

## **Lents Neighborhood Association**

Minutes for General Meeting, August 26, 2014

Lents Activity Center (Seventh-Day Adventist Church)  
8835 SE Woodstock Blvd.

Meeting called to order 7:05 pm.

### **Action Items**

Richard Christman made a motion to approve the minutes from July 22, Robert Culver seconded, and the motion was **approved**.

Jesse Cornett shared a copy of the Lents Neighborhood Association by-laws, and proposed the following changes:

1. On page one, amended to include "Amended August 26, 2014"
2. Article VII Section 1, originally reading "no more than eleven Board members" will be changed to "no more than thirteen Board members"
3. Article VII Section 8, H, originally reading "One at-large seat will be up for election in even-numbered years" will be changed to "Two at-large seats will be up for election in even-numbered years"

Cornett requested a discussion of the amendments.

Noah Patraw asked to clarify the reasons for adding the new board positions.

Cornett stated that the board currently did not have enough ability to do the work that was needed.

Cora Potter noted that a larger board would be more proportionally scaled to our neighborhood.

Christman made a motion to amend the bylaws as described above, Joan Chakwin seconded the motion, and it was **approved**.

### **Citizen Communications**

Attendants introduced themselves.

Vicky Oglesbee from the Holgate Library, shared information on the book club that meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, and events including tablet classes and cooking classes.

Joan Chakwin announced a neighborhood cleanup on 10/18, and shared information about getting sharps containers and gloves from the fire department, and possibly organizing a safety training.

Christman suggested the use of the story yard area on Foster Road for a Christmas display, or other holiday use.

David Hyde reminded attendants that the Green Lents Tool Library was open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, with hand and electric tools, and needed volunteers.

Potter announced that the Belmont Goats were having a work party Saturday and Sunday to finish their fence.

Theresa Swett reminded us to collect Box Tops and Labels for Education.

Patraw shared his interest in the public safety chair board position and stated that he would work with the city to make the community more livable.

### **Reports**

Hyde said that the 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave improvement coalition met to form a steering committee to set priorities in using the ODOT grant. He said that there was a lot of work to be done, and we would benefit from an additional at-large board position to work with EPAP.

Potter reported that there were some new lot divisions near Bloomington Park.

Raymond Hites announced the submission deadline for articles for the East Portland Neighborhood Association newsletter on 9/2; a Bureau of Development Services survey open until 9/15; naturoscaping workshops at St.

Mary's Ethiopian Orthodox Church (9/6) and Pilgrim Lutheran (9/13).

Cornett reminded attendants that the next general meeting of the LNA was the annual meeting to elect new board members, including public safety, vice chair, secretary, treasurer and new at-large chairs.

## Informational Items

Cornett introduced Kevin Cronin of the PDC and a group of visiting Japanese municipal government leaders to begin a discussion about community based economic development.

Cronin shared information about the Lents Grown organization, trying to empower community based organizations, and branding strategy.

Marie Walkiewicz asked about the role of the Belmont Goats, and Potter explained the history of the project, and said that they would act as a tourist attraction to the neighborhood.

Cornett spoke about the relationship between the community and the PDC.

Miyasaka Fumitoshi commented on the popularity of the Lents International Market and the attraction of the goats for young people.

Takemasa Aiba asked residents who had said this was their first meeting their reasons for attending.

Patraw and Zac Reimer stated that the Facebook page made them aware of the meetings.

Masatomo Yamakawa contrasted the LNA meeting with community meetings in Japan, which lacked the open discussion and voluntary participation.

Hiroshi Eda asked if the opinions of older community members were respected and given priority.

Potter responded that we respect the opinions of elders, but do not give them priority, as many immigrants and new families were also part of the community; also, younger residents would sometimes do yard work for older residents, including a work party held the previous week.

Walkiewicz said that neighborhood associations used to be largely made up of older residents, but now new homeowners and renters were joining as well.

Akiko Inagaki asked about the differences between the older and younger generations in their participation.

Potter responded that social media has the biggest effect on getting young people involved.

Chakwin said that her children are involved in the community because they have watched her participate.

Yamakawa asked if a consensus reached in a neighborhood association meeting represented a consensus within the entire neighborhood.

Cornett responded that the neighborhood had over 20,000 residents, and consensus was impossible, but all sides of controversial issues are represented at meetings.

Potter explained how the neighborhood association worked to make improvements for the neighborhood, rather than take a position on controversial issues, and used the neighborhood agreement with Walmart as an example.

Kazuya Miyagawa expressed his surprise at the number of first time attendants, and asked if there was a system to help people at the meetings get to know each other.

Cornett and Patraw spoke about the role of social media and the introductions at the beginning of each meeting.

Ray Hites commented that the personality of the neighborhood association changes with the leadership, making it more or less formal.

Cornett stated that residents who had a concern about the neighborhood could come to the meeting, raise the issue and do something about it, and that this engagement empowers people.

Robert Culver asked the visitors from Japan if they had experience with the issue of homelessness.

Eda responded that there is a small percentage of homeless people in Japan, largely in urban areas.

Yamakawa said that if a large number of homeless people gather in one area they are cleared out, but there are also areas where shelters are being built, and volunteers provide free meals.

Tsuneo Watanabe added that, in Tokyo, there have been attempts to prevent homelessness, including training and job placement, but now the focus was on shelters.

Cornett thanked the visitors for attending, and thanked the translator, Hiko Ozawa.

Meeting adjourned 8:33pm

Attendants: Marie Walkiewicz, Zac Reimer, Richard Christman, Vicky Oglesbee, Theresa Swett, Noah Patraw, Michael Cummings, Robert Culver, David Hyde, Raymond Hites, Kevin Cronin, Loren Strode, Jesse Cornett, Cora Potter, Joan Chakwin, Heather Chapin, Minh Ngo, Hiko Ozawa, Tsuneo Watanabe, Miyasaka Fumitoshi, Takemasa Aiba, Masatomo Yamakawa, Hiroshi Eda, Akiko Inagaki, Kazuya Miyagawa

\Submitted with amendments by Heather Chapin