

## **LENTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LNA)**

### **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**KingPins Bowling Alley, “The Chalet” Community Room, 3552 S.E. 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
(venue changed due to Lents Seventh Day Adventist Church Community Activity  
Center not being available)**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

**Approved December 6, 2016**

**Board Members Present (alphabetically):** Michael Collins (Vice Chairperson), Krista Dennis (At-Large), Ray Hites (Treasurer), Judy Low (Chairperson), Cora Potter (Land Use Chairperson), Joanne Rees (Luchini) (Secretary), Nick Schillaci-Kayton (Transportation Chairperson), Randy “Icebear” Schroeder (Public Safety Chairperson), Autumn West (At-Large), and Jennifer Young (At-Large)

**Board Member Absent:** Gary Primack

**Attendees (alphabetically):** Michael Cummings; Jill Elliott; Megan Gorecki; Jamie Greer; Bonnie Hodge; Laurianne Kealiher; Alan Linhares; Christopher Luchini; Olivia McClelland; Evelyn O'Connor; Mary Oxford; Char Pennie; David Potts; Lee Rimar; and Edith Starling.

**Guest Presenters (alphabetically):** Leila Aman (Portland Development Commission Project Manager); Chloe Eudaly (candidate for Portland City Commissioner); Mike Greenslade (Vice President, Bremik Construction); Ed Kerns (Springwater Corridor Restoration Project); Angela Previdelli (Urban Outreach & Education Specialist, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District); and Steve Novick (incumbent Portland City Commissioner running for re-election)

Chairperson Judy Low called the LNA General Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Introductions and Welcome**

**East Precinct Police Officers' Report.** Officers Anderson and Woodrich attended as representatives of East Precinct. They work the 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. shift Tuesday through Friday. The officers had no updates for LNA. They were open to any questions. The officers reminded that the Portland Police had been in a “tough spot” insofar as dealing with the homeless crisis in Lents was concerned. The rules of engagement or lack of same had changed last spring and changed yet again in September. Officers Anderson and Woodrich asserted that they were on our side.

There was a concern expressed about the homeless in Brookside Park (S.E. 110<sup>th</sup> and Brookside). The homeless are moving into and “hunkering down” in the floodplain.

Plastics are being burned. The area is off-limits to dog walkers, yet the homeless are keeping pets at their tentsites.

The officers recommended that residents contact the Fire Bureau for any fire safety violations or fires. The first point of contact system is still in place. Residents should flood the line with any concerns or complaints. The more complaints and the more people who complain the more likely something will be done.

Regarding enforcement of the law, each situation is different. Many homeless were displaced from the Springwater Corridor Trail. There will be a similar sweep of Brookside, in collaboration with the Parks Bureau and Neighborhood Response Team. This may take some time.

An LNA member reported seemingly permanently-parked vehicles (cars and camper-vehicles) at S.E. 82<sup>nd</sup> and Glenwood where homeless residents are engaged in illegal activity, including active drug dealing. Some of this drug dealing seems to also be occurring at a nearby “zombie” home. The officers replied that, if trespassing is occurring at a boarded-up home that has law enforcement and/or City postings on it, this should be reported and action will be taken. For those “zombie” homes with no official postings, action will be slower in forthcoming. Residents should document any instances of criminal activity, either in writing or preferably with photos or video.

A question was asked as to whether the City was actively recruiting police officers from the communities they will be serving. The officers replied that the City and the Bureau intend to be hiring, now that the new police bureau union contract has been approved. The higher starting wages will hopefully attract more people to local law enforcement. Ride-alongs with the officers are available. One can sign-up on-line or with an application. Background checks are required for any ride-alongs. LNA Public Safety Chairperson Schroeder will bring ride-along applications to the December LNA General Meeting.

An inquiry was made about gang activity in the area. The officers said that most (estimated at 99%) of the graffiti tagging is suspected as being the work of youth (middle-school aged) who are interested in joining a gang or trying to impress others with their “gang affiliated graffiti.” Gang “colors” are no longer as indicative of gang affiliation. Colors have changed. The officers also suggested that people do an internet search using the key words “Tattoos Portland Criminal Gangs.”

An audience member reported suspected drug use and drug dealing during school hours at Earl Boyles Park. The officers replied that, if such is being observed, residents should call the non-emergency contact line with descriptions of the culprits and photos, if possible. The officers also informed that, each day before shifts start, there is a

meeting where officers are alerted to “wanted” people, people reported missing and areas where extra patrols have been requested. Photographs of “wanted” people can be found on the Portland Police Bureau's twitter feed, Facebook page and Website. Pete Simpson is the Public Information Officer.

An inquiry was made about white supremacist activity in the area and a concern expressed about a perception that white supremacists were inciting homeless people to violence against people of color. The officer reported that there is a concentration of white supremacist activity in outer-Southeast Portland, primarily Krude Rude Brood. However, most of the white supremacist activity does not seem to be acting in any organized fashion. They are mainly “hang-arounds” doing things on behalf of other gangs in exchange for favors. Krude Rude Brood tends to be enlisted to do “muscle work” for the Gypsy Jokers, undertaking tasks that Gypsy Jokers don't want to take credit for.

**Public Safety Chairperson Report (Schroeder)**. Schroeder distributed a flyer about a Public Safety Workshop being presented by the East Precinct (737 S.E. 106<sup>th</sup>), at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26. This is an educational and outcome-oriented forum for new and seasoned community safety members.

**Treasurer's Report (Hites)**. Hites distributed the East Portland Neighbors Event List for Insurance Coverage – EPNO Neighborhood Association Allotment Planning Worksheet 2016/2017 and explained same. He reminded that this budget is just a blueprint. If LNA overspends, it can use monies from the General Fund. However, any expenses other than those in the budget will have to be approved by the Board.

Note was made that the lighting of the Lents monuments is a new expense, taken over from Portland Development Commission (PDC), and will be averaging \$75.00 a month. Hites mentioned that LNA meetings (board, general and committee) are covered by insurance provided by East Portland Neighborhood Office (EPNO). He added that LNA may or may not do all the activities or host all the events itemized. Their inclusion was an attempt to be proactive by making sure that LNA will have insurance coverage.

A question was asked about telephone access to the bank account. This is through an automated system. Hites also indicated that on-line access is “all-or-nothing.” Hites mentioned that he intends to use an Excel spreadsheet for monthly Treasurer reports.

Only expenses incurred by LNA since Hites assumed office have been: photocopying costs for the ballots for the September general elections; utility bill to light the Lents monuments; and reimbursement of LNA member Robert Schultz for out-of-pocket expenses he incurred on behalf of LNA for the Lents Street Fair.

Hites reminded that childcare can be made available at meetings with advance notice. In the past, L'il Lentils assumed this duty. Hites also reminded, in answer to a question about LNA's outreach to more diverse communities, that translation services can be made available through EPNO, with advance notice of 2 to 3 weeks.

**Portland Development Commission (PDC) and Construction Company (Bremik Construction) Report.** Leila Aman, Project Manager for the Lents Urban Renewal Area, thanked those LNA members who attended the groundbreaking for the 9101 Foster project on Sunday, October 23, a project that was 15 to 20 years in the making.

Construction on the 9101 Foster project will be starting this week. The project should be completed by fall, 2017. Work on Oliver Station will commence at the end of November. Oliver Station should open in spring, 2018. The deconstruction will include asbestos removal.

The Vice President of Bremik Construction, Mike Greenslade, assured LNA that Bremik will try to be good “visitors” to the neighborhood. They will be careful about not blocking streets or sidewalks so that Lents residents, whether driving or walking, can get about. The only exception may be when the sewer is installed.

Concerns about parking arose. There will be less than one space allotted per unit (yet more than the minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  parking space per unit) – approximately 41 street parking spaces. There will be 2-hour parking limits, in keeping with suburban transit parking. The complex has been made “skinnier” in order to accommodate the additional parking spaces.

There were also questions as to whether retailers had been found for the retail space. Aman said that PDC was currently talking to some retailers, but nothing has been finalized. Some Lents residents felt that Lents would not be that attractive to retailers due to the pervasive homeless problem and a generally lower-income community. Parking was also considered an issue for retailers. Retailers have a harder time attracting customers when parking is not readily available. There will some lower-than-market-rate retail space available for lease to community small businesses.

Greenslade indicated that the Project Superintendent at Bremik for the project is Paul Miller. A signup sheet was made available for those LNA members interested in being updated on the status of the 9101 Foster Project.

The Lents information kiosk has been temporarily moved during the construction. It will ultimately be moved back to 9101 Foster, but it currently has been relocated to

the former Lents Library, now the location of a pest control company.

Aman also announced that the Foster Road Streetscape Project provides \$3 million to “fix our streets,” including those Lents streets between S.E. 82<sup>nd</sup> and S.E. 90<sup>th</sup>. Sidewalk and crossing improvements are being coordinated. Work will start in March. PDC is trying to mitigate traffic impacts. The Foster Road Streetscape Project starts at S.E. 50<sup>th</sup> and Foster and extends to the Lents Town Center at S.E. 90<sup>th</sup>. An LNA member questioned the practicality of converting Foster from a 4-lane into a 2-lane street, adding two bike lanes and a middle turning lane. Aman said it will be “different.” The intent is to increase safety and improve livability. Residents expressed concerns about traffic flow and congestion.

Aman announced the availability of Community Livability Grants totalling \$250,000. The grants are open to nonprofits for capital/physical improvement projects. The deadline to apply is December 12.

### **East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (EMSWCD)**

**Presentation.** Angela Previdelli, Urban Outreach & Education Specialist with EMSWCD presented about resources available through EMSWCD. She distributed a flyer regarding free workshops offered in the fall, including naturoscaping basics, rain gardens 101, urban weeds and native plants. Previdelli also notified of opportunities for neighborhood associations to host workshops on how to “landscape for clean water and healthy habitat.”

Previdelli informed LNA of annual events sponsored by EMSWCD. There is a very popular Northwest plant sale in February featuring bare-root trees and shrubs, at a cost of \$2.00 to \$3.00 per plant. On-line pre-ordering is available, with payment on-site the day of the sale. There are also periodic free Naturescape Backyard Tours. These are a fun way to learn about gardening possibilities and meet neighbors. EMSWCD is always looking for new backyards to tour.

EMSWCD has a technician on staff to help answer questions residents might have. Technician Eric Carr is willing to help over the phone. He can also perform a site visit.

Grant funding is also available through EMSWCD, including smaller space-making grants of up to \$1,500. These smaller space-making grants tend to be very attractive to neighborhood associations. The grants are offered on a monthly cycle and groups can apply multiple times. The projects have to be conservation-related, but the definition of “conservation-related” is broad. Susan Easton is the Grant Manager at EMSWCD.

More information can be found at [www.emswcd.org](http://www.emswcd.org)

**Restoration of Springwater Corridor Report (Ed Kerns).** Ed Kerns presented on his 21-years of ongoing habitat restoration work along the Spring Water Corridor. Kerns was also asking for an LNA letter of support endorsing his upcoming request to Portland Parks & Recreation that he be allowed to help coordinate the efforts in the restoration of the Springwater Corridor after the devastation caused by the extensive homeless encampments that were allowed to establish themselves on an environmentally-sensitive area during the 6-month period when the City lifted the ban on camping.

Over those 21 years, Kerns, with the assistance of local student and adult volunteers, conducted more than 400 planting and community workdays, resulting in the planting of over 60,000 native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers under the direction and supervision of Portland Parks & Recreation. LNA thanked Kerns very much for his commitment to the Springwater Corridor and restoration of its habitat and for his dedicated engagement of the community – young and old – in this important work.

Potter motioned that a letter in support of Ed Kerns and restoration of the Springwater Corridor be brought to the attention of the LNA Board at its next Board meeting for its approval. LNA member Amir Assasnik seconded. The vote was 25 in favor; no nays; no abstentions.

**City Commissioner Candidate Forum (Incumbent City Commissioner Steve Novick; contender City Commissioner candidate Chloe Eudaly).**

Candidates introduced themselves and presented a brief biographical statement. They referred LNA to their websites for further information (Chloe Eudaly: [www.chloeforportland.com](http://www.chloeforportland.com); Steve Novick: [www.steveforportland.org](http://www.steveforportland.org))

Affordable housing and the homeless crisis were major concerns of the City Commissioners. Both candidates expressed support for Measure 97, which provides for a business tax increase of 2.5 percent on gross sales exceeding \$25 million, and Measure 26-179, Portland Affordable Housing Bond, which would allow the City to purchase land and build up to 1,300 apartment units at a cost of \$260 million raised over 20 years

There was a question and answer period following the introductions and statements. The biggest concerns of LNA members questioning the Commissioners revolved around advocacy for Lents, particularly around issues of the disproportionate number of homeless currently residing in Lents, largely due to the relaxation of the ban on camping and the subsequent mass encampments along the ecologically-fragile Springwater Corridor, with the accompanying increase in criminal activity.

Discussion could have continued longer than the allotted time and beyond the end of the meeting, but both candidates had to leave.

**Adjournment.** The LNA General Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Draft Minutes submitted by Joanne Rees (Luchini), LNA Secretary, Sunday, November 27, 2016.

Minutes approved at LNA General Meeting, December 6, 2016.