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

**Tuesday, May 12, 2020 – meeting via Zoom**

Attendance: Sarah Kaye, Jean Hilde, Bill Dwyer, Alexis Kaushansky, Devra Gartenstein, Janelle Woolsey, Lee Keim, Alice Keller

Meeting called to order by Jean at 7:02.

Minutes from April 14, *Alice*: Accepted unanimously with one emailed correction.

Treasurer’s report, *Sarah*: No change since last month: balance of $470.90. Jean is now picking up the cost of the monthly Zoom subscription.

Council of Neighborhoods report, *Bill*: The Council of Neighborhoods met on April 6 via Zoom. Colleen Kelly, Shoreline Community Services Manager, gave information about the first $100,000 of the Shoreline Community Emergency Grant Program: $50,000 for Sound Generations (Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Senior Center), $20,000 for the Center for Human Services, $15,000 for the Shoreline PTA, $15,000 for Lake City Partners, $15,00 for the YMCA, and 9 more grants of $5,000 of less.

$150,000 more was to be made available later in April, much of it to the school food program and food banks. Hopelink and other organizations will receive support. Shoreline Community Care helps with utility bills, rent, etc.

The rest of the meeting was spent with people checking in about their neighborhoods.

The next meeting will take place tomorrow evening, May 13, again via Zoom. Betsy Robertson, City Council member, and Debbie Tarry, City Manager, will speak.

Storytelling, past and future, *Alice*: On Friday, May 1, four people attended our first Zoom storytelling evening. There were a few stories, which were enjoyed by all, though the meeting was shorter than usual due to the small gathering. Skipping July as usual, our next meeting will be Sept.4, whether digital or in person.

Little Free Pantries, *Janelle, Jean*: Briarcrest’s first Little Free Pantry, at the Shoreline United Methodist Church, is going well. Lots of neighbors are participating. There have been no further disasters since the first week, when a glass jar of spaghetti sauce was broken into smithereens in the parking lot. One person bringing food banged her head on the open door; she asked the church to put a warning on the pantry, and it did. Everyone is invited to donate some food.

Bettelinn has suggested that we could build a second Little Free Pantry. She sent the email addresses of a dozen Briarcrest people to Jean to see if anyone might volunteer. Bettelinn has especially in mind the “forgotten corner of Briarcrest”: the SE section, near 145th and Bothell Way NE. Jean sent emails yesterday to the list, asking if anyone in that corner would be willing to adopt a pantry and help maintain it. It seems that neighbors are more than happy to keep it filled. The matter is pending.

Janelle sees a lot of turnover in the pantry. The most popular things are single-serving snacks, soups, etc.

She said that a church member put the church’s pantry on a website listing them. Lee suggested making sure city (i.e., Constance) knows about the pantry. Janelle will do that. Sarah mentioned that the pantry is listed in the Shoreline Area News.

Update on BNA free meal delivery program, *Devra, Sarah*: Devra has been cooking, Sarah delivering. As of this week, we have 50 people in one place (Paramount House, at 145th and 20th, for low income and 62-plus), 4 in another. A few of the Paramount House recipients have come to our annual picnics. Devra is trying to keep foods “safely seasoned” for a variety of palates.

Candace Ives, the manager of Paramount House, appreciated getting a list of ingredients for recipients. An example entrée: polenta on the bottom, with beans, chicken, and potatoes on top, plus a sauce. Candace said everyone was very excited to receive the meals. It’s great to have nearly all the deliveries at one stop.

Devra and Constance will work out the funding from the city.

Lois has been spearheading writing cards to Paramount House, but most have disappeared. Candace has been putting the known ones on a bulletin board in the community area. Everyone is grateful.

Sad news: No BNA picnic this summer, *Jean*: All Shoreline summer events are canceled, unless COVID-19 restrictions dramatically change, which is unlikely. Is there any alternative we could do? Jean encouraged us to let ideas percolate in our brains – and in fact, this started happening later in the meeting. (Keep reading.)

Kiosk and bench, *Jean*: The painting by Reane is finished and the kiosk and bench look cheerful and new.

Bettelinn suggested posting some emergency preparedness information there, which Lee will do. Jean inquired about the possibility of getting a retroactive arts minigrant: no, but it was worth asking. She’ll try with the Shoreline Arts Council. The design and painting are like a gift to the whole neighborhood. This was very generous of Bettelinn, who funded the project.

Helping our neighbors during the coronavirus pandemic*, Jean,* *Devra, Sarah, Alice*:

We’re all reading stories about what neighbors are doing for each other. One idea is a puzzle exchange – people leave them somewhere after finishing. Maybe Little Libraries could be used for that, and we could promote it.

Maybe Hunter could make a little hut for jigsaw puzzles since he loves carpentry projects. Maybe it could be set up at the Patty Pan corner? Then we can publicize it.

Instead of the Prince of Peace’s annual plant sale, they are offering free plants for pickup. They’re taking orders, donations welcome. Sarah will send the information out to the Briarcrest email list. Plants will be at the church. People wanting them will get an appointment time and instructions on where to pick up the plants. The church will also offer home delivery.

Some people are having a Happy Hour every week with friends, like a backyard bistro: 4 people (all with masks – except of course when eating), tables 20 feet apart, cooking and sharing.

Thoughts about a substitute for our annual picnic:

For many years, Alexis and her husband have hosted a Passover Seder for as many as 20 people. They did it remotely this year, and it turned out to be a fun process. They sent out shopping lists with different versions for different home situations. They also emailed placemats to print for kids to color. This provided a little bit of shared experience. Maybe we could organize something along those lines.

Sarah suggested a neighborhood treasure hunt with pictures or clues all over Briarcrest. Phinney Ridge does a scavenger hunt once a year.

Jean thought that the Briarcrest map her daughter Grace did a couple of years ago might tie in with that. Could a treasure hunt tie in with emergency preparedness? Bill has made a map of the 5 sections of Briarcrest. This could be a lot of community-oriented fun.

Could leftover materials from last year’s emergency prep fair be used? There are still coloring books and other materials. The first clue could lead to a box of gloves! We’ll continue this discussion at the June Zoom meeting.

Jean is sure we’ll come up with ideas to keep our community connected.

BNA officer election,*Bill*: The current officers were the only people nominated for the upcoming one-year term, and they were unanimously re-elected: Jean as Director, Devra as Assistant Director, Sarah as Treasurer, and Alice as Secretary.

Check-in: How are you? What are you doing to stay healthy, both physically and mentally?

People reported more wildlife sightings. Janelle saw a deer in her back yard near 24th  Ave NE and NE 182nd St. Devra saw 6 deer outside Grace Cole park. Alexis also saw some near there. There have been more coyote sightings. Many of us appreciate the quiet of so few planes overhead.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 9 – via Zoom again

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary