

**LENTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LNA)
MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

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

Lents Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 8835 S.E. Woodstock, Portland

Approved Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order): Michael Collins (Vice Chairperson); Ray Hites (Treasurer); Judy Low (Chairperson); Cora Potter (Public Safety Chairperson); Joanne Rees (Luchini) (Secretary); Randy “Icebear” Schroeder (Public Safety Chairperson); Autumn West (At-Large Board Member); and Jennifer Young (At-Large Board Member).

Board Member Absent: Krista Dennis (excused absence – medical excuse)

Attendees (in alphabetical order): Barbara Bader; Christopher Bradshaw; Melissa Collins; Carma Crimins; Michael Cummings; Corrina D'Annibale; Philip Goh; Megan Gorecki; Lauranne Kealiher; Cheryl Leonard; Cliff Leonard; Christopher Luchini; Ken Luchini; Kellie Maledy; Seann McKell; Richard Mobley; Char Pennie; David Potts; Christopher Robin; Matthew Smith; Theresa Swett; Leisl Wehmuller; and Mark Wright.

Guests: Leila Aman (Senior Project Manager, Lents Urban Renewal Area - Portland Development Commission); Adam Brunelle (Green Lents); Paul Leistner (Neighborhood Program Coordinator – City of Portland, Office of Neighborhood Involvement); Inna Levin (Oregon Walks); and Vicky Oglesbee (Holgate Library).

The General Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Low at 7:05 p.m.

Public Safety Report (Schroeder). In an attempt to make better use of the Police Liaison Report, it had been suggested by LNA Member Pennie that questions be gathered a week or two prior to the General Meeting and submitted to the Police ahead of time. Public Safety Chairperson Schroeder collected questions and, from those questions, selected some to present to the Police. Schroeder read the questions and answers he received, the text of which follows below:

“QUESTION FOR POLICE – FEB 28, 2017

“1) **Enforcing of ADA accessibility** when tents and camps are blocking the sidewalks and right of ways. City directs us to call non-emergency to get officers to address the issues but they neither show up or dispatches doesn't pass the message along. We still have tents blocking 205 sidewalk. There is also a campsite on Insley between

82nd & 83rd Avenue. We understand that police can make them clear the sidewalks but this isn't being done.

“ANSWER: The Portland Police Bureau does not enforce ADA compliance and the ADA does not apply to a homeless person blocking a sidewalk. It applies to the City of Portland creating infrastructure and design that blocks the sidewalk.

“2) Equitable Enforcement: What is the mayor's policy on enforcing the laws across the City? It appears that other parts of the City don't seem to have the same issues that we have here in Lents. Spoke to a gentleman who lived in West Linn and then Beaverton and then moved here. He was appalled at the condition of our neighborhood shanty towns. Especially around the MAX and freeway entrances.

“ANSWER: The Portland Police bureau does not make position statements for the Mayor. PPB has no policy or practice wherein it enforces the laws for the benefit of one community over another. Portland officers frequently make arrests and clear sidewalks. Such matters are of a lower priority to patrol officers who are responding for calls for service. Camping issues are a priority 7 and officers are to respond to higher priority calls when they get them. When a person is taken to jail for possession of heroin or trespass, they are in jail for about 4 hours and right back out.

“3) Status Update: The current status of the mentally-ill, homeless woman with the stillborn child. Is she still being evaluated or has she been released?

“ANSWER: The status of another citizen's mental health physical health or any other private matter is not the business of the Portland Police Bureau.

“4) MUP by Flavel MAX Station: Why are the campers allowed to move right back in after ODOT cleans this area up? Why is there no cross-city communication to keep the campers out of this area? It appears that if they move back in ODOT needs to report and wait 10 days. Does this system not seem insane to anyone else? I understood that if an area was cleaned ou and they moved back in there was no need to repost but the police could go out and warn people to move or have them arrested?

“ANSWER: Regarding the camp on ODOT property you should address your questions to ODOT. Further the Portland Police Bureau does not clean up the homeless camps. That is the responsibility of the public property owner. All questions regarding established camp sites should be directed to the property owner if you are not satisfied with the response of One Point of Contact.”

With regards to Question 1, Young corrected the wording of the question because there appeared to be a contradiction in the Police response in February, 2017, from what

was indicated in November, 2016, when social service providers and their clients were advised, “Due to the increase in valid complaints of sidewalks and rights of way being obstructed by tents and property of people experiencing homelessness, thereby restricting access for people with disabilities and who use mobility devices, Chapter 14 of the Portland City Code will be more strictly enforced effective immediately. Police will ask people to remove their belongings from the sidewalk, and if there is a failure to obey a lawful order, persons will be subject to arrest.” Young read the text of this email from her phone. The use of the phrasing “Enforcing of ADA accessibility” might have confused the issue because ADA accessibility is indeed an ADA issue whereas enforcement of non-obstruction of public rights of way is a Police issue.

With regards to Question 3, Rees (Luchini) commented that the question regarding the status update of the mentally ill, homeless Lents resident with the stillborn child had not been asked with the assumption that the Police were expected to make the mental or physical health of a citizen Police business as indicated in the response. The question was asked so that Lents residents would know whether they should be on the lookout for her should she be in distress. (Lents residents had been instructed by Police that mentally ill people who appeared to be in crisis were to be reported to Police only if they posed a clear danger to themselves or to others.) An LNA member announced that she (the LNA member) knew that the woman was in a “safe house” for sex-trafficking victims, was being counselled for mental health, and was going to be relocated out-of-state.

Approval of Minutes from Tuesday, January 24, 2017, General Meeting.

Secretary Rees (Luchini) motioned that the minutes from the Tuesday, January 24, 2017, General Meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Young. The motion passed 20 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report (Hites). Treasurer Hites reported that there are \$11,472.76 in savings and \$609.71 in the checking account, for a total of \$12,082.97. Kelly School PTA was paid \$500 as sponsorship by LNA of the April Fun Run. The PGE bills for lighting the Lents monuments were paid in the amounts of \$32.28 and \$37.57. This month's PGE bills for lighting the Lents monuments are \$33.66 and \$41.52. There were no unauthorized transactions on the LNA checking account.

Portland Development Commission (PDC) Update (Aman). PDC Senior Project Manager for the Lents Urban Renewal Area Leila Aman announced that \$320,000 in Community Livability Grants had been recently awarded. Grantees included: Portland YouthBuilders - Southeast Campus to fund a 2,500 square foot expansion enabling it to consolidate its programs into one campus; Wisdom of the Elders to fund low-income Native Americans with a conservation workforce opportunity to restore 20 acres of Lents riparian, wetland and stream habitat; Green Lents to fund

improvements to the Malden Community Orchard; and ROSE Community Development Corporation to transform 330 square feet into a music education room to teach, practice and record music. Thanks very much to LNA At-Large Board member Autumn West for sitting on the grant review committee.

There will a groundbreaking ceremony for the Asian Health & Services Center (9035 S.E. Foster) on April 22. The Center is expected to open in winter, 2018.

Aman followed-up on LNA Member Bader's question last month regarding emissions ratings for the vehicles used in the construction of the PDC projects. The rating is B5-- 5 percent biofuels diesel and 95 percent petroleum diesel. B20 (6 to 20 percent biodiesel) and higher percentage biofuels are found in newer equipment. Bader recommended Oregon's using California standards. Aman mentioned that the buildings currently under construction meet LEED Gold building standards.

Portland Police Liaison Report. The police report was held later in the agenda due to a police chase on S.E. 197th. It was clarified that there is currently no room in the tow yards for towed r.v.s. As room opens up, the next in the queue will be towed. Towing goes through parking patrol.

LNA Member Kealiher inquired about the recent hate incident at St. Peter's Church in Lents where Latino parishioners were harassed after leaving Spanish-language Mass. The perpetrators (street preachers) could not be charged with anything because the intimidation was verbal and free speech. In the cases of bias crimes, there need to be documentation (preferably including photos or video footage) and reports, including witness testimony. Bias crimes, also known as malicious harassment or hate crimes, can be elevated to a felony after investigation. Bias crimes are crimes directed at a person, their property, group of people or society based in the perpetrator's bias against the person's or group of people's race, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, etc. Hate speech is not considered a bias crime.

Land Use Chairperson Report (Potter). Land Use Chairperson Potter reported on the improvements at the Powell Garage (9800 S.E. Powell), which will result in the parking and dispatching facility for the LIFT moving to the Powell Park & Ride at 3618 S.E. Powell. Construction will be starting in March, 2017. Construction is anticipated to be completed by spring, 2018. The LIFT is a ride-share service for people who cannot access regular buses or trains.

LNA Member Bader noted that high concentrations of arsenic have been reported in the vicinity of the Powell Garage and wondered whether the move of the LIFT to the Powell Park & Ride would adversely impact air quality. Potter reminded that the LIFT service will only be moving its parking and dispatching facility. Maintenance of

vehicles will continue at the Powell Garage location. Potter also mentioned that the Powell Park & Ride, which never seems to hold more than 20 vehicles, is much less utilized than is the Holgate Park & Ride.

Bylaws Revision Committee (Dennis). At-Large Board Member Dennis is the Chairperson of the Bylaws Revision Committee, which is holding its first meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at Zoiglhaus at 6:00 p.m.

(a) **Bylaws Revision and Updating the LNA Membership List (Dennis, Leistner, Rees (Luchini).** Dennis mentioned that there had been questions from LNA membership about a perceived delay in processing two recall petitions that had been submitted. One recall petition is now moot because the Board Member was removed for non-attendance. The other recall petition is still pending. The delay was caused by poorly-written bylaws and the lack of an updated membership list.

Rees (Luchini) explained that, according to the LNA Bylaws, in order for a recall election to take place, there has to be an affirmative vote by 2/3 of voting membership. According to LNA Bylaws – and this had also been confirmed by Paul Leistner, Neighborhood Program Coordinator of the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) – this voting membership is not the same as 2/3 of voting members physically present at a particular meeting. The voting membership is the total membership of LNA since its inception. According to the LNA Bylaws, “Membership will be terminated when a person no longer meets these criteria, or a request to cancel membership is made in writing. Members who have not attended a meeting in two years will be notified by postal mail that their membership will be terminated, unless they request in writing otherwise.”

Determining the voting membership was made even more difficult due to poor recordkeeping in the past. Rees (Luchini), as Secretary, undertook the job of updating the membership list, from the September, 2016 elections to date. There were close to 300 members at that updating. Rees (Luchini) mentioned that the duty to maintain the membership list would usually fall to the At-Large Board Member in charge of Outreach-Membership. She reminded that it is not the Secretary's responsibility to maintain the membership list. However, since the Secretary handles the sign-in sheets and includes the list of attendees in the recorded minutes, Rees (Luchini) undertook the additional task since there is currently no At-Large Board Member in charge of Outreach-Membership. A particular challenge was deciphering handwriting. Some members, too, have only partially filled in the sign-in sheets so LNA only has email addresses for these individuals. The new-and-improved sign-in sheets have space for name, address, email and telephone and a checkbox to indicate contact preference.

Ideally, too, according to State law, there should be periodic (monthly!) postal

notifications to those members who indicate a preference for postal notification. This has proven cost-prohibitive for most neighborhood associations. East Portland Neighborhood Office (EPNO) had indicated that posting meeting dates and times on the EPNO and ONI websites can substitute for postal notification, particularly if the neighborhood association is also posting meeting dates and times on social media or on its website. East Portland neighborhood associations' meeting days and times and contacts are also published in the quarterly East Portland News, an EPNO newspaper. Agendas also need to be posted seven days before the meeting. Agendas can be “tentative” or “proposed,” but should, at the minimum, include an outline of the meeting and topics of presentations, as applicable.

In order to make a good-faith attempt at outreach to membership, it had been suggested by Hites that a notice by publication be made through the quarterly East Portland News. Originally, it had been suggested that LNA members' names be published, but Rees (Luchini) felt that this might be inadvisable for privacy considerations. (This was confirmed by Leistner of ONI.) The notice of publication could possibly take the form of an article aimed at outreach to new members, re-establishing relationships with former members and cementing relationships with current members. The next issue of the East Portland News is scheduled to be distributed in April.

Dennis and Rees (Luchini) reminded that the bylaws revision process only require a percentage of voting members present. Bylaws revision is not going to pose the same level of challenge that the recall process currently does. Bylaws revision, though, also requires an updated membership list to notify more inactive members that the bylaws revision process is underway so that those members can be included in the process if they so choose..

Paul Leistner was thanked for attending the General Meeting to help clarify the bylaws, as currently written. Rees (Luchini) expressed regret, though, that some of the members who were the most vocal about disagreeing with the distinction between voting membership and voting members present were not at the meeting this evening where Leistner had been expressly invited to field any questions.

(b) **One Point of Contact (Leistner)**. Board members at the EPNO Board Orientation/Training in January had been informed of ONI's new preference to use one point of contact for communications within the neighborhood associations. The one point of contact could be the Chairperson or it could be another more generalized email address. The Board decided to use its info address on the website as the one point of contact: lentsneighborhood@gmail.com .

(c) **Question about ONI investigation into complaints against Board**

members of neighborhood associations. LNA Member Kealiher inquired whether members of neighborhood associations had any recourse in situations where a resident lodged a complaint against a Board member and, when the Board tried to find out what transpired, the only response from the Board member was threat of litigation against the Board. Leistner indicated that ONI can conduct its own investigation into complaints as part of a grievance process. He asked Kealiher to contact him and gave her his contact information.

Lents Street Fair Committee (Brunelle, Levin). At-Large Board Member Dennis is the Board liaison to the Lents Street Fair Committee, which is chaired by LNA Member Robert Schultz. At-Large Board Member Krista Dennis is the Board liaison for the Committee.

Adam Brunelle of Green Lents and Inna Levin of Oregon Walks presented on behalf of Lents Street Fair Committee Chairperson Schultz. Green Lents and Oregon Walks are going to be partnering with LNA on the Lents Street Fair. The Lents Street Fair is going to take place on Sunday, August 6, which is Lents Founders Day. It will be renamed, “Lents Founders Day Street Fair.” Green Lents is a local nonprofit that operates the Lents Tool Library and the Malden Court Community Orchard. Green Lents also played a significant role in conducting the listening project for Livable Lents/Lents Strong. Oregon Walks is a State pedestrian advocacy organization. Some of Oregon Walks funding comes from Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT). This partnership will be beneficial to all three groups and could possibly complement the May Sunday Parkways in East Portland, which, this year, will be centered in Gateway.

There will be no Founders Day Parade. However, there will be music, food, vendors and the very popular chicken beauty contest. The venue will be Lents Park, most likely centering itself in the southern portion near Steele Street. It is the hope that the Lents Founders Street Fair will reflect the unique character of the community and could possibly include a Green Loop walk and bike ride. Accommodations will be in place for ADA accessibility. Planning and visioning for the Street Fair are currently underway, with the next meeting scheduled for Friday, March 10. This is the opportunity to flesh out ideas and help with logistics.

Spring Cleanup (West). At-Large Board Member Autumn West announced that LNA has been awarded an \$850 grant from EPNO for a spring cleanup and that this cleanup funding was matched 200 percent by LNA with additional funding of \$1,700. According to the grant requirements, the event has to be completed by May 21. Currently it is anticipated that four forty-yard dumpsters will be reserved. There are restrictions on what can and cannot be collected. (Details can be found at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/573045> .) In addition to hazardous materials, lawn debris and kitchen waste will not be accepted. Fines will be levied for

inappropriate dumping of materials, so volunteers will need to be vigilant.

Volunteers will be needed to help with various aspects of the cleanup and a sign-up sheet is available at the front table. Identification will need to be verified since, due to limited dumpsters, only Lents residents will be eligible to participate in the cleanup. Potter recommended that a list of alternative dumpsites be provided to patrons who might not live in Lents and/or who might have materials that cannot be disposed of through the cleanup. Hours are anticipated to be 9:00-ish “till dumpsters filled.”

It had been decided that the dumpsters would be located at one venue. Possible venue suggestions included Lents Park, schools (which could require a Civic Use of Buildings (CUB) permit through Portland Public Schools) and Wattles Boys & Girls Club. Scrap metal will also be collected, but will be set aside for redemption. In previous years, LNA was able to earn over \$300 from scrap metal recycling. There will also be an exchange/swap pile. Currently there are two possible haulers that deliver and pick up on Saturdays – Arrow and Heiberg. Details will be firmed up closer to the date.

At a future date, West would also like to host an e-waste collection drive and a litter sweep/neighborhood cleanup day.

Livability Committee Town Hall (Young). At-Large Board Member Jennifer Young is the Board liaison and Chairperson of the Livability Town Hall Planning Committee. The Town Hall is currently expected to take place the first week in April. So far, Commissioners Saltzman and Fritz have accepted the invitation to attend. Mayor Wheeler has also expressed an interest in meeting with the members of the LNA Livability Committee prior to the Town Hall.

The Livability Town Hall Planning Committee is hard at work and committed to meeting regularly. Volunteers will be needed the evening of the event, the location of which is still being determined, but hopefully will be at the Lents Seventh-Day Adventist Church, from 7:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. The Town Hall will be moderated. Questions will be collected and submitted to the Mayor and Commissioners beforehand. There will also be a public question-and-answer period. The Town Hall will resemble the format of the Town Hall that had been held in November, 2015 that had also been organized by Young and held at Kelly School in Lents.

LNA Anti-Hate Position Statement; Proposal to Join Portland United Against Hate (Young).

(a) **LNA Anti-Hate Position Statement**. An anti-hate position statement/flyer had been circulated by various neighborhood associations adjacent to Lents in response to the hate incident at St. Peter's Church. A similar hate-speech incident had occurred at

a church that meets to worship at Mt. Scott Community Center. The text of this anti-hate position statement/flyer (“Southeast Portland Stands Together Against Harassment and Discrimination”) can be found at www.fosterpowell.com/page/4 .

Mt. Scott-Arleta, Foster-Powell and Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Associations had signed onto the anti-hate position statement/flyer that was spearheaded by the 82nd Avenue of Roses Business Association and district coalition S.E. Uplift. LNA was absent, largely due to our being in EPNO district coalition (as opposed to S.E. Uplift) and the timing of our Board and General Meetings, both of which occurred after the anti-hate position statement/flyer was proposed, which prevented LNA from obtaining the necessary Board and membership approval to sign-on in a timely fashion.

Young drafted up an anti-hate position statement on behalf of LNA, which she read to the General Meeting. The text is as follows:

“Lents United Against Hate

“Lents was recently the site of hate speech and harassment directed at Latino worshippers at a church located in our neighborhood.

“Lents is one of the most diverse communities in our city and the Lents Neighborhood Association honors this diversity and recognizes the value of it.

“Our community/neighbors deserve a safe place to live, work and worship.

“The LNA and our community stand together against hate and intolerance.

“The LNA is signing on with Portland United Against Hate, a community initiated partnership of Community Based Organizations, Neighborhood Associations, concerned communities and the city. If you have experienced harassment or witnessed harassment, it is important to know that you have support.”

(b) **Proposal to Join Portland United Against Hate.** Young brought to membership's attention the creation of Portland United Against Hate and proposed that LNA sign-onto the position statement of the group that was created by the City. The text of the statement can be found at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/72583>

There was a reservation expressed about the political tone of the Portland United Against Hate statement (its pointed reference to President-elect Trump's administration). The person who expressed the reservation agreed with the content of the anti-hate position statement, but felt that the reference to the current political administration should perhaps have been omitted since it was potentially divisive to those community

members who had voted for the current President. (He clarified that he himself had not voted for Trump and that his reservation was only intended to point out a potential concern.) The reservation and concern were acknowledged, but discussion included the importance of “joining our voices” and showing solidarity and a united front against hate in Portland. It was mentioned that signing-on was primarily a symbolic gesture of support and did not involve any cost or commitment on the part of the larger group.

A motion was made by LNA Member Potts to approve the LNA anti-hate position statement and that LNA sign onto Portland United Against Hate. The motion was seconded by LNA Member Bader. The motion passed 20 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Young asked Leistner of ONI what the next steps should be to get LNA added as a signatory onto the Portland United Against Hate statement. Leistner indicated that he would add LNA to the list of signatories the next day when he was in the office. Young also requested Rees (Luchini) as Secretary to forward her the link to Portland United Against Hate so it could be included in the Lents United Against Hate statement on the LNA website and Facebook page.

Library Presentation (Oglesbee). Head Librarian of the Holgate Library Vicky Oglesbee distributed a flyer that included the events being held at the Holgate Library, including the Pageturners book of the month and a cheese-making class. Oglesbee also demonstrated how LNA members could utilize Portland Maps on-line. The Portland Maps site allows people to access properties by address. Information includes details about the property (owner; assessed and market value; size; etc.) Information on hazards and crime is also available. This is a good site to access when homehunting or when seeking to determine whether a home is a bank-owned “zombie home.” Oglesbee was thanked for coming to the LNA General Meeting.

Meeting adjourned. The LNA General Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. It was unanimously approved.

Draft Minutes submitted on Sunday, March 26, 2017, by Joanne Rees (Luchini), LNA Secretary

Minutes approved on Tuesday, March 28, 2017.