

## **Boise Neighborhood Association Meeting**

### **7-9 pm February 9, 2015, Q Center**

#### **7:05 Introductions**

##### **ATTENDEES:**

**Board:** Ted Buehler, Ed Shiang, Katy Wolf, Stephen Gomez, Sarah Cantine, Jessie Blanchard, Kay Newell.

*Absent:* Karis Stoudamire, who notified the board she would be absent.

##### **Non-board:**

- Brenda Nakoda, Williams and Beech
- Justin, tenant in Gantenbein and Beech
- Peggy Alter, Chocolate Craft Studio owner
- Damara Bartlett, Borthwick and Beech
- Darren Bartlett, Borthwick and Beech
- Rebecca Brown, Mississippi and Beech

##### **Guests/Presenters:**

- Sgt Leo Besner, North Precinct - works with Neighborhood Emergency Team and has six officers report to him. They cover the area from Linnton and Sauvie Island to 185th and Marine Drive
- Sarah Isbitz and Owen Gabbert from One North
- Kelly Peyton, public artist

#### **7:10 Police Report and Public Safety**

Sgt Leo Besner attended to respond to the community concerns about the SERT incident that occurred during the morning rush hour timeframe last week.

Sgt. Besner has been a Portland Police Officer for 21 years. Experience in the neighborhood goes back a long time, appreciates that the neighborhood is much better now.

Don't typically discuss police tactics, but can talk about how we get to a point where we call Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) - a sort of SWAT team. They can call them out any time they want - 24 officers and 2 sgts on the team. They have the training and knowledge, communications and infrastructure set up. They bring out their command post equipment with them so they can develop a plan, communicate and proceed. They get called out in situations where either: 1) reported hostage situation 2) sniper - someone hidden or has access to potential victims and is actively shooting 3) warrant is issued. Starts with a patrol officer who responds to 911 call, or a call with either medical or welfare check. The sgts and officers can then request SERT to come out. They may or may not come out depending. The street police should have done everything they can do at the street level, but they may need SERT - people with more equipment, trained crisis negotiators, command staff. A full SERT deployment is a lot of people and equipment, a lot of crisis negotiators come in their personal cars from home. They stage an area and establish a perimeter. This can create an issue with traffic. If a lot of people in the neighborhood need to come out or go home, they try to work with those situations. With this incident, at the very beginning they had a conversation with

someone in the apartment where they understood that there was a hostage situation - they were not allowed to leave on their own free will, held at weapon-point. Instead of trying to talk to that person a bit more and give it some more time, there was enough chaos where they felt that they needed immediate action, and were concerned that they needed to get the response going sooner rather than later, acting in best faith. In hindsight everyone probably agrees that more information or time would have let the situation settle down a little bit, for the initial shock to wear off. Situations like that are very emotionally charged for everybody. The police try to do the best they can, in hindsight he thinks they didn't do the best they could have. Someone said they estimated 50 officers on scene, and it may well have been. The reason they do that is not an inconvenience or overreaction, it's taken from the perspective of getting the best people and best equipment in the spot they're needed to contain and handle the situation. At the end of the call, a decision was made to not pursue any more, things calmed down, they determined it was not a hostage situation. The person was staying there because they wanted to be helping the person. It became obvious that the police weren't needed, and they walked away.

Sarah commented that it was great that no one got hurt, that the police response to diffuse the situation was appropriate. Stephen echoed that, and appreciated that the police realized it could have been handled a little differently. Jessie who works at the building where the incident happened, also appreciates that the officer came in and is respectful of the privacy of the resident.

The Sergeant also noted that Officer Buller, who is in our area, is resigning from Portland Police soon. In the meantime, Sgt. Besner can attend meetings.

**ACTION:** Katy to add him to the email list. (done during meeting)

7:30 Motion to approve December meeting minutes. Katy motions, Ted seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

### **7:33 Public Comment**

- Brenda: Is Boise-Eliot Community Garden on Fremont organized by us?

That garden is owned and operated by Portland Parks & Recreation, and usually has a long waiting list. However, there is an Urban League garden at Beech and Albina that needs help. That garden is specifically for the African-American and African community. And there is an Urban Farm Collective garden on Russell at Flint on the Legacy Emanuel grounds which is always looking for more people.

We have all of these gardens listed on our website under Community Assets.

<http://bnapdx.com/community-assets/>

### **7:20 – Committee Reports**

- Social committee update -- Ed Shiang, BNA Co-Chair

- January Last Wednesday at Tesoaria had a good turnout. Ed, Jessie, Katy and Peggy Alter were there. In total there were about 12-14 people. Tesoaria contributed 15%, but we don't know yet how much that turned out to be. The next one will be at Mississippi Pizza 7-9, February 25. Ed will see about getting 15% from them too.
- Land Use and Transportation Update -- Stephen Gomez, LUTC Chair
  - At last LUTC meeting, they spent a lot of time on the Design Guidelines. There will be an effort to revise them and further develop some policy statements that aren't as much about design but are about land use, such as demolition/deconstruction. Volunteers will be working on that, goal is to have something to present to general membership by April meeting.
  - We were invited to present the Design Guidelines in a workshop with the Division Design Initiative, which is a group of people working on neighborhood change and impacting design in your neighborhood. Diana Moosman and Owen Gabbert who are regular committee members will present that.
  - LUTC has also been responding to a lot of other things coming in, like an ADU proposal, and the Radiator building's proposal for public art installation (which we requested a public input process for).
  - Caroline Dao, previously our Board Chair, left the LUTC Committee. LUTC Committee now has 10 members.
- Communications -- Katy Wolf, Comm. Chair
  - New BNA outreach posters will be going up soon on community boards
  - **ACTION:** Katy will ask each of the board members to send a picture and mini-bio for our website
- Movies in the Park - we have to submit our three recommendations to Parks and Recreation by this Friday.
  - **ACTION:** Katy will post on Facebook and Nextdoor for input
- ONI Community Summit attendance - Feb 28  
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/65899>. All day, free workshops about community building.
  - Ed, Katy and Jessie will be attending. Justin is also interested in attending.
- Report on Board Retreat -- Ted Buehler, BNA Chair
  - The board met for two hours in January. The board talked about what they are interested in most and what they want to get out of being on the board

### **8:00 Review proposed changes in bylaws:**

#### *Notes:*

- When this comes to a vote at the neighborhood meeting on March 9, 2015, all neighborhood residents may vote on the proposed changes.

- Our current bylaws are posted on our web page at <http://bnapdx.com/> under the "Our Neighborhood Association" tab.

## **Article 6: Quorum**

### *General Meetings (Current)*

A quorum for any General Meeting of Boise Neighborhood Association shall be the number of Board Members equal to 50%, plus two (2).

### *General Meetings (Proposed)*

A quorum for any General Meeting of Boise Neighborhood Association **for purposes of electing Directors of the Board and/or amendments to the Bylaws** shall be the number of Board Members equal to 50%, plus two (2) **of the general membership**.

## **Article 8: Board of Directors**

### *Eligibility for Board Service (Current)*

Only persons eligible for Boise Neighborhood Association Membership shall be qualified to hold an elected or appointed position.

### *Eligibility for Board Service (Proposed)*

Only persons eligible for Boise Neighborhood Association Membership shall be qualified to hold an elected or appointed position. **Prospective Board of Director candidates must have attended at least two (2) neighborhood association meetings in the twelve months prior to the meeting at which their candidacy is decided by election or appointment.**

**Discussion:** Could Land Use Committee count? Stephen thinks this seems to make sense since LUTC has executive authority to make decisions on behalf of the neighborhood associations.

Kay would like to recommend one more bylaw change: that we recognize that any submitted resignation be accepted immediately instead of needing to be voted on at the next meeting.

**ACTION:** Board will add this to the list of bylaw amendments at the March meeting

8:10 Invitation for planter quote suggestions -- Sarah Isbitz and Owen Gabbert, One North Development.

There is a courtyard between the buildings to the north from New Seasons that will be available for community use. Included in its design are laser cut quotes on metal bands along the planters, and they are hoping to solicit ideas from the community for these quotes. Three suggestion boxes - two in New Seasons, one in Urban League lobby, one in Rebuilding Center, that will be up for about a month. They have also sent it out to the local schools. You can submit suggestions to [onenorthpdx@gmail.com](mailto:onenorthpdx@gmail.com). The letters are speced at 3 inches tall and they have space for a lot of words. They would like to get responses by the next BNA

meeting (one month). At the March BNA meeting they will come back for more input. The courtyard will be done in November, bands will go in towards the end.

**ACTION:** Katy will send Owen an email with a list of all the suggested sites in the neighborhood for another suggestion box, and share out the call on all BNA channels.

**8:15 Introduction to 'tire swing lot celebration' idea** - Kelly, neighborhood artist, PNCA grad student

Kelly would like to introduce her concept for having a participatory celebration for the lot on Mississippi and Fremont with the big tree and tire swing, since it will go away once the development starts. She is planning a project in that area as part of her graduate work at PNCA, and would like to start the process for input from the neighborhood.

Kelly is a public artist who has worked in Mexico and the US. She is a transplant and wants to move to this neighborhood with recognition and respect to the displacement that has occurred/is occurring here. Her interest in the space is to build a shrine. She shows a color poster and miniature model of a shrine to hold a ceremony to respect and honor the space. How do we preserve the space, collect documentation like photos and videos, find out what this space was before - she is doing research on the homes that were here before.

Considering how we deal with change, having rituals and ceremonies to say goodbye. In the mid-90s, Kay says that the row houses were abandoned and beyond repair. The person who owned the property had a big party and with firemen, they burned them all down. They were very old homes and very plain and simple and were probably worth about \$5,000 at the time. Stephen suggests Kelly go to the Historical Society to search by Mississippi Ave. Kay might have some photos too.

Timeline: The developer said development would happen within the next 12 months.

Event at the site would hopefully be in May. The shrine would be human-sized, temporary art installation - potentially would live on in another spot. The project needs to involve the community. Set up an email to send photos and memories to, and turn it all into a book.

Kelly would like to engage the community in the entire process. Stephen has reached out on Kelly's behalf to the project architects to get permission to put this up on the site. Kelly will come back to another BNA meeting when she gets more information.

**8:30: Neighborhood Project Brainstorming, Ed Shiang, Co-chair**

Ed will lead us in 30 minutes or more of discussion and breakouts to help us move forward on projects both old and new. Bring your very own project and let the Board help you flesh it out to completion. Our goal is to have at least two people working on any given project so you are not alone. We will go to Bar Bar after the meeting if we want to continue the discussion, brainstorm and socialize as the better we know each other the more likely we will succeed.

Ongoing projects include, but are not limited to:

- \* Dog Park
- \* Talent Show
- \* Skill Share
- \* Neighborhood Walks

Ted project ideas:

- Offer to paint curbs yellow for people who don't want people to park in front of their house
- Make a friendly brochure to let people know they are in Boise neighborhood, how to park, how not to park

Katy project ideas:

- Alleyways - activating them with events, cleanups, beautification, art. Also, asset mapping.
- Pedalpalooza bike ride: history of the neighborhood, stops at historic or interesting spots

Ed:

- Recruiting new board members and new people to the email list

The group spent the remainder of the meeting time discussing these project ideas.

9:00 -- Adjourn