

BWNA Board Meeting

January 9th 2023

Zoom Meeting

Welcome & Introductions: Patty Nelson, BWNA President

Attendees:

- Board Members: Aaron Breakstone, Sam Balto, Gary Hancock, Al Ellis, Karla Lenox, Tim Gillespie, Angela Frome, Patty Nelson, John Sandie,
- Neighbors: Jim Karlock, Jeff King, Dean Freeman, Dennis Phillips, Trina Ramirez, Bill Markwart, Marc Fenton

- Absent: Patti Koehler, Laurel Marshall, Barbara Strunk

Meeting and Association Governance

- Meeting Agenda: Motion to approve Meeting Agenda proposed, seconded, and approved with unanimous vote.
- Dec 12 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve December 12 meeting minutes proposed, seconded, and approved with unanimous vote.
- Treasurers Report: Treasurer Karla Lenox reported as of December 31st, 2022, BWNA had the following account balances:
 - Cash in the checking account \$17,014.97
 - Cash in the Venmo account \$348.53
 - Accounts receivable: \$518.00

 - Expenditures pending:
 - Pamplin Media for newsletter printing: \$1591.00
 - Reimbursement to Jane Feinberg, graphic designer:
 - Wix website subscription for two years: \$180.00
 - Domain Name renewal: \$68.55
 - Total reimbursement: \$248.55
 - It was noted that Wix subscription rate takes advantage of a non-profit discount. Without the discount, it would have been \$720.

Meeting Discussion

- **Greenways traffic diverter at NE Fremont and Alameda**
 - On December 15th, PBOT notified the Association that it had begun its Greenways Diverter Pilot Project with the installation of speed signs on NE Fremont St. and a traffic diverter at the intersection of NE Fremont and Alameda. Attendees discussed impacts at the intersection since the installation including vehicles driving through the bikeway crossing, driving over the ‘candlesticks’; vehicles making U turns in the intersection and on either side of NE Alameda.
 - Neighbors have emailed Scott Cohen at PBOT raising concerns about these issues and increased traffic on the neighboring residential streets. Scott Cohen has communicated that the issues at the intersections aren’t unusual or unexpected and their opinion is that people will start to change their driving habits over time.
 - Neighbors report a significant increase in traffic on NE Cesar Chavez. It was noted that NE Cesar Chavez was already very close to the allowed peak hour maximum for traffic prior to the Pilot project. As a result of the diverter, significantly more traffic is using this street leading to a lot of

congestion. Significant increases in traffic were also noted on NE Milton St. Per the pilot plan, PBOT will take measures of traffic volume three months from the installation of the diverter and make adjustments as they deem necessary.

- It was mentioned that the Tacovore restaurant delivery trucks have been seen both crossing over the diverter and cutting through smaller streets. Garbage trucks are also using smaller streets to enter the neighborhood. It was suggested that we could communicate preferred routes to these businesses.
- The installation of radar speed signs on NE Fremont was noted. This was requested by the BWNA committee but was initially rejected by PBOT. Attendees agreed this seems to be a positive addition to the pilot plan.
- **Other transportation notes**
 - Patty Nelson mentioned changes to traffic patterns south of Fremont and east of 41st with moving and adding Stop signs in response to concerns reported by a neighbor.
- **Budget Review & Planning**
 - A methodology to define a proposed BWNA budget was presented by Karla Lenox and Susan Trabucco. The methodology was developed with the support of John Sandie and Patty Nelson. The goal is to use this methodology to define a budget that can be shared with the board in the May 2023 board meeting and to have a vote to adopt in the June general meeting. The proposed methodology was developed with reference to five years of the Association's historical financial records, with acknowledgement of the impact of Covid on the Association's expenditures. The methodology takes an average from those expenditures that is in line with historical activities and current expenses to arrive at a current projection of Association spending for the 2023. The result is a target 'break even' budget.
 - The team also considered our current balance and discussed a keeping an operating balance in reserve. This idea was endorsed by Central Northeast Neighbors who recommended keeping six months of operating expenses in reserve.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the methodology to define a target budget. The motion was passed unanimously through a show of hands by board members.

- **Newsletter**
 - Newsletter Editor Susan Trabucco described an approach to ensure the Newsletter balances editorial content and advertising effectively, while ensuring it continues to generate revenue. The goal is to ensure an engaging and profitable newsletter without requiring the Board to approve the number of pages each edition can have.
 - Susan described how there has been a guiding principle of ensuing a balanced publication with a target of 60% editorial content to 40% ads. This target is important because it defines how many pages each edition of the Newsletter should be. This in turn has meaningful cost and profit implications for the Association due to printing expenses. There is potential that a longer newsletter could be less profitable than a shorter one. Susan and Karla also described the considerations that go into deciding upon the number of pages a newsletter should be, including advertiser demand, printing costs, content, and the goal of having an accessible and engaging newsletter that reflects the interests of the neighborhood. They detailed how they currently work together to decide on the appropriate length of the edition balancing a wide range of interests.
 - It was noted that the expectation is that the Newsletter cover its own costs and the Association's non-discretionary expenses

A motion was made and seconded to give the Newsletter editor—in consultation with our Treasurer—the discretion to decide on the length of each issue based on the calculus that the

revenue will cover both producing the newsletter and the non-discretionary funds. The motion was passed unanimously through a show of hands by board members.

- **December Vigil for Gail Phillips**

- Patty Nelson provided a recap of the recent vigil for neighbor Gail Phillips on December 21st. Turnout was estimated to be between 75 and 90 people. Dennis Phillips, Gail's husband spoke about how the vigil was a warm spot in the hearts of his family. Dennis mentioned collaborating with John Sandie on the planned painting of the soft bump outs on NE Fremont and mentioned a desire to see more lighting on the street to aid with visibility.
- Susan Trabucco mentioned that the reflective armbands the BWNA provided at the vigil and suggested that the association could consider a project to distribute armbands to pedestrians to increase safety.

- **Movie in the Park**

- Treasurer Karla Lenox provided an update on our approach to the Alameda Neighborhood Association to combine efforts. The Alameda Neighborhood Association voted to co-sponsor the planned event with us. Each Association will pay \$500 of the required \$1,000 fee, payable to the City. Karla will now begin work on the joint application and will reach out to board members by email to agree upon three possible dates for the event, location, which of the available movies we would like and whether we want the City to arrange food trucks. Applications are due February 3rd. If we are selected, we can then decide if we want to arrange music or other activities before the movie screening.

- **Neighborhood Clean Up**

- Tim Gillespie provided an update on the planned Neighborhood Clean Up event. Tim has received responses from Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) and CNN. Both are supportive of the idea and will to provide consultation, training, and guidance. BWNA would be responsible for financing and managing the event. There have been initial discussions with Beaumont Middle School PTA and Foundation about the possibility of this event helping raise some funds for the schools' Family Resiliency Fund, but no commitments have been made.
- Tim will convene a meeting of CNN, BPS and other interested parties and provide a further update at our next meeting.

- **NE Fremont St. painting**

- John Sandie recapped the email that he recently sent to board members outlining potential costs of having professional artists paint the soft bump out areas on NE Fremont St. Beaumont Middle School's eight-grade art class has provided submissions, but the art teacher cannot guarantee that the students will be available to paint the street themselves. It depends on when the painting is scheduled. It was noted that Al had suggested we could use Association funds for this and there was also discussion of it being a 'grass roots' effort with students from the Middle School.
- Once an approach is decided upon, we will need to present proposed designs and our plan for painting to the City for approval. CNN is also to be informed of the plan for painting the street in order to consider insurance requirements
- John will continue his outreach to local artists and will provide an estimate of costs if we were to choose to hire professional artist or artists for this project.

- **Bylaws**

- Patty Nelson mentioned that work on revising the Association bylaws had not progressed over the holidays. Patty, Al, and Tim are leading the review and will plan to review and meet up on the next few weeks with a goal of presenting proposed revisions to the board at the March meeting

Committee Updates

- **New Neighbor Welcome Packets**
 - Al has a couple of packets for distribution to new neighbors, looking for volunteers to deliver them
- **Central Northeast Neighbors**
 - Patty shared that CNN held a meeting last week where Portland Police reported on shootings and homicides. The Police department says they are doing all they can with their limited resources. A new community task force has recently formed, and they are reporting some progress.
- **Transportation**
 - Updates were addressed in Meeting Discussion section. It was noted that Scott Cohen from PBOT will attend the next General meeting to discuss the planned bike lane project on Skidmore.
- **Friends of Wilshire Park**
 - The team has reached their fundraising goal to provide water to the dog park and are now early discussions about its next project and has solicited community input through the newsletter. The committee will decide on how long the public input process will be open and will notify Susan if they would like to run the QR code again in the next issue of the Newsletter
- **Newsletter**
 - Some great feedback on the most recent edition of the newsletter. The quantity of community news resonated with people. Susan encouraged board members to contribute ideas and share updates on things they are aware of in the neighborhood.
 - A neighbor emailed to say that the Tacovore cover story didn't address all sides of the issue and that to some degree the core concerns and actions taken were misrepresented by the owner of Tacovore. While we did not interview anyone in the City to validate the owner's narrative, Susan did address it with the board member involved in drafting the Good Neighbor agreement and she felt the article was fair. Susan committed to providing a follow up article that includes specific information from the City that corrects the record.
 - There was discussion of the Association's role in a Good Neighbor agreement. Susan clarified that this issue isn't about enforcement, but simply ensuring that everyone has the most current and correct information to understand and represent the situation. The ad-hoc committee that drafted the agreement is now just one board member. Laurel will continue to be our liaison with Tacovore and the City and report back to the board. If needed the ad-hoc committee could expand to provide additional support to represent neighbors and broker the conversation around the Good Neighbor agreement.
 - Susan shared the Board member Sam Balto received an email response to his article in support of the Diverter that used uncivilized and extreme language. Sam let attendees know that he responded and ultimately resolved the interaction in a positive way.
- **Crime Prevention & Safety**
 - Bill Markwart reported the continued occurrence of crimes of convenience or opportunity in the neighborhood: unlocked cars, garage doors left open, theft from porches etc. Also, a number of car break-ins around Grant Park and a car stolen from a garage on Klickitat. Bill reported that Police have responded to some burglaries but don't seem to have the capacity to respond to smaller crimes.
- **Remembrance of neighbors on 37th & Alameda**
 - Patty Nelson discussed the recent passing of two residents on 37th and Alameda, a couple in their 80s. Reports are of a murder-suicide and there is no additional threat to the community. Neighbors recently had a vigil, and many have shared stories of how wonderful the couple was. Patty mentioned the possibility of writing a Newsletter article to remember the couple and raise awareness about looking out for neighbors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm