

Briarcrest Neighborhood Association General Meeting

October 11, 2016

Patty Pan Cooperative

Present: Emily Shuel, Affifi Durr, Amy Anscher, Alice Keller, Jean Hilde, Ian Taylor, Lois Harrison, Devra Gartenstein, Glinda Matthews, Eric Bratton

Minutes. Last month's minutes were approved with revisions. Alice requested an email each month with the revised minutes. She also requested that drafts of the minutes be labeled "draft". Amy will post the revised versions on the new (updated!) website, briarcrestneighbors.org. Speaking of the new website, we're looking for a new logo that we can also use as a profile picture on Nextdoor and Facebook, maybe the lovely map that Jean's daughter created.

November meeting scheduling. The second Tuesday of November is Election Day, and the current election will call for more alcohol than would be appropriate at a neighborhood meeting, even for those of us who barely drink, so attendees agreed to postpone next month's meeting until the following Tuesday, November 15th.

Newsletter update. Emily reported that she has almost finalized the current newsletter, which has a new look. She would like to have a contact sheet for leadership group to match up names and emails.

Council of Neighborhoods Report. Amy attended this month's meeting and reported on discussion of a surface water master plan, or strategy for keeping runoff from polluting lakes and streams. Proper drainage is one potential solution. Brian Dixon, the city's Emergency Management Coordinator, spoke of aiming to have CERT people every few blocks, and for residents of each neighborhood to know of a place to gather in case of an emergency. There's some new microhousing near Trader Joe's running \$600 to \$700 per month. The apartments are the work of a developer, rather the city. Hearing about the new microhousing, BNA meeting attendees agreed that this is a start, though it doesn't go far enough.

Storytelling. Affifi suggested changing BNA storytelling to the first Friday of every other month instead of second Friday. This would alternate with meetings of the Storytelling Guild.

Levy Lid Lift. Eric Bratton, manager of Shoreline's communication program, spoke on the ballot initiative. He reported that on July 25 the city council decided to put the levy on the ballot, to help fund services and programs. The levy would authorize a small tax increase to help the city take care of its 400 acres of park land, 343 miles of streets, and over 10,000 street signs. The money would also help with public safety, which is the biggest expense in the city's operating budget. It would also help fund permitting and inspection, as well as economic development for projects such as the farmers market and film festival. Current costs are growing faster than revenues, but there's currently a 1% cap on property taxes, which restricts the city's ability to raise additional funds to cover the shortfall. State law says the city can't operate at a deficit, so cuts will be necessary if the levy lift doesn't pass. The additional funding is necessary despite the fact that the city has been fiscally responsible, maintaining operating reserves and a rainy day fund, and using ongoing revenue to pay for ongoing costs and one-time revenue to pay for one-time costs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.