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

**Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at Patty Pan Cooperative**

Attendance: Ann Lynch, Lois Harrison, Janelle Woolsey, Sarah Kaye, Bill Dwyer, Devra Gartenstein, Bettelinn Brown, Alice Keller

Meeting called to order by Sarah at 7:03.

Minutes from September 10: Approved with changes made by Alice.

Treasurer’s report, Sarah: The BNA received $21 in donations at the Candidates’ Forum. We’ve also received our share of the proceeds from the Swingin’ Summer’s Eve book sale: $141.70. Therefore, our current balance is $484.90! We can think about what we might do with this money.

Candidates’ Forum, Sarah: The Forum went very well. Sarah wondered how to get more people to show up for future forums. Include a raffle? It’s something to think about for next time. The c. 40 people who did show up were very interested. Note: A major football game that night probably reduced attendance.

Sarah said that there were many good written questions from the audience – many more than she had time to ask. The questions were “not wacky,” not too specific, a good range.

Storytelling update: Alice reminded attendees that the next storytelling evening will be Friday, Nov. 1, 7:00-9:00. We’ll be back at our usual venue at Amy and Jon Anscher’s home, now that they’re more settled in with their new baby.

Special guests: Debbie Tarry, Shoreline City Manager, and James McCrackin, Aquatics Manager: Presentation on Proposition 1, Shoreline Aquatics, Recreation, and Community Center [ShARCC] and Parks, on the November ballot. The purpose of the presentation was to present facts pertaining to the proposition.

The Spartan Rec Center was bult in 1950, part of Shoreline High School. In the 1980s, the city started operating it.

There’s lots of demand for recreation services in Shoreline, and the facility is getting tired. For example, this year there were 2700 registrations for summer camps, plus 400 on waiting lists.

The pool was built in 1971. In 1997, King County handed it over to Shoreline. Both high schools use the pool for diving and swimming. It’s open 16 hours a day on weekdays, with shorter hours on weekends. Swim teams use the pool 3 hours a day from August through February: school teams plus noncompetitive teams such as the Youth Cascade Swim Team and the North End Otters (seniors).

In 2014, an assessment of long-term major maintenance needs was completed. $750,000 was invested in short-term repairs in 2015 to extend the life of the pool by 5 to 7 years, but now that life is coming to an end, and temporary fixes are no longer feasible.

In 2017, the Parks Department’s PROS plan for the next 6 years was approved by the City Council. The plan includes taking steps toward a new pool and community center.

A public process began in August 2018 to decide on park priorities. Sixteen Shoreline residents participated in an advisory committee. On June 29 of this year, the City Council added improvements to 4 parks to the bond issue.

The proposed pool will have 8 lanes for swim teams and will increase spectator seating to 500. Exercise classes and swim classes can increase. There will be two separate pools with different temperatures for different populations; now there are 2 connected pool areas, which have to have the same temperature.

The center will have large basketball courts with an indoor running/walking track above, community rooms for classes, a dedicated area for senior activities with a commercial kitchen for senior programs. Space will be available for other organizations to use at night, so there will be more community access than in the existing center.

Facilities which are now in 3 separate buildings will all be under one roof.

The existing pool will probably be demolished. The fate of other buildings will be decided by school district, which owns them.

Nothing is etched in stone because the money hasn’t been approved yet. The plans include LEEDs goals for energy efficiency plus dedicated parking. The location is right across Midvale Avenue from the Park at Town Center.

The presenters welcomed questions from attendees. One question: Of the participation statistics listed on the handouts, how many are different individuals, or how many are duplicate visits from the same people? The answer is not clear. Apparently lots of people made multiple visits. The Rec Center has 6000 to 7000 memberships.

Statistics show that one-third of the Shoreline population used the pool in the last year. Question: Will drop-in charges remain the same? The intent is to stay competitive in the market, with a lower rate for Shoreline residents.

The Senior Center will continue as the Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Senior Center. Its parent organization is Sound Generations, with several senior centers in the region. Funding comes from various sources.

A question was about the design of one combined entrance for both the senior center and the recreation center. The questioner was concerned about the risk of collisions between seniors using walkers and canes and rambunctious kids and teens. Reply: The management will try to have eyes in the entry area to monitor comings and goings.

With the planned 2 pools, the second pool (recreation) could still be used at the same time as the 8-lane pool; this simultaneous use is not possible now.

The city wants the pool to be as flexible for the community as possible, with therapy, youth, and senior swimming lessons.

With 8 lanes, rental groups use 6 lanes, so there would still be 2 lanes open for the community. The School District has agreed to spend $2.43 million toward the pool. Of course, this money is still from taxpayers.

Question: Given the number of apartment buildings going up, what projections has the city done about demand? Reply: Definitely the demand will be there. The revenue generated won’t cover all costs, but projections are that tax subsidies could be reduced by c. $200,000 year due to the revenue.

From 2010 to now, the Shoreline population has grown 6%. It’s actually one of the slower-growing cities in the area, though people tend to think it’s much faster. Two-thirds of single-family homes have only 1 or 2 people in them. Light-rail will lead to more growth, of course.

Operation of the current pool is extremely inefficient, so there will be a drop in expenses with a new pool. Also, having 1 building instead of 3 will be far more efficient, with a decrease in operating expenses and with staffing efficiencies.

The new center will bring a better experience for multi-generational users. Seniors have varying abilities and interests, so the new center will provide opportunities to accommodate them. The building will be ADA-accessible and will have an elevator.

The city is under contract to buy The Storage Court property on Midvale at an agreed price.

Besides the community center, Proposition 1 includes improvements to 4 neighborhood parks in 4 different areas of Shoreline, including Briarcrest. For example, perimeter trails in all 4 will be improved. Question: The 2 ballfields in Hamlin Park East seem to be in use all summer. Is one ballfield really surplus? Reply: There will be plenty of baseball fields, distributed through the city. What about lighting? Reply: No plans yet. The questioner said that less intrusive lights would be preferable.

In Brugger’s Bog, the playground is often underwater, so it will be moved.

In Hillwood, the park is adjacent to a middle school.

In Richmond Highlands, the park is adjacent to the existing recreaction center with programs for people with mental and physical disabilities. Playground equipment will be added that adults can utilize, as well as a sensory trail.

Taxes for Prop 1 will be a 20-year increase. In 2019, the income threshhold for seniors and people with disabilities will go down.

Home-owners can go to the King County Assessor’s site to look up their own property taxes and to see the impact of Prop 1 on their address.

Question: Will there be food concessions at the community center? Reply: Maybe food trucks, maybe a coffee stand inside.

Question: What’s the contingency plan if Prop 1 doesn’t pass? Reply: There will come a time when operating the current pool no longer makes sense. Future plans may depend on the percentages of votes.

The location on Midvale near Aurora Avenue N responds to residents’ desire that a new center be centrally located.

Other announcements:

Bettelinn met for 1 ½ hours with Kirk Peterson, Park Maintenance Superintendent, about South Woods. This was a very productive meeting. The School District, the city, and preservation groups are doing a wonderful job in working to maintain South Woods.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25. Next meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 7:00

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary