**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association Minutes – DRAFT**

**Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, at Patty Pan Cooperative**

Attendance: Jan Anderson, Afifi Durr, Janelle Woolsey, Bill Dwyer, Lois Harrison, Robert Smith, Ann E. Lynch, Bettelinn K. Brown, Antony Sison, Jean Hilde, Devra Gartenstein, Alice Keller, Lee Keim, speaker Constance Perenyi.

Meeting called to order by Jean Hilde at 7:08.

Minutes from Oct. 13: Unanimously approved as amended.

Treasurer’s report: Jean for Sarah, who’s on the high seas. Sarah has opened an account at BECU and has received a set of checks. The balance is the same (unless Jean has reimbursed Anthony for stamps for the newsletter).

Council of Neighborhoods report: Bill – There were 3 guest speakers. First, Susie Cheng on the 198th St. affordable-housing project, which is still in the planning stages. The project is similar to one at 43rd and Aurora, so she was happpy to see how that one is run. Information is on the City of Shoreline website (shorelinewa.gov). She also talked about the budget.

Second, Eric Bratton, City Manager, reported on the Resident Satisfaction Survey for 2018. Go to the website to find 131 pages of information on the survey. Surveys were sent to a random sampling of c. 3500 households. The goal was to get 800 back, but the city received 1,024.

Third, Sarah Lane, Administrative Services Director, made a very clear presentation about the 2019-2020 budget, the first biennial budget in Shoreline. Each government entity has goals for emergency preparedness. There are some new goals, e.g., in Community Services, such as drills for staff and an emergency management plan, with $18,000 in the budget to update the whole emergency management plan. Again, go to the city website for information including the capital improvement plan.

For the future, to get something into the budget, go to a City Council meeting and make your arguments during the 3-minute-per-person allowance for the public to speak; ask other people to speak on your issue, too.

The budget will be voted on at next City Council meeting.

Patty Hale spoke about the Fircrest stakeholders’ committee. There was no neighborhood representation in this group at all, so Jean and Patty volunteered to be on it and are now members. Jean will give more information at the next BNA meeting.

The City Council has a longterm vision for Shoreline to 2029. Go to shorelinewa.gov for the 5 goals and workplan for 2018-2020.

Storytelling report: Afifi – About 10 people, including 2 new ones, came to the last storytelling evening on Nov. 2. It was a very successful evening.

This area has so many venues for storytelling, such as NAMI (The National Association for Mental Illness) last week. The Nordic Museum in Ballard held a Viking storytelling event last weekend. Afifi wants refugees and immigrants to tell their stories in Shoreline, as well as having Native American stories on Earth Day.

The BNA’s next storytelling evening will be Jan. 4.

Emergency Preparedness update: Lee – The Emergency Preparedness Committee just had a meeting at 6:00 this evening, including a FEMA film on immediate reactions to disaster. (For example, first, there’s typically denial of what’s happening, as the brain tries to make it seem a normal occurrence.) The committee has 11 members now and is branching out to actions, such as finding out where adult care homes are and where day shelters might be established. The next Fifth Saturday communications exercise will be on Dec. 29. The 11 committee members will spread out across Briarcrest with walkie-talkies to test communications to the Briarcrest Hub, a tent which Bill and Lee will set up again on the east side of Hamlin Park to communicate via ham radios with other emergency entities. The committee will have a prep meeting before Dec. 29.

Jason Macmillan, the new Emergency Management Director, is working on a city communications plan. Bill is pretty impressed with him. For example, Jason has a good CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program and is fixing some old problems.

Some members of the committee have taken CERT training. Lee encourages others to take it. Jason just taught one, and the next will be with NEMCO, beginning Jan.2, for $25 in Kenmore.

City of Shoreline Comprehensive Plan amendment process: Jean presented information about this process as an FYI, no discussion. As follows:

The annual amendment process is an opportunity for individuals to propose changes to [Shoreline’s Comprehensive Plan](http://www.shorelinewa.gov/government/departments/planning-community-development/city-plans/comprehensive-plan-and-master-plans/comprehensive-plan" \t "_blank). Suggested amendments usually address changing conditions or emerging issues. To be eligible for consideration, applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. December 3, 2018 to Senior Planner Steven Szafran, P&CD, 17500 Midvale Avenue North, Shoreline, WA 98133 or emailed to [sszafran@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:sszafran@shorelinewa.gov" \t "_blank).

Council will review all submitted amendments and develop a list for staff to study throughout 2019. For more information, visit [shorelinewa.gov/compplan](http://www.shorelinewa.gov/government/departments/planning-community-development/city-plans/comprehensive-plan-and-master-plans/comprehensive-plan" \t "_blank) or contact Steven Szafran at (206) 801-2512 or [sszafran@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:sszafran@shorelinewa.gov" \t "_blank).

Rant and Rave: Jean has communicated with the organizer of a Rant and Rave event in the Meridian Park neighborhood. Neighbors were invited to have coffee and pie and talk about problems or things they like in the neighborhood.

Constance cautioned that it can be difficult to move people off their rant in order to let others say more positive things. It’s important to set up rules at the beginning, such has how to treat each other at the meeting. Frame it as listening sessions so that people find common ground with others. There are very successful ways to ask questions -- for example, as suggested by the Harwood Institute (<https://theharwoodinstitute.org>): What are your aspirations for your community? What stands in the way of those aspirations? How can we work on those? Such questions can be more productive than inviting “rants and raves.”

Ann suggested changing the name to something more neutral. Afifi says it should be a safe place for people to speak. Jean would like a larger venue than Patty Pan, maybe the Shoreline Library or Shorecrest High School.

Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Arts Council mini-grant discussion: Jean – Storytelling seems to be our niche currently. But applications are due in 2 days!

Discussion ensued about having a “moth” storytelling event. These are popular across the country, especially with younger people. Moth events are competitive with a winner, but ours could be noncompetitive sharing. A title might be “What’s your story?” with invitations to the neighborhood. The venue might be the Shorecrest Performing Arts Center, which offers a 50% discount for neighborhood and nonprofit groups.

OR we might work on emergency preparedness, such as holding Map Your Neighborhood meetings.

Further discussion was postponed till after Constance’s presentation, which followed immediately.

Guest presentation about Shoreline Neighborhood Mini-grants: Constance Perenyi, Neighborhoods Coordinator for the City of Shoreline.

First, some background on the process. When Shoreline was new, a decision was made to fund projects in the neighborhoods, granting up to $5,000 per year. Some awards have been for art projects. Or grants can be for something that involves the whole city, like the outdoor movie nights that some neighborhoods do. This is the first year a grant was given for a mural on a private business: Spiro’s at the entrance to Richmond Highlands. The mural is removable, so the city owns the art work. If Kroger, which owns the building, decides to tear it down, the city keeps the mural. This could be relevant to Patty Pan as one sort of idea to encourage “placemaking.”

Could emergency preparedness qualify for a grant? Constance would need to talk with Jason. Probably there’s funding for that without a grant.

The Arts Council gives smaller grants, whereas the city wouldn’t want to fund anything under $1,000. When Constance was working at 3rd Place in Lake Forest Park, one successful event was storytelling while a group of professionals acted out the stories spontaneously. Constance knows this group, Threshhold Theater, from working with them and seeing them in several venues. It’s an interesting twist on storytelling that could attract youth as well as adults. It cost $10,000 to do this in several places over a year.

Another idea is training in storytelling for youth. Shorecrest faculty might know of trainers who would be attractive to teenagers.

Afifi would like to have refugees tell their stories.

Constance says there could be a series of different events through a year. The goal could be to move us toward more civil discourse. People should feel safe in telling their stories and having others listen. We could encourage newcomers to the U.S. to come to our smaller group to tell and then to the bigger Storytellers Guild that meets at Haller Lake.

Parameters for the grant: The cycle starts again in Jan. The application process begins with a letter to outline the idea. Constance is happy to talk with a group ahead of time to help form the letter and to discuss whether any feasibility issues exist. Then there’s an application to fill out, which is reviewed by a city committee. If an award is granted, a contract is signed. Then the detailed planning for the project can begin. The application asks questions such as -- How does this serve the mission of your association? What does the organization have the time and energy for? The deadline will be in June. If the BNA wants to apply, we should decide what our timing cycle will be and work backward. Consider the school calendar and avoid summer. Payment is arranged so that associations don’t have to prepay for things. Invoices would go to Constance, and the city would pay directly.

A “non-rant-and-rave” could be included – perhaps with a professional facilitator – if it’s part of a series of events, maybe as a prelude.

Jean warned that our group is small to handle a whole series. Anthony suggested that maybe we could do two, one for training and preparation and then a culmination.

Other suggestions: Something cross-generational, which is also cross-cultural snce generations express themselves differently. Tune in to how people express themselves differently. Try to attract youth.

The Threshhold Theater also trains people to do what it does.

Whatever we do, it should be fun!

Constance said that the Shoreline videographer Assayi Abumie, who’s Ethiopian, teaches young people to make videos. It would be fun to have a video made of whatever event(s) we do.

Changing the subject, Constance announced that the 3rd citywide series of 8 intensive weeks on how the city works will begin soon. Fifteen applicants will be chosen to represent an array of neighborhoods, backgrounds, and ages. The next series begins in Jan. It’s a big commitment, but people leave with a solid sense of how the city works.

Jean brought the discussion back to Arts Council grants. Do we want to apply for something in just 2 days? There was no enthusiasm for that, so we’ll focus on a bigger idea for a city mini-grant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38.

The next BNA meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary