

Minutes
Summit Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
July 15, 2019

Attendance: Zachary Barnes, Erik Christiansen, Anneliese Greenier, Ethan Gyles, Anna Highsmith, Christopher Lowe, Britt Page, Read Porter, Laura Ramsey, Tom Schmeling, Sharon Lee Waldman

Guests: Olinda Urizar, Community Relations Coordinator from the Mayor's office; member Grant Dulgarian

Additions to agenda: Lippitt Park Fountain and Tree Captain program

June minutes: Approved

President's Report: Property tax saga has come to an end for this year; Ethan has posted updates on the issue on our website and may recap the issue in our next newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: \$25 in memberships this month; spent \$175 on Community Garden

Program & Committee Reports:

Membership Committee/Bylaws: Tom reported that we have about 8 memberships that expired this month.

SNA Newsletter: Erik reported that the next newsletter will come out around August, so contributions should be submitted within the next couple weeks. There are some gaps in our distribution list so we may be seeking new volunteers to help with distribution; Tom and Erik are working together on figuring that out.

North Main Street Committee: Sherry stepped forward to chair the North Main Street Committee. Ethan reported that he did not hear back from the Mount Hope Neighborhood Association about the idea of recruiting a Trader Joe's to the east side of Providence. Anna suggested that we not pursue the recruitment of a Trader Joe's because of the gentrification concern that was raised by MHNA. Olinda mentioned that gentrification is a central concern for MHNA. Interest was expressed in advocating for more affordable housing, perhaps including mixed use zones that include both commercial and residential development, with a focus on affordability. Ethan said that he would reach out to Eugene again to talk about what we can do to collaborate on advocating for anti-gentrification policies and more affordable housing on the east side.

Community Garden Committee: Read reported that berries are for anyone to pick. July 27 is the next Gardner Education event on tomatoes. Read put together a draft e-newsletter that includes this event as well as other upcoming SNA events. Vegetable theft is a concern in the garden.

New Business:

- a. Another city-wide neighborhood association meeting will be on July 29 at 6:30pm. Chris volunteered to attend the meeting.
- b. Outdoor movie nights in Lippitt Park are coming up: one this Wednesday (July 17) and one on August 21. Sherry and Erik volunteered to help with set up this Wednesday.
- c. Fall yard sale and/or bake-off events:
 - a. Anneliese volunteered to help with the yard sale setup in the morning. Britt reminded us of Kathy's suggestion last year that skipping a year or doing the yard sale in the spring might give people more time to collect stuff, given that participation was down last year. Zach volunteered to do prep work for the yard sale, though he likely will not be available on the day of. We agreed the yard sale will take place on Sunday, Sept 22. Grant raised the question of whether to have a centralized versus scattered setup; he advocated for a centralized setup, though Britt mentioned that the workload is significantly higher to coordinate a centralized location. Consensus was to keep the recent setup of having an option for centralized setup at the bank with others around the neighborhood.
 - b. Sherry volunteered to organize the cook-off. She suggested Wednesday, October 30. Pears will be this year's featured ingredient.
- d. Tom raised a concern that the fountain in Lippitt has not been turned on. Ethan reported that the parks department told him that there were some repairs needed on the top of the fountain in order to get it turned on again.
- e. Tom said that he has experience being a Tree Captain and suggested that SNA promote this program to our neighborhood. Erik suggested that Tom write a piece for the newsletter on the Tree Captain program. The fall program deadline was July 15, but Tom will look into this for the spring.

Ongoing Business:

- a. Neighborhood Nights: Gayle Gifford has volunteered to be the coordinator for this. Sherry, Zach, and Chris will meet with her next Tuesday to start planning.
- b. Social event: Steve Krohn is interested in doing a wine class as a stand-alone event in the fall, rather than part of a speaker series. Read raised the question of whether there was any permitting that we need to figure out, especially if people are paying to be there and depending on where it will take place. Ethan will continue to coordinate with Steve to set this up.
- c. SNA neighbor pamphlet refresh: Ethan is looking for a volunteer to help with the graphic design part of redesigning the pamphlet. The pamphlet is distributed at events to share about what SNA does, information about the neighborhood, etc. It could also be distributed to new neighbors if we pursue the welcome packet idea. Ethan will ask Dean's neighbor who designed the current pamphlet if they could help with a refresh.
- d. The Avenue Concept public art planning update: Britt reported that she hasn't heard anything from Yarrow but will check back in. Read will mention the project in the e-newsletter.
- e. Vacant lot solutions: Anna would like to write a letter to city officials about this issue. Chris agreed to work with her on this. Read suggested raising this issue at the city-wide neighborhood association meetings. Olinda reported that we can use the 311 system to report issues with vacant lots.
- f. Ethan reported that Dean and John put up about 20 "Keep Summit Beautiful" signs. There are about 18 left. Dean suggested that we see if there's any feedback from neighbors about the signs before we put up any more.
- g. Little Free Library contest: Deadline has passed with 5-6 entries. Sherry will put together a few folks to judge the entries, including Britt, Torin, and Anna. Friends of Rochambeau will have final

approval over the winning design. Anna raised the issue of making sure we ask permission if we publish any kids' names.

- h. Drinking fountain project – Ethan reported that the RFP is being held because they want the fountain to be delivered first. The fountain is a black iron art-deco design that fits with the aesthetic of the park.
- i. City wants to install a public bike rack next to Lippitt Park pumphouse. Ethan consulted with them on the location.
- j. “Year of the City”: Erik reported that there is no update.
- k. SNA priorities list: Ethan added a suggestion from Michael McGlynn that we coordinate a CPR course, following the reporting on problems with the RI 911 system.

Next meeting is August 19.