

**LENTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LNA)
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Lents Seventh Day Adventist Church, 8815 S.E. Woodstock, Portland

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Approved: Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order): Michael Collins (Vice Chairperson); Krista Dennis (At-Large); Ray Hites (Treasurer) (arrived around 7:30 p.m.); Judy Low (Chairperson); Cora Potter (Land Use Chairperson); Gary Primack (At-Large); Joanne Rees (Luchini) (Secretary); Autumn West (At-Large); and Jennifer Young (At-Large).

Board Members Absent (in alphabetical order): Randy Schroeder (Public Safety Chairperson); Nick Schillaci-Kayton (Public Transportation Chairperson) (excused absence)

Attendees (in alphabetical order): Jessica and Ryan Bucker; RoseMary Colorafi; Michael Cummings; Megan Gorecki; Alan and Olivia Linhares; Ken Luchini; Dan McElligott; and Char and David Potts.

Presenters (in alphabetical order): Leila Aman (Project Manager, Portland Development Commission (PDC)); Vicky Oglesby (Head Librarian, Holgate Library) and Stephanie (Multnomah County Library).

The November/December LNA General Meetings were combined, due to the holidays. The Tuesday, December 6, LNA General Meeting was in lieu of the November and December General Meetings.

Chairperson Low convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Tuesday, October 25, 2016, General Meeting Minutes. Secretary Rees (Luchini) mentioned that the LNA website remains nonfunctional, so minutes cannot be posted. The last posting of the minutes occurred in August, 2016. However, Rees (Luchini) added that anyone who wishes emailed copies of the draft minutes should feel free to contact her and that copies of approved minutes are also being sent to East Portland Neighborhood Office (EPNO) to be kept on file there. A limited number of paper copies of the minutes were available at the beginning of the meeting. Young made a motion that the minutes be approved. Dennis seconded. The motion passed with 15 in favor; 0 in opposition and 2 abstentions.

Portland Development Commission (Aman). Leila Aman, PDC Project Manager, thanked LNA for allowing her to present at its monthly general meetings. She is the PDC “relationship manager” for the Lents Urban Renewal Area. Aman gave some updates on upcoming construction in the Lents Town Center.

9101 Foster is currently under construction. The foundation is being dug.

The Lents information kiosk has been temporarily moved to the AIP building, next to the transit station near I-205. When construction at the Town Center is complete, the information kiosk will be moved just north of 9101 Foster, adjacent to a playground that will be part of the ROSE Woody Guthrie Center.

The groundbreaking for Oliver Station is being held this Thursday, December 8, from 11:30 a.m. To 12:30 p.m. Oliver Station is the development that includes the site of the New Copper Penny. The groundbreaking, which is more of a “ground crushing,” will be contingent upon the weather. The “ground crushing” includes the demolition of the New Copper Penny. Aman requested that people interested in attending the groundbreaking, which has been posted on the LNA Facebook page, RSVP to eventbrite. This will allow them to get notification as to any weather-related cancellations.

The Asian Health Services Center will be breaking ground in the spring. “New markets tax credits” are pending. The design review permit is currently underway.

The loan for the ROSE Woody Guthrie Center has been approved. Construction should start in the spring.

The Lents Town Center area will essentially be a construction zone for the next year.

The Foster Road Streetscape Project is experiencing a slight delay, but the delay is not affecting the schedule for the Lents portion of the project. An intergovernmental agreement is being reached with Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT). Bids will start to be taken in January, with construction to start in May. Aman admitted that traffic impacts will be “significant” for some time. The streetscape project includes repaving streets.

Another exciting event is the Leach Botanical Garden expansion project. The intent is to make Leach a “world-class botanical garden.” Leach Botanical Garden supporters are expected to fundraise approximately \$1.2 million, with another \$2 million to come from PDC.

Aman issued a reminder that the Community Livability Grant applications are due by December 12. At least 1/2-dozen groups have already applied, including some nonprofits serving Lents. It is anticipated that the grantees will be announced in February, 2017.

Land Use Chairperson's Report (Potter). Potter said that there was not much happening other than the building surge in the Lents Town Center. There are two lot divisions: one on the 8000 block of S.E. 88th (Potter is to double-check the location) and one on S.E. 98th and S.E. Tenino.

East Precinct Police Liaison Report. Officers Pierce and Woodrich reported. Pierce works the afternoon shift. He mentioned that things have been very “chaotic,” post-national Presidential elections with neighborhood police resources having to be redirected to the ongoing protests downtown. It is anticipated that similar redirection of resources will occur around the Presidential inauguration (January 20 and 21) when more protests are being planned.

The homeless issue remains “huge” in Lents and is a common theme in all neighborhoods. There are no easy answers.

The officers were asked about community policing and whether there were any plans for increased community policing beyond increased cruising in vehicles. It would be good if people could get to know their neighborhood police officers outside of a patrol car. Pierce replied that “community policing” is a synonym for “community engagement,” which the police bureau has been doing for the last 23 years at least, including attending neighborhood association meetings and business alliance meetings in order to report and answer questions. The officers were also asked about the status of recruiting and whether more interest had been generated in joining the Police Bureau after the incentives in the new Police Union Contract, including higher start pay. Pierce stated that recruiting efforts are still ongoing but recruiting is still a struggle. Recruits will need to be hired to replace retiring officers.

Pierce replied that it was difficult to quantify whether the increase in violent crime in Lents was directly related to the increase in homeless camping or whether it was due to related socioeconomic factors, including drug addiction and mental illness.

Young expressed an ongoing Lents' concern about homeless encampments blocking public rights of way, which has a disproportionately negative impact on people with disabilities and seniors. She asked whether public should contact the Portland Police non-emergency number to report violations of public right of way. Pierce said that people should call the non-emergency number to report. However, he reminded that it is not the Police Bureau's job to enforce ADA-accessibility. It is the Police Bureau's

to enforce right of way on public sidewalks. It was also reported that Harold/S.E. 108th there have been issues with cars being worked on in the street, such that the area resembled a “mechanics' plaza.” This should also be reported to the Police Bureau non-emergency line because those areas are also considered “public rights of way.”

The contact at East Precinct for the Neighborhood Response Team is Randy Teig.

Treasurer's Report (Hites). LNA accounting remains a work in progress because there are still “holes” in the financial records kept by past Treasurers. In addition, LNA is still not receiving bank statements.

Hites reported a deposit of \$807.75, which was a reimbursement from the 2015 Lents Street Fair. He is still waiting for receipts from the 2016 Lents Street Fair. LNA earned 45 cents in interest. The LNA savings account rests at \$11,471.28; the checking account rests at \$1,413.17, for a total of \$12,884.45. LNA has still not received current bills from PGE for the lighting of the Lents monuments, for which LNA has now assumed responsibility.

East Portland Neighborhood Office (EPNO) Report (Hites). Richard Bixby, the Director of EPNO, retired earlier this year. His successor is being sought, but, in the interim, Bixby is still working part-time in his EPNO position. The EPNO newspaper, East Portland News, is published quarterly and has a wide distribution in East Portland. The October – January issue is out. The next issue will be February 1. Articles for the February issue need to be submitted by January 2.

At-Large Board member Gary Primack mentioned that every issue of the East Portland News has a map of neighborhoods in the EPNO district coalition, including notification of times and days of meetings and photos of the Chairpeople. Primack also reminded LNA of the opportunity to participate in the East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) meetings. These meetings are regularly held the fourth Wednesday of every month, starting at 6:30 p.m., at David Douglas School District Office. Dinner is served. Now that a new Mayor has assumed leadership of Portland, it might be good to have more people have their voices heard at EPAP meetings.

LNA member Michael Cummings brought to LNA's attention the City auditor's report on the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), where it was reported that “accountability limited; funding models outdated.” He pointed out that East Portland has been shortchanged in City funding (\$2.00 per person, as compared to \$4.00 to \$6.00 per person in other areas of Portland) and asked what steps were being considered to correct this situation. While East Portland has always been shortchanged, the inequity has become especially noticeable as Portlanders are gentrified further and further East, substantially increasing neighborhood populations in those areas.

Hites stated that there have been repeated discussions over the years about changing the formula determining what neighborhood district coalitions (and the represented neighborhoods) should receive. There has been a tendency on the part of participating coalitions in ONI to push for generalized increases in funding, as opposed to taking away monies previously allocated to one district coalition in order to give it to another. Hites also mentioned that there has been a tendency for ONI to allocate funding to diversity programming and to organizations that serve under-represented community members. Some attempts have been made to increase the monies available in small-grant funding.

Low mentioned that ONI is currently holding budget advisory committee (BAC) meetings and soliciting community input into the ONI budget for 2017/2018. The meetings are held the second Monday of the month at City Hall, starting at 5:30 p.m. Low indicated that anyone interested in getting on the listserv for the ONI BAC meetings should contact her.

Lents Street Fair Planning Committee and Bylaws Revision Committee

(Dennis). At-Large Board member Krista Dennis is chairing two Committees. The Lents Street Fair Planning Committee is meeting Wednesday, December 7 (tomorrow), at 6:00 p.m., on the top-level of the Woodstock New Seasons where there is an enclosed drinking and dining area. The Bylaws Revision Committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting on Wednesday, January 18, at 6:00 p.m. The venue still needs to be confirmed, but tentatively is to be Earl Boyles Elementary School. Anyone wishing to be on either or both Committees should contact Dennis.

Social Media Committee (West). At-Large Board member Autumn West is the Chairperson of the Social Media Committee. West distributed and reviewed a draft Social Media Guidelines handout, which she created based on EPNO and ONI social media resources. The Social Media Guidelines – a reminder of the code of appropriate conduct on social media – are a living document and a work in progress.

West took the initiative of starting this Committee because, like many other LNA members, she had a concern about the nonfunctioning LNA website. Ideally, the LNA website would be the repository for LNA business, including minutes from Board and General Meetings, Treasurer's reports, meeting times and dates, calendaring, etc. The LNA Facebook page would be for announcements of community events, activities and opportunities that might be of interest to LNA members. The Facebook page would be more of a social page, including a calendar of events. The LNA website would be the business page. West felt that the LNA website, which is on wordpress, could be more attractive. She cited the Woodstock Neighborhood Association website as a possible model. Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association also has attractive Facebook

page and website.

West was dismayed – and others in LNA were as well – to learn that the passwords to the LNA website ceased to function sometime in August when Low and then-Secretary Heather Chapin posted agendas and minutes from Board and General Meetings. The website is there and can be visited, but nothing can be added so it is not current. There is also an issue with the domain name which is due to expire sometime in April, 2017 (one year + one month from its last registration, which was in March, 2016). The website may need to be started from scratch. Potter offered to try to assist in troubleshooting any website challenges. She felt that the challenges were surmountable.

Low informed that the current admin is herself. In the past, there had been multiple admins, but there was a perceived problem of censorship on the part of the admins. All the Board members have the ability to be “editors” and to post on the LNA Facebook main page; provided that they give Low a valid, “Facebook email address” (which is not the same as the email address they use for email correspondence). “Editors” does not mean that the Board members have access to the passwords, nor does it mean that they are admins or moderators. (Currently, the LNA Facebook page does not moderate.) It just means that Board members' posts will automatically be directed to the main page (rather than visitor's post) and that their post will be identified as “Lents Neighborhood Association.” Since there will be many “editors,” Board members should try to get into the habit of identifying themselves when posting so LNA members know who the poster is. Board members who are currently still only able to post as visitors were reminded to contact Low with a valid, “Facebook email address.”

West would like to see another logo be used than the portrait of Oliver P. Lent. LNA member Ken Luchini suggested a community contest to design the logo. That was very well-received by LNA.

West was thanked for her excellent work on the social media guidelines and her detailed report. She was also thanked for providing the photocopies of the social media guidelines at her own expense.

Collaboration of At-Large/Livability Issues and LNA Transportation Chairperson and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) on Parking Enforcement in Lents Park and surrounding neighborhoods and Kerns Springwater Corridor Restoration Project Followup (Young).

(a) **PBOT Collaboration.** At-Large Board member Jennifer Young informed LNA that she and Transportation Chairperson Nick Schillaci-Kayton would be collaborating on engaging PBOT on the issue of illegal camper-vehicle parking and other parking enforcement issues in Lents Park (particularly the area around S.E. 88th

and S.E. Steele) and surrounding neighborhoods. There already has been some success in posting no-parking signage in the Lents Park parking lots (indicating no parking between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., except on game nights). Young and others would like to advocate for increased signage and more parking enforcement. There have been complaints about neighborhoods being turned into unsanctioned r.v. parks, increased criminal activity and garbage in those areas and other evidence of urban blight. It is anticipated that a joint Livability/Transportation SubCommittee will be formed in January.

(b) **Kerns Springwater Corridor Restoration Project Followup.** Low had emailed the letter of support of Ed Kerns and Restoration of Springwater Corridor, which had been approved by LNA at its the October General Meeting. The letter was emailed to James Allison, Steve Pixley, Lynn Barlow, Susan Hawes, Mart Hughes of Parks, as well as to Mayor Hales, Mayor-Elect Wheeler, and the City Commissioners, including newly-elected Commission Chloe Eudaly. Currently Commission Fritz is in charge of Parks, but that could change once Mayor Wheeler takes office in January.

Young had expressed concern at the November Board Meeting that, notwithstanding the restoration of the Springwater Corridor, there will be continuing degradation of the environmentally-fragile area if the ban on camping is not enforced. Other Board members shared Young's concern. Young read a draft letter regarding this matter, which is attached hereto.

Primack expressed a concern that the letter Young drafted was contrary to the letter that Potter had drafted on behalf of LNA earlier in the year. Young reminded that the letter regarding homelessness that Potter had drafted and which had been approved by LNA was in response to the disproportionate responsibility assumed by Lents during the homelessness crisis in the spring when Mayor Hales had relaxed the ban on camping. Young's proposed letter related to the Springwater Corridor Restoration Project and was an attempt to prevent degradation of the Corridor after a lot of volunteer time, labor and money were spent in its restoration.

A motion to approve the letter, as drafted by Young with the sole revision that it be indicated as coming from the LNA as opposed to Young, was made by Ken Luchini and seconded by Dan McElligott. The motion passed 18 in favor; 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Young was thanked for taking a proactive stance on this and for showing initiative in drafting an excellently-written letter. The LNA letterhead will be affixed and the letter will be sent out by the Chairperson on behalf of LNA.

Holgate Library's Request for Community Input for Capital Planning

(Holgate Head Librarian Vicky Oglesby). The Head Librarian of Holgate Library Vicky Oglesby presented a request for community input into capital planning for Multnomah Library. Oglesby informed that this is a planning year; there will be no final product this year.

How do we see the Library in the future? There had been a visioning session, which LNA member in attendance at this meeting Ryan Bucker had attended. Community input had also been sought at the recent Fix-It Fair at Ron Russell Middle School. There has also been interest in having a Lents Library, which had been promoted by LNA Member Chris Elkorek. Lents is experiencing huge demographic shifts, which will only continue with the Lents Town Center construction. Even having a satellite library at the Town Center would be beneficial to Lents residents.

LNA members in attendance at the General Meeting were asked to indicate with a sticker-dot on an a chart how they used the library. Oglesby was assisted in this exercise with Stephanie, staff person with Multnomah County Library. Some of the uses of the library included: read or work by myself; meet, collaborate and work with others; hang out; participate in programs and events; create and make (eg., the Maker Space at the Rockwood Library); learn and discover; find materials and resources; or ???

Oglesby also indicated that the book of the month for Pageturners was Tender at the Bone.

New Business/Public Input. LNA member RoseMary Colorafi inquired about the mail box at S.E. Foster and S.E. 88th which appears to have been removed. She expressed a concern about decreased mail service in the area, including reduced hours for pickup. The closest post office for most people is the station at the EastPort Plaza Mall, which is not that convenient. Potter remarked that this is not only a Portland issue and Low concurred that this was nationwide. Low suggested that Colorafi contact the Postmaster General to express her concern.

Vice Chairperson Michael Collins reminded people that standing water is becoming ice with the colder temperatures and to be careful when stepping out. He was thanked for the reminder.

Primack reminded that the next Board meeting was this Thursday, December 8. He inquired what would happen if the weather turned for the worse. Low informed that any changes due to weather would be announced on the LNA Facebook page.

A motion to adjourn was made by Collins at 9:00 p.m. and seconded by everyone.
The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by LNA Secretary Joanne Luchini on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.