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

**Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at Patty Pan Cooperative**

Attendance: Devra Gartenstein, Janelle Woolsey, Bill Dwyer, Pam Sager, Alice Keller, Sarah Kaye, Jean Hilde, Bettelinn Brown, Ann Lynch, Paul Kowalski

Meeting called to order by Jean at 7:02.

Minutes from August 13: Approved as amended.

Treasurer’s report, Sarah: The BNA received $5 in donations at the picnic. We haven’t yet received money from the Swingin’ Summer’s Eve booksale, maybe in mid-September. Current balance: $234.

Candidates’ Forum, Oct. 3: Sarah has printed full-page and half-page posters for members to distribute and post. She will handle publicity via social media and the BNA kiosk. She’s actively collaborating with Ridgecrest and the Shoreline Area News.

Sarah needs volunteers, a few tables, and a lot of folding chairs. Set-up will be 5:00-6:00, clean up 8:30-9:00. In the past, we’ve had a break to collect questions from the audience, but this time there won’t be a break. Therefore, runners will be needed to collect question cards during the forum. Sarah is hoping for volunteers from the BNA and Ridgecrest.

Sarah asked attendees to think of questions and send them to her. She prefers questions that she can ask all candidates. It’s also OK to have questions for specific candidates, but no “gotcha” questions, though she does like difficult ones. She’s had no reply from Doris McConnell, but Bettelinn said that Doris’ father recently died, so that’s the reason.

Bill mentioned that the city has a lot on their plate right now, so there should be plenty of good questions.

Sarah needs someone to sort through the questions during the forum so there isn’t repetition -- a “question filter.” The timekeeper will again be Alice. [As it turned out, since Alice was under the weather, the timekeeper was Dustin McIntyre, chairman of the Ridgecrest Assoc.]

Opportunity to meet the candidates: 6:00-7:00. The forum: 7:00-8:30.

Storytelling update, Alice: For reasons unknown, the September 6 BNA storytelling evening at Jill Boyd’s home was lightly attended – only 5 people, including one new person. Everyone told stories, even the new attendee, and everyone had a good time. The next evening will be November 1, perhaps back at Jon and Amy’s house. Alice will check with them.

Request for Newsletter submissions, Anthony: The deadline is Friday, October 4. Send articles to briarcrestanthony@gmail.com with the subject line "BNA Fall '19 Neighborhood Newsletter."

Recology, Janelle: Recology called Janelle, saying they have people available for a presentation, Thursday, Oct. 24, at her church. Last year’s presentation was very informative. Members at the BNA meeting expressed interest in having another. If so, it’s helpful to bring specific questions. There will be email follow-up about the presentation.

[Follow-up: In an email vote, all who voted were in favor of co-sponsoring another presentation. However, due to some scheduling conflicts at the church, this probably won’t happen till January.]

Proposal for a discussion re. development in Shoreline: Bettelinn is interested in curbing “unbridled development” in our neighborhood. She’s noticed that the City Planning Commission will have openings in 2020. It’s a very important city group, though obscure, with a lot of power in how this city grows. It would be good for Briarcrest to have representation. Jean mentioned, too, that Betsy Robertson told her that there will be these openings for 4-year terms. The Commission meets bi-weekly (with long meetings), so it’s a big commitment.

There’s only one opportunity to get amendments to the city plan to the Commission. It still hasn’t dealt with Lee’s amendment about the environment (based on the UN’s environmental plan) and the Irons Brothers zoning issue. It seems, though, that the Irons amendment won’t go forward, and the business probably won’t be allowed to stay in that neighborhood. Lee’s amendment may move forward. Check the city website for updates.

We have to be vigilant, so we need people to attend Commission meetings. Bill attends some. Pam Sager, who is a Land Surveyor, said she may start attending the meetings. Because of her work, she’ll find it interesting.

Sarah wondered how many active development projects are in Briarcrest right now. Bettelinn will ask Miranda Redinger. [Later: Redinger no longer works for the city; she has a new job with Sound Transit.]

We have time to make a BNA statement about the 2021 plan revision.

Miscellany of interest, Jean:

Proposition 1, the parks and Shoreline Aquatics, Recreation, and Community Center (ShARCC) issue, will be on the November ballot. Jean was a volunteer on that committee for 8 mos.

Concerning the proposal in Proposition 1 to create a new version of Hamlin Park East, Sarah says the existing ballfields get used a lot, although Jean said not as much as they used to be, according to the city. Is there enough use of both ballfields to keep both? Ann thinks both are much used on weekends. It costs an organization $600 to 800 per team to use a field for a season. One person whom Paul knows, Randy Something, organizes the schedule. The city’s recreation flyer has his contact information.

Bill wonders why school ballfields sit empty all summer long. Paul says select teams use them. The school district apparently is protective of them, though they are tax-funded.

Should one field be revamped specifically for softball? If so, the baseball mound would be removed. Using the Shorecrest High School ballfield would be better, though.

The school district didn’t chip in anything for the new ShAARC until the city said they needed to talk. The district wanted to have the city do it all, but then the district agreed to pay $50,000,000.

Drawings presented at the picnic about Hamlin Park East were different from what was on line earlier. For example, community garden plots were lost.

A chunk of South Woods belongs to the school district. Bettelinn is creating a coalition to protect and maintain the park. Resources are available for next year’s work.

There’s a master plan for zoning on the Fircrest campus to present to the city since now there’s legislative direction. Jean is in the stakeholders’ group, which originally included people from several organizations but no neighborhood representatives. Patty Hale of Ridgecrest and Jean are now on it.

A master plan for Fircrest has started and ended perhaps 5 times. Maybe this time it will go forward, concerning the SW and SE corners. The off-leash dog park lease will not be renewed.

One proposal is for a long-term medical care facility for civil commitment – kind of a half-way house for people civilly committed by the state for mental health care. Some of these people now live in hospitals because there are no beds for them. The target for a new facility is 48 beds -- 16 for state civil commitments, the others for private use. Washington is very low (48th among the states?) in the number of beds for mental health residents.

Flyers were sent by DSHS to residents living within 1000 feet of Fircrest. The state has been doing this planning behind closed doors, by themselves, without telling the city.

Concerns expressed: We don’t want to be a dumping ground for services no one else wants. We need the services, but let’s make sure it’s done right. What services would there be for people who work there or come to visit?

Legislature is humiliated at negative publicity about inadequate mental health resources in the state.

Annual BNA Picnic report (Aug. 24), Jean: Hunter estimated that 70-80 people attended. We had a guest MC, a high-school boy, for the cakewalk, and a middle-school girl who made a wide range of balloon animals, crowns, etc. Maybe next year we should invite her back and give her a stipend. The picnic was a big success.

Debbie Tarry, City Manager, gave a presentation at the picnic about the ShARCC issue, but it was hard to hear.

About a presentation re. ShARCC at a BNA meeting: Email responses to Jean’s question indicated a consensus to invite someone from the city to our October meeting for a factual presentation.

Are there people who would speak for or against the proposition? So far, there’s no organized opposition. No one was even found to write a con statement for the voters’ pamphlet.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16. Next meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 7:00

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary