**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at Patty Pan Cooperative**

Attendance: Afifi Durr, Jeff Lazar, Lee Keim, Bill Dwyer, Ann Lynch, Jean Hilde, Lois Harrison, Chris Thomas, Susan Chang, Bettelinn Brown, John Cole, Devra Gartenstein, Paul Kowalski, Alice Keller, guest Suni Tolton.

Meeting called to order by Jean at 7:04.

Minutes from Jan. 8: Approved without changes to the draft.

Treasurer’s report: Sarah reported in absentia that all is well, same balance as in Jan.

Council of Neighborhoods report: Bill suggested going to the website for the minutes of the February CoN meeting.

He attended the March 6 meeting. There was a presentation by Vicki Stiles of the Shoreline Historical Museum. People with something to add to the history of Shoreline that has been drafted should contact Vicki by email. The deadline is April 3. Bettelinn and Lois know more local history, including that of the Patty Pan building.

Susan Chang also made a presentation about some of the issues before the City Council, such as the transit system. Sound Transit will remove the existing sound wall along I-5 and replace some infrastructure, though only to the existing standards.

Susan spoke about the question of how much land at Fircrest will be surplused, an issue the state is studying. The decision might be 4 or 5 acres with open space for a dog park, a city park, or something else for city use. There’s an issue about a mental health residence which might be built there. The City of Shoreline has said no, and neighbors are not in favor. Fircrest residents are vulnerable, so this is not a good location for that reason and also because of the proximity of Shorecrest High School and Kellogg Middle School. The general idea is to spread out the population that is currently at Western into “behavioral health facilities,” 9 throughout the state. Currently the state is looking only at state land for these. Frank Chopp wants affordable housing on surplused land and would like the city to rezone for that. If affordable housing is built, it will be a mix of housing, not all low-income, with some commercial elements, such as daycare or assisted living. Nothing is set in stone yet; it’s up to the current legislative session. Our legislators, Jesse Salomon, Cindy Ryu, and Lauren Davis, are interested in working with the city on this issue.

The Planning and Community Development Director, Rachel Markel, gave a report. The minutes and her PowerPoint will be available on the city website. In 2018, 2413 permits were issued with a value of $169,481,646, a record amount for Shoreline. New units completed or under construction: 1,126 – i.e., major growth.

Next year construction will begin at Shoreline Place, where Sears is. There will be 300 units of housing, in the permit phase now.

Shoreline will soon have big changes in population, so we need to keep tuned in to what’s going on.

The city is reducing fees to homeowners to encourage building ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units).

A member mentioned the hotline to state senators and representatives, 800-562-6000, to express an opinion on any pending bill. A caller doesn’t need to even say the legislative district. Comments can also be sent to individual legislators via email, of course.

Storytelling evenings: Afifi reported that about 15 people attended the last storytelling evening on March 1. More and more, people are opening up and telling personal stories. After the next storytelling on May 3, we’ll have a baby shower for Amy and Jon. The location will be Amy and Jon’s house, as usual.

On the afternoon of Sunday, April 14 (beginning at 2:30), The Seattle Storytellers Guild will sponsor Earth Day storytelling with several professional tellers. This is an all-ages event at the Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Senior Center, 18560 1st Ave NE. Jean will forward an email from Allison Cox asking for volunteers.

City’s request for help in finding and fixing potholes: Bettelinn brought to our attention an article in *The Shoreline Area News* about different types of potholes and how they change as they progress. Recent snows have exacerbated the situation. The city asks people to report locations of potholes to the city.

This morphed into a discussion about larger city and neighborhood issues. Susan Chang said that the city wants to start a Shoreline Parks Foundation with donations so that the city wouldn’t need to have such large tax issues for parks . The City Council will have a meeting on this in April.

*For clarity, I asked Bettelinn to write a summary of her other comments:* On May 10, Seattle City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda will have “office hours” in Lake City. Bettelinn contacted her Legislative Assistant and Community Outreach Leader, Aretha Basu, with concerns regarding future development.  In 2010 the Briarcrest and Ridgecrest neighborhoods formed a Citizens Advisory Committee, met for two years, and submitted a document to the City. The Briarcrest members emphasized the importance of preserving neighborhood character. Now with light rail coming in, there is concern that traffic along 145thStreet will increase as will the issue of density.  Our neighborhood character may be eroded.  An informed and alert citizenry can prevent further harm.

Another issue of concern is the high water table in the area of 30th Avenue NE. There is history of a lake in the area of Lake City Way. One of the CAC members is a limnologist (one who studies fresh water lakes and streams) and therefore knowledgeable about the underground conditions.

In addition, at the intersection of Bothell Way, Lake City Way and 145th, three jurisdictions are involved in communicating during the redevelopment process. The communities of Lake City, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline, plus the State and King County are all likely to be challenged to keep the complicated lines of communication open. Since our neighborhood of Briarcrest is a boundary at the intersection, it will be important for our citizens to have a voice in the various needs of the area. Our neighborhood character is too important to have it washed away by the future developments.

Bettelinn is organizing a year of 4 work parties in South Woods, in a different area for each season of the year.

Annual BNA picnic: Jean has requested the Hamlin Park shelter for Saturday, August 24, but hasn’t received confirmation yet. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to again have an annual picnic there.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment update: Lee feels strongly about the urgency of global warming/climate change. Last fall she got involved in Initiative 1631 for a statewide carbon tax, which didn’t pass. In Shoreline’s Comprehensive Plan, Goal V in Natural Environment states, “Protect clean air and the climate for present and future generations through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and promotion of efficient and effective solutions for transportation, clean industries, and development.” Lee feels that this goal is not sufficient, that we have to go faster and be more specific.

She learned that citizens can submit amendments to the city’s Comprehensive Plan. She has done so, asking the city to commit to a goal of keeping the average temperature below 1.5 degrees C above the 1850 level. On Monday, she will speak to the City Council and welcomes anyone to come and support this amendment, either by speaking or just by sitting with her.

This Friday students in this area, across the U.S., and in many other countries will walk out to demonstrate in support of stronger efforts to combat climate change.

Susan said that the city has advocated for light rail and density around the stations because cars are a major source of greenhouse gases.

BNA Elections: Jean reminded members that nominations for officers for the next year are due by the April meeting, with the election at the May meeting. Members should think about whether they would like to run for an office.

Emergency Preparedness Fair update: Bill reported that neither Jason nor Constance is very excited about the idea of Briarcrest having its own fair. Some workshops are scheduled for City Hall on the theme of basic disaster preparedness: March 18 for staff, March 20 for the public, some for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and ACS (Auxiliary Communication Service, especially ham radio operators), a new CERT course through April in Shoreline, and a 5th Saturday communications drill March 30 (9:30-12:00, to be set up, as before, in the Hamlin Park east parking lot), with a month-by-month calendar for 2019.

So, do we want to do this on our own for Briarcrest in May?

Jean talked with Constance about funding. To her surprise, it turns out that every neighborhood has $750 for events approved by city. Jean had never been told about this before! Now that we know, could we use some of that for this proposed fair? Some elements would have no charge, and a minimal location fee if we hold it at Briarcrest Elementary. Money for food? Devra said she could do that cheaper than Constance thinks.

Questions raised: How do Bill and Lee feel about it? Would Briarcrest people go to City Hall for workshops there?

*Follow-up:* Due to lack of time at the meeting, an email discussion about whether to have our own fair and if so, when, followed over the several days. Jean asked for a vote. Here’s her tally as of March 20: There were 13 "yay" votes for an emergency prep fair in June.  One "kind-of nay.”  No "nays." There were 3 "kind-of yays" for a fair in May, and 4 "kind-of nays.” No "nays." I had sent out the request for a re-vote (for a fair in June) before I received any other votes re. May. 🡪 So the “yays” have it for a fair in June.

Bill said that Shoreline Emergency Management has a Facebook page, which came in handy during the February snows. The stakeholders had a meeting recently, debriefing about those snow events. However, this page has not been well publicized, and even Bill didn’t know about it until recently.

The BNA Emergency Preparedness Committee’s next meeting will be on March 25 at 7:00 at Patty Pan.

Neighborhood mini-grant discussion: Postponed until April due to lack of time in this meeting.

Special guest, Suni Tolton, City of Shoreline Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator:

Suni began with a short exercise for pairs to discuss a time when you felt welcome in a group -- or not. In the discussion afterward about the factors we mentioned, she advised people to remember that there are differences in cultures about shaking hands, making prolonged eye contact, and so forth.

To increase diversity in the BNA, we can connect with schools to find out what language groups are there. Some organizations, such as Janelle’s church, have immigrant members. Contact PTAs and family advocates at schools.

Find out what large organizations are in the neighborhood, natural groups to connect with – e.g., community missions at churches such as backpacks with weekend food for students. What are those groups doing? Where do our interests overlap? Are there big apartment buildings, and can we connect with management? How do we get in? Some managers are open to connections. We might hold a meeting in a room at an apartment building. Some managers have an internal email list, and we might be able to post announcements there.

The most helpful thing is to be clear about what you want. If there’s a parent leadership program at a school, talk to the principal to say we’d like to be more connected with the school. Foster partnerships.

When we’re looking to accomplish something, be clear about our goal. (Suggestions are on a handout we received from Suni.) Be specific about the audience so that we don’t just go to the same groups. Do something different to attract new people. Ask ourselves, who’s not here, and what are the barriers to attendance?

If we sponsor a storytelling event, what languages do they need to speak? How do we craft an event so that they feel welcome if they’re not comfortable in English? Include the diverse population in the planning of an event.

The city’s Community Bridge program is a shorter version of the Citywide program. The outreach is to multilingual folks, to connect them with city resources. Anyone can apply, but the focus is on multilingual people. The program will involve 3 sessions: 2 evenings and 1 long Saturday, to start mid-April.

Suni has offered to stay with us as we move toward events.

Bettelinn wonders about welcome packets, which the city has discontinued. Maybe we could get that going again in Briarcrest. Jean, too, would like to.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 9

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary