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

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020 – meeting via Zoom**

Attendance: Sarah Kaye, Jean Hilde, Alice Keller, Devra Gartenstein, Bill Dwyer, Lee Keim, Afifi Durr, Janelle Woolsey, Ann Lynch, Paul Kowalski, John Cole, Diana Herbst, Bettelinn Brown, April Ingle

Meeting called to order by Jean at 7:02.

Minutes from February 11, *Alice*: Approved with no changes.

Treasurer’s report, *Sarah*: We spent $16 on a Zoom subscription. The balance is now $470.90.

Update on Kellogg construction, *Sarah*: The Shoreline School District website has a weekly update on all school construction projects: https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/6164

Council of Neighborhoods report, *Bill*: CON is meeting tomorrow via Zoom, and Bill will participate. There haven’t been any CON meetings for some time now.

Emergency Committee report, *Bill and Lee*: The committee met on Feb. 29, when there was supposed to be a 5th Saturday communications drill. Instead, members met at Bill and Lee’s house. The meeting was productive, establishing goals for the future, such as how we want to educate the community, Briarcrest as well as other neighborhoods, in communication with those who are starting their own committees. Members want to encourage more people to take CERT courses, and to have another disaster prep fair in the fall, but it’s impossible to know now whether that can happen. Ann did a good job of documenting the goals we discussed: maintaining our own skills, using FRS radios more frequently, setting up information tents in the Hamlin parking lot, getting more practice in taking information and charting it in tents. Of course, it’s unknown when we can start doing any of these things again.

There have been two calls so far from the city’s Emergency Management department for CERT volunteers, seeking people under 60 years old (but most CERTS are over 60), to deliver food.

Bill participated in a video conference with Jason McMillan last Saturday, at the radio meeting. Jason gave a tour of the tents set up on the soccer field at Shoreline Center for people diagnosed with COVID-19. Jason walked participants through with a laptop. The site was to open the next day to accept some patients, and Bill was impressed that they set it up so quickly.

Storytelling updates, *Afifi and Alice*: Last week, the Seattle Storytelling Guild met via Zoom with about 13 participants. Afifi suggested that our group might like to do the same. Alice and Afifi sent out a query to the storytelling email list to gauge interest, and as a result, the decision was made to give it a try on May 1. Sarah will set it up. Announcements will be sent to the storytelling email list and to the SSG calendar.

Little Food Pantry, *Janelle*: A Little Food Pantry was set up last Wednesday at Shoreline United Methodist Church on 145th and 25th in the southeast corner of the parking lot. It’s quite visible and has been replenished several times already. School Family Advocates has sent out information about it, so maybe that’s where people have learned about its existence. The church plans to continue doing this. Devra had suggested putting it up at the church. There’s no food bank on this side of 15th, so it’s a good location for Briarcrest people.

Recommendations for donations: nothing packaged in glass; protein is always good. Maybe there will be more suggestions as time passes. Lee asked if fresh produce would be acceptable, and Janelle said yes. Lee is working on the community garden at Shorewood High School, which is being planted with the intention to give away all of it.

Shoreline Planning Commission, *Jean*: Pam Sager was appointed to the Commission –a Briarcrest representative! This is a very good thing since most members are from Richmond Beach, so it’s nice to have some geographical diversity now.

Earth Day 50th anniversary, *Bettelinn*: Bettelinn would like the BNA to do something to honor this anniversary. For example, in Wedgwood, someone living on a corner put up stakes with connecting wires and clothespins for people to post uplifting messages and pictures – a clever, neighborly gesture. Maybe we could do something like that in front of our houses. (Follow-up: Bettelinn did so.)

Or perhaps we could do something special with our kiosk in the Hamlin Park east parking lot. Brenda Pagdilao (owner of the Joy Family Home on 27th Ave NE) has a daughter, Reane, who’s an artist and who has created 5 designs that she could paint on our bench and kiosk. (Follow-up: Jean sent out the designs to the Leadership Team for votes, a pair of designs was selected, and Reane began prep and painting on April 20.)

It will be important to monitor for vandalism, unfortunately.

Membership of the BNA, *Bettelinn*: Bettelinn wonders how to broaden our outreach for membership. Jean mentioned that we send out announcements of all meetings in various ways. This time of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders is a time for creativity, thinking about things in new ways. Bettelinn regrets the demise of the paper newsletter and personal contacts through delivering that. Afifi agrees; she used to deliver newsletters, but doesn’t know how to reach her new neighbors. April backs what Bettelinn and Afifi said. She feels hope though the school perspective, but people are now overwhelmed with kids at home and home-schooling. She can’t even make contact with her peer group. She’s trying to connect with other families and teachers, but it’s very difficult. She signed up to be the yearbook parent, but it’s very difficult to get people engaged now, even with their school. Consequently, April feels that outreach for BNA membership will be unproductive at this point.

Jean brought up our upcoming free meal program, which is for neighbors who are isolated, over 60, out of a job, etc., as additional BNA contacts. The city’s support has been great; information about funding came from Constance today. But all funding is in the form of reimbursements; we can start and get paid later. Patty Pan has ingredients. Devra is willing to cook up to 50 meals per week, package them up, and have other people deliver. These will be simple, tasty, reasonably healthy meals. Diana is mindful that food delivery isn’t person to person, though there’s a need that should be addressed. Sarah said the BNA will work with partners to identify people who need food. Jean will work with Family Advocates, Suni Tolton with the city, and others, to identify potential recipients. We will operate with a list, publicizing the program. We might print a flyer to introduce the BNA.

April noted that we could have a beautiful partnership with the school district’s food pickup at schools. We could hand out brochures there. Food distribution will probably continue through summer as it usually does. This is a good way to reach out to a community that is in need, and it might help recruit people to the BNA.

The location for the district’s food distribution for Briarcrest Elementary and Kellogg Middle School is in front of Shorecrest. Food service workers from the district hand food through car windows. The school bus in front is to bring supplies from district kitchen.

Further discussion led to moving forward promptly. Jean will start working with partners. Sarah, Jean, Lee, Janelle, and April volunteered to deliver meals. Devra pointed out that 50 meals doesn’t mean 50 deliveries since there may be multiples in one household.

Could the church’s Little Food Pantry area be a delivery point? There’s no one at the food pantry, but a flyer could be put there.

Our program can prioritize people who can’t get out to pick up food: seniors, disabled people, folks who’ve been diagnosed with COVID-19. This also helps people know what the BNA is.

Devra could cook this Sunday and have food to deliver on Monday. The meals will be cold, to be reheated at home. Meals will cost about $100 per week: $2 per meal for ingredients and packaging.

We need to remember to deal sensitively with people who need this food. It’s easier to give than to receive.

Devra often buys vegetables at the end of the day at Farmers’ Markets, which aren’t happening now. She’s built up relationships with local farms. Some are trying to decide whether to plant in the hope of being able to sell sometime, so our program could help those farmers.

A motion that the BNA should proceed with plans to provide food to shut-in neighbors was unanimously approved.

Nominations for officers: There were no nominations from participants, so in the interest of time, Sarah nominated the existing slate of officers. A motion was unanimously approved. Other people can still be nominated or can nominate themselves. The election will be held at the next meeting. Officers will serve from June 1, 2020, to May 31, 2021.

Check-in, *Jean*: Jean mentioned a New York Times article saying that it’s important to check in with each other these days. Jean wondered how BNA folks are doing.

Afifi said that she’s looking at the positive, is feeling more spiritual, and is cleaning house thoroughly. Ann said that as a homebody, she likes the quiet. She’s reconnected with a lot of people that she hasn’t been in touch with for years. Alice has observed that people out walking say hi (from a distance) and wave more than they used to.

Jean is pleased that in the Seattle area, 61 feet is the average travel distance from home and that more people are planting their own gardens.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 12, via Zoom again if it’s still not possible to meet at Patty Pan.

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary