

**LENTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LNA)
APPROVED MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 13, 2017 BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 13, 2017
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
KingPins Bowling Alley (“The Chalet” Community Room), 3550 S.E. 92nd Avenue
Minutes approved Tuesday, May 9, 2017.**

Board Members in Attendance (in alphabetical order): Michael Collins (Vice Chairperson); Krista Dennis (At-Large Board Member); Ray Hites (Treasurer); Judy Low (Chairperson); Joanne Rees (Luchini) (Secretary); and Jennifer Young (At-Large Board Member).

Board Members Absent (in alphabetical order): Cora Potter (Land Use) (work commitment) and Autumn West (At-Large Board Member) (personal commitment).

Attendees (in alphabetical order): Barbara Bader; JoLynn Cooper-Nearing; Megan Gorecki; Hailey Graves; Lauranne Kealiher; Christopher Luchini; Ken Luchini; Char Pennie; David Potts; and Robert Schultz

Guests (in alphabetical order): Nicole Greco (Portland Pickles); Paul Leistner (Neighborhood Program Coordinator, City of Portland – Office of Neighborhood Involvement); Victor Salinas (Executive Director East Portland Neighborhood Office) and Bill Stewart (owner, Portland Pickles).

Chairperson Low convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Draft Minutes from the March 9, 2017 Board Meeting. Secretary Rees (Luchini) reminded that the draft Minutes from the March 9, 2017 Board Meeting are incomplete due to her having left at one point during the meeting. Electronic copies of the draft Minutes from the March 9, 2017 Board Meeting had been emailed to Board members earlier in the week, with a request for Board members to add any business that had been discussed or decisions reached during the Secretary's absence. Hard copies of the draft Minutes from the March 9, 2017 Board Meeting were also circulated. Rees (Luchini) suggested that the approval of the draft Minutes from the March 9, 2017 be postponed till a complete set of Minutes could be submitted, incorporating additions from the notes of other Board members.

Action Item: Board members are to please review draft Minutes from the March 9, 2017 Board Meeting and submit any additions to the Minutes about any business discussed and/or decisions reached, as applicable, during the time when the Secretary was not available to take Minutes, and submit said revisions before the next Board Meeting.

Disposal of Open Motion (carried over from the March Board Meeting).

Chairperson Low had requested that the open motion carried over from the March Board Meeting be disposed of. A motion to remove the then-Public Safety Chairperson had been made by Rees (Luchini) and seconded by West. Rees (Luchini) withdrew her motion to remove the Public Safety Chairperson because he had resigned and his resignation made his removal moot.

April General Meeting Agenda (Low). Low reminded that the April General Meeting will have a full agenda with presentations on the Foster Streetscape and the Lents Stabilization and Job Creation Collaborative. Low suggested that the agenda for the April General Meeting be as follows:

General Meeting to start at 7:00 p.m.

Introductions; approval of draft Minutes from the March 28, 2017 General Meeting and Treasurer's Report – 15 minutes.

Spring Cleanup Announcement, with updates, as applicable

(Hold off on Police Liaison Reports and Board reports till after the presentations.)

Lents Stabilization and Job Creation Collaborative

Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) Foster StreetScape Project

Board reports

Police Liaison Report

Public Announcements

Adjournment

Debrief of Town Hall and Community Feedback (Young).

(a) Concern from an LNA member about violent language used at the March LNA General Meeting (Various).

Young had asked for questions and/or comments from LNA members at the last General Meeting that they might wish considered at the Town Hall.

A “citizen of Lents” had submitted a concern that Young felt was serious enough to be brought to the Board's attention. The concern, which had been screenshot and emailed to Board members within 24 hours of its receipt, read as follows:

“Question:

“Should violent threats against members of our community be tolerated at meeting level, as heard at the March 28th meeting? If this type of speech was directed at any other minority, it would be shouted down, but because it was directed at homeless

people, it was deemed ok. I am referring to more than one reference to 'beating homeless with a baseball bat.' Please make some sort of affirmation that vigilantism & violence is not the answer.

“Respectfully,

“A citizen of Lents.”

Rees (Luchini) indicated that, to follow up on the concern, as Secretary, she did an email poll of Board members' memories while their memories were still somewhat fresh. Rees (Luchini) was concerned about the allegation that the comments had apparently been made more than once without anyone noticing it and saying anything. Three Board members distinctly heard the comment made -- but only once. Five did not register the comment, but admitted they were not as focused as they usually would have been due to a higher-than-usual noise level at the front and back of the room. There was cross-talk in the front of the room and at the back of the room, which made it difficult to hear and pay full attention.

Robert West of Film the Police 911 was at the last General Meeting and filmed the meeting in its entirety and the video can be found on youtube. (West had also filmed the April 4 Town Hall.) The reference to “beating the homeless with a baseball bat” was made once. It appeared to have been made in frustration. It was made using an “I statement.”

There were two other references made to a fear of vigilantism at the last General Meeting, both made in reference to the recent fatal shooting of a mentally-ill homeless man by a business owner who, after being threatened by the homeless man, pursued the homeless man into the parking lot. There was no arrest; the business owner was cleared of all charges.. The shooting took place on the border of Lents, on S.E. 82nd and Foster. At the General Meeting during the q&a with the police liaison, both Young and LNA Member Cooper-Nearing expressed concerns about an increased risk of vigilantism and the precedent set by the recent fatal shooting on S.E. 82nd and Foster.

The LNA member, whose boyfriend had expressed the concern, was in attendance at the General Meeting. Her boyfriend was out-of-town. She had also been in attendance at the General Meeting in question and indicated that the additional references to “beating homeless with a baseball bat” was actually part of the cross-talk in the back of the room and that the original statement had indeed been made only once. However, her and her boyfriend's concern was a perception that some people in the community (i.e., the homeless) were considered “less than” others and therefore less worthy of advocacy. She and her boyfriend felt that, if similar language had been directed at another minority group at the General Meeting, someone would have called

out that language as inappropriate. Like others at the General Meeting, they feared increased vigilantism and felt that people needed to be careful to curb the use of language that could be perceived as violent and inflammatory.

The consensus at the meeting was that the statement about “beating the homeless with a baseball bat” was made in frustration. However, it was also acknowledged that the language was graphic and violent. Rees (Luchini) felt that the situation could be prevented from happening again if LNA posted “norms.” She felt that having “norms” (expectations for good behavior that people could agree to try to aspire to) encourages people to be their “best selves” and helps foster “safe spaces.” One of the norms at the Town Hall was to, “Use nonviolent language.” Another norm was, “One mic, one diva.” Those two norms might have discouraged the use of the graphic, violent language and the ongoing cross-talk at the front and back of the room during the meeting. LNA Member Cooper-Nearing recommended that posting and reading of the norms become standardized at LNA Meetings. Rees (Luchini) added that the “norms” are a “living document” that can evolve with membership and circumstances.

Low and the rest of the Board thanked the LNA resident and her boyfriend for bringing up their concern to the Board.

Action Item: Post and read the “norms” at every Board and General Meeting. Rees (Luchini) volunteered to draft up a proposed anti-vigilantism statement for subsequent approval of the Board and LNA.

(b) **Debrief of April 4 Lents Livability Town Hall (Young).** At-Large Board Member Young, who is the Chairperson of the Lents Livability Town Hall Planning Committee and the Board liaison for that Committee, reported back on the April 4 Town Hall. There were 200+ people in attendance. Most of the feedback was positive. The event was well-received and could be considered a success in that it brought the Mayor and the Commissioners to Lents, attracted a large audience, and seems to already be getting some results in the form of solutions. The Town Hall was put together by a small group of people (8, of whom 3 were Board members) in a very short period of time (less than 7 weeks), with time-sensitive deadlines, details and logistics. The Committee worked well together. The Committee appreciated having Adam Brunelle (Green Lents) as a presenter on its work on the Lents Strong! Report and sharing important – and not that well-known – statistics about Lents.

There had been concerns expressed by some LNA members about the level of moderation at the Town Hall. This was necessary, however, because the Mayor's and other Commissioners' offices were adamant that their appearance was contingent upon some level of moderation (i.e., pre-submitted questions). Every Commissioner showed up, with the exception of Nick Fish, whose aide read an apology. Commissioner Fish

was at a Town Hall at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center that addressed the spiritual, emotional and political responses to issues facing the Jewish community in the face of anti-Semitic acts throughout the nation.

Questions had been solicited via the LNA Facebook page, at the General and Board Meetings and through the Board and General Meeting Minutes. The questions could be submitted in paper form or electronically at the Livability Committee gmail address. Many of the questions shared common themes.

The opening presentation (powerpoint and video interview clips) ran a bit over (perhaps by 5 to 10 minutes), which made the moderated question-and-answer and the public question-and-answer run over and ultimately get cut short. People during the public question-and-answer period would have liked more time to ask their questions. There was a perception that some people (who were not Lents residents) were able to cut in the line. The public question-and-answer had to be cut short due to a threat against the Mayor and his family that was expressed by someone in the queue for question-and-answer. Some people complained that it appeared that the African-American homeless man was cut short during his comment period while a white, older man was allowed to seemingly ramble without being interrupted. For future events and Town Halls, it would be advisable to have a timekeeper and to finetune the logistics for the public question-and-answer period. All in all, though, the energy-level was high and people seemed to indeed be trying to be their “best self,” as they were encouraged to do with the posted “norms.” There were also some comments about the bleakness of the presentation, but those who found the presentation too “negative” could understand why the presentation was necessary for non-Lents residents who were unfamiliar with Lents and what it was like to live in Lents last summer.

The Livability Committee was under a lot of stress the last few days of planning, scrambling to get things together. Some of the stress came from a small vocal group of LNA members who were criticizing and making personal attacks on the LNA Facebook page.

The criticism included personal attacks on Committee organizers and innuendo of the “secret meeting with the Mayor.” Young and Rees (Luchini) both mentioned that the meeting with the Mayor with members of the Livability Committee (and those members only) had been announced at the February 28 General Meeting and at the March 9 Board Meeting. No date, time or venue had yet been determined. Such determination would have had to ultimately come from the Mayor's office. No confirmation had come from the Mayor's office as of the February 28 General Meeting and the March 9 Board Meeting. The Mayor and his Senior Policy Advisor were adamant that they wanted to meet in person with Livability Committee members to discuss the agenda and format of the Town Hall. No objections or reservations had been expressed by anyone on the

Board at that time about the proposed meeting with the Mayor and members of the Livability Committee.

Dennis stated that she, as a Board member, did not know the date, time and place of the meeting with the Mayor and that she did not feel that a vague reference to an upcoming meeting sufficed as notice to the Board. Young mentioned that the Committee itself had only received notice of the meeting with a couple days' notice and even then there were two options given and people on the Livability Committee were scrambling to figure out their schedules. The three Board members (Young, West and Rees (Luchini) in attendance at the meeting with the Mayor were members of the Livability Committee. Rees (Luchini) took notes, which she transcribed and emailed to the Board and posted on the LNA Facebook page. The notes from the meeting were also sent to the EPNO meetings@ email address for the public record. Other members of the Livability Committee who attended the meeting were, in alphabetical order, Barbara Bader, Dan McElligott, Char Pennie and David Potts. Carma Crimins, who is also a Livability Committee member, could not attend due to illness.

Another stressor was the security issue. The day of the event, Young (as the Livability Committee Chairperson) received word from the Mayor's Office that there might be protesters intending to disrupt the event. The original understanding from the meeting at the Mayor's Office was that there would be no security detail at the Town Hall and that the Mayor did not have a security detail. It had been agreed by the Mayor's Office and the Committee that having a large presence of armed, uniformed police would be counterproductive to the intent of the Town Hall, which was peaceful, constructive dialogue. However, it was also suggested that the Community Police Officer perhaps be present and that East Precinct be notified that the Town Hall was going on and be on stand-by.

Low announced that there were plainclothes police officers in the audience at the Town Hall and that she had requested same. She did not notify the Livability Committee of this. When asked why she did not notify the Livability Committee, Low indicated that she was out-of-town and did not have time to notify the Committee. She mentioned that she requested the additional plainclothes police presence when she received notification from the Lents Seventh-Day Adventist Church (Pastor Steve Madsen) asking that LNA sign an Indemnification and Insurance Agreement. (In the past, the Lents Seventh-Day Adventist Church and LNA had had a "gentlemen's agreement" about indemnification/insurance. However, the Church's Legal Department is now asking that it enter into such an agreement with its renters and other users of its space. In LNA's case, the agreement would be renewed every year.)

A major achievement of the Town Hall was that the City will be forming a task force to address the multijurisdictional challenges posed by the multi-use path. One

proposal included establishing a “safety corridor” around school and parks near the multi-use path. Banning overnight parking near Lents Park is also being considered.

Schultz inquired as to how the momentum of engagement and involvement could be sustained. Young replied that collective and individual engagement will be necessary. People can still email comments and concerns to the Livability Committee email address. People should also advocate for themselves by writing letters, sending emails or making phone calls.

The Lents Youth Initiative video, which is currently in LNA's possession, will be posted on youtube. The PowerPoint can also be posted on youtube. Livability Committee member Dan McElligott is in charge of the Livability Committee dropbox and was instrumental in coordinating the audiovisual and computer needs for the Town Hall, with assistance from LNA member Ken Luchini. Other neighborhood associations have contacted Young asking for copies of the Powerpoint so they can imitate its format should they decide to hold a Town Hall. Low recommended that any Town Hall materials be also sent to EPNO and kept for the public record. Victor Salinas, Executive Director of EPNO, informed that, in cases where there is a quorum of City Council present at a meeting, it is possible to get Community Media to record the event for free.

Livability Committee Member Bader presented Hites, as Treasurer, with the invoice for the videography at the Town Hall. The invoice was \$20 less than anticipated and approved at the General Meeting – \$160, as opposed to \$180. Dennis reminded that a contract with Lents Youth Initiative was supposed to have been obtained before the invoice was going to be paid. Bader stated that she did not have a contract in her possession. Low suggested that, in the interest of time, Bader and Hites consult after the Board meeting to discuss how to handle this, so payment could be remitted.

Dennis also reminded, with respect to the indemnification/insurance form received from the Church, that it might be advisable, for purposes of inclusion, to consider changing venues for the General and Board Meetings. Some Lents residents' religious beliefs prevent them from meeting in a Church-space. Although the Lents Activity Center is not physically in the Church, it is attached to the Church space. Similar reservations apply towards the use of the Bowling Alley Chalet Room. Schools are a possibility but the room reservation is not always guaranteed and generally unavailable during the summer. Additionally, a CUB (civic use of buildings form) is required. In the past, LNA had used the multi-purpose room at Lent School for its meetings.

LNA Table at the April 29, 2017 82nd Avenue of Roses Business Association Event (Rees (Luchini) (Time-Sensitive). Rees (Luchini) has brought this event to the

Board's attention a couple of months ago. At the time it was brought up, Board members were enthusiastic about the possibility of tabling at the event, which includes a Parade. Hours are approximately 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Hites expressed an interest in participating on behalf of LNA, but stated that he cannot do it alone because he has cumbersome historical materials that he would like to bring, including some reservable assets from EPNO, such as a canopy, table and chairs. LNA member Lauranne Kealiher volunteered to table with Hites. Kealiher felt that this event would provide an excellent outreach opportunity to the diverse communities that make up Lents. Victor Salinas of EPNO said that he too would be interested in tabling with LNA and would bring EPNO materials, including copies of the East Portland News and the popular heart-East Portland stickers. Dennis checked and found out that the deadline to apply to table at the event was yesterday (Wednesday, April 12), but felt that there would probably be some flexibility about this, particularly for nonprofits.

Action Item: Hites to contact 82nd Avenue of Roses Business Association to arrange for LNA tabling at the 82nd Avenue of Roses Fair on April 29. LNA Member Kealiher and EPNO Executive Director Salinas are also interested in tabling.

Request from Portland Pickles Baseball for letter of continued support from Lents (Stewart). Bill Stewart, owner of the Portland Pickles, introduced himself and administrative assistant, Nicole Greco. Stewart and Greco indicated their desire to attend LNA Meetings regularly now that the baseball season has started. The purpose of the letter of support was to support the extension of the Pickles' lease to use Walker Stadium in Lents Park to 15 years.

Stewart read a proposed letter of support from LNA:

“The Lents Neighborhood Association (LNA) supports the Portland Pickles and the extension of their lease to use Walker Stadium in Lents Park to 15 years, subject to a review and update of the Good Neighborhood Agreement currently in place.

“Last year's Pickles baseball season was a win for East Portland; if one were to keep score, there were hundreds, if not thousands, of new visitors to Lents. Pickles Baseball increased revenue for businesses in the immediate area, employed local residents and immediately addressed concerns from neighbors regarding parking and sound level issues.

“This year's baseball fans will see the construction in the Lents Town Center. It is our hope that among those baseball fans will be some who will lease the new retail space, rent the new apartments or return to Lents to shop and visit the newly renovated Lents Park. Lents couldn't get a better endorsement than from Pickles Baseball fans who come to Walker Stadium to enjoy the Great American Pastime, and find a

neighborhood in the process of revitalization.

“An ideal day would include Portland Pickles Baseball fans making a day of it – bowling in the afternoon at KingPins Bowling, heading down the street to visit the Belmont Goats on their way to Zoiglhaus for a quick snack, and finishing a perfect summer's day at the ball game. All good for Lents.

“The LNA would like to go to bat for the Portland Pickles and help them become an institution in Portland. We support their continued use of Walker Stadium and Lents Park.”

Stewart mentioned that there would be less fireworks shows this year. He also mentioned that the Pickles have been doing more outreach to low-income families to provide tickets to games. Stewart and Greco remarked that the Pickles would appreciate a letter of support from LNA so they can renew their lease to use Walker Stadium in Lents Park to 15 years.

A motion was made by Dennis to approve and send out the letter of support, as is, subject to the approval of LNA at the next General Meeting. The motion was seconded by Collins. The motion passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed. (The Chairperson chooses not to vote, preferring only to vote in case of a tie.)

Action Item: LNA approval of the proposed Letter of Support of extension of lease for Portland Pickles needs to be added to the agenda of the April General Meeting.

Possible Appointment of Public Safety Chairperson (Dennis). Dennis was thanked for posting the announcement on the LNA Facebook page about the two vacant Board seats: Transportation Chairperson and Public Safety Chairperson. Dennis informed that no one has yet applied for the Transportation Chairperson position and that two people had applied for the Public Safety Chairperson position, one of whom (Jeff Reuter) had since dropped out. Rees (Luchini) asked the reason for Reuter's withdrawal of his candidacy. Dennis indicated that Reuter started a new job and his new work hours would not allow him to participate as fully as he would like as Public Safety Chairperson. Public Safety Chairperson Jo Lynn Cooper-Nearing introduced herself and spoke of her commitment to ensuring public safety and livability in the neighborhood.

A motion was made by Dennis to appoint Jo Lynn Cooper-Nearing as the Public Safety Chairperson, subject to ratification of her appointment at the LNA General Meeting. Rees (Luchini) seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 in favor; 0 opposed. (The Chairperson chooses not to vote, preferring to vote only in case of a tie.)

Action Item: Ratification of appointment of Public Safety Chairperson needs to

be placed on the agenda for the April General Meeting.

Discussion re policies (Dr. Paul Leistner of ONI present as a resource and guide to discussion)

(a) **Use and Management of Social Media**. Social media guidelines have been an ongoing topic of discussion at Board and/or LNA General Meetings since December, 2016. Hard and electronic copies of the Social Media Guidelines had been presented at Board and General Meetings. At-Large Board Member Autumn West drafted up the proposed social media guidelines, which were unanimously approved (with the exception of the Chairperson who chose not to vote, preferring only to vote in case of a tie) at the February 9, 2017 Board Meeting and were presented as Board policy at the next General Meeting.

Social media guidelines were considered necessary due to a perceived abuse of social media, including personal attacks and defamatory and inflammatory language, sometimes peppered with profanity, by a small, vocal and frequent group of posters on the LNA Facebook page. The LNA Facebook page, which is an official Facebook Page of the Lents Neighborhood Association, a City-funded and -recognized nonprofit, was not giving a good impression to visitors to the page. The LNA Facebook page was not meeting the ONI Standards for respectful and professional communication.

Chairperson Low, who was an admin of the LNA Facebook page, designated At-Large Board Member West as a page moderator, with At-Large Board Member Young as backup. The decision to moderate the LNA Facebook Page and to designate West as moderator was approved in February.

A “pinned post” had been posted by Admin Low at the beginning of March, advising that the page was “subject to review. Personal comments are inappropriate and may be removed,” with instructions to contact West and/or Young with any questions. This “pinned post” then resulted in accusations of censoring free speech being leveled at the two named moderators Young and West. Secretary Rees (Luchini), who has never been a moderator or an admin and can barely muddle through Facebook, was also accused of censoring free speech. The accusations of infringement of First Amendment rights to free speech and dissent primarily came from the individuals who were perceived as abusing social media.

Low recommended that, when moderating, the moderator only “hide” the post rather than delete. That way if accusations of violating free speech rights arise, the evidence is there as to the content of the post. Low also recommended that an abridged social media guidelines be posted on the LNA Facebook page with a list of violations that could make a post subject to moderation (eg., use of language that is defamatory or inflammatory, use of profanity, personal attacks, etc.). Low also recommended that the

full text of the LNA Social Media Guidelines be posted on the LNA website.

Young stated that she was resigning as the backup moderator due to the cyberbullying she was experiencing as backup moderator. She asked that Low, as Chairperson and the admin who “pinned the post” in the first place, to please remove Young's name as a moderator of the page.

LNA Member Schultz voiced a concern that moderating the page could wind up suppressing dissent or divergent opinions. Leistner of ONI replied that social media and code of conduct guidelines are not intended to suppress free speech. However, the use of language that could be perceived as inflammatory, intimidating, threatening or defamatory is not acceptable. Neither are personal attacks or use of profanity. This standard applies to public meetings, telephone calls, email or other written correspondence and social media.

Leistner of ONI said that Montavilla Neighborhood Association (MNA) had experienced similar perceived abuse of its social media and had had to implement guidelines. A copy of the MNA social media guidelines had been distributed to the Board via email and as a paper copy. How much or how little social media a neighborhood association uses is entirely at its discretion. Some neighborhood associations don't have a Facebook page and rely entirely on their website and/or blogs to relay information. Those neighborhood associations which allow visitor's posts on their Facebook pages typically make them subject to moderation. Some neighborhood associations don't allow comments on their Facebook pages.

Recent example of why moderation of the LNA Facebook page is needed:

Rees (Luchini) read a post that she discovered at 8:00 a.m. the morning after the Town Hall. The post was authored by a Lents resident who uses other Lents social media and who posted similarly on theirs. Potter deleted the post at Board members' request, but took screenshots first.

Text of Facebook post on the “official” LNA Facebook page:

“With painful dejection I walk on the pedestrian path in SE Portland near the Lents transfer station. Stepping over discarded needles and garbage, weary of attacking pit bulls or soulless dudes with baseball caps riding BMX bikes with their trailers of scrap metal and bottles, I have come to the obvious conclusion that the only solution is to KOS these homeless fools!

“Kill on Site! I have a deer rifle with a scope but the ammunition is about a dollar a round, so I am asking the city for help funding this campaign. If the city refuses to help, I believe that if we here in Lents pull together our beer and cigarette money we can buy the Ammo ourselves and nip this problem in the bud.

“With a few boxes of 30-06 rounds we can easily eliminate the problem that plague our community. The only thing stopping us is the implementation of the task.

“Hold My Beer'.... By occupying a few strategic stations around the homeless camp concealed by shrubs we can catch them off guard and fire the shot necessary to KOS.

“We think that a new KILL ON SITE policy will really make a difference in the perception of the perpetrators quickly. Maybe they can set up camp in the new South Water Front district, if they can run fast enough?!

“I encourage those in favor of the new KILL ON SITE policy to eliminate the vagrant homeless problem to attend the meeting scheduled this weekend. Please bring your guns and Ammo. For more updates or to whine like a sissy baby please contact the Author for more information. Do you want to live in a safe neighborhood?

“There is a question of what to do with the corpses? Well, there is a simple solution, turn the carcass into mixed meat bologna sandwiches. This will help with the hunger problem among the homeless and provide and proper disposal of the offending perpetrators. Free Sandwiches!”

Dennis had indicated in an email, as had Potter in an email, that the poster had also posted on other Lents social media, including I Love Lents. However, on those social media sites, he had made a disclaimer that he did not intend to kill anyone and that his intent was satire, imitating writer Jonathan Swift's “A Modest Proposal.” Some LNA members felt it was satire and intended in jest and could be taken care of by reporting to Facebook as a violation of its standards.

A number of LNA Board and LNA members found the post in extremely poor taste, inflammatory and verging on hate-speech/bias-incident. They also felt that, by omitting the disclaimer (i.e., satire, imitating Swift's “A Modest Proposal”) on the LNA official Facebook page, the author was trying to make it appear as if this post was an LNA position. Had no one noticed the post and removed it, the post would have remained there for all visitors to read on the LNA “official” Facebook page. Rees (Luchini) felt that the post crossed the line into a perception of vigilantism and bias-

incident in paragraph 6 where the author of the post invites readers “in favor of the new KILL ON SITE policy to eliminate the vagrant homeless problem to attend the meeting scheduled this weekend. Please bring your guns and Ammo.” She asked whether the Board should file a police report. LNA Member Potts indicated that one had already been filed.

The post managed to get into the Facebook page, despite moderation, because it was posted as a comment to the Town Hall Event posting on the LNA Facebook page. Visitor's posts are being automatically delayed for moderation/approval. People can still “comment” on main page posts without moderation. Some neighborhood associations do not allow comments on their Facebook pages to avoid situations like that.

Action Item: Low, as admin, to remove reference to Young as a moderator of the LNA Facebook page on the “pinned post.” Post the social media guidelines on the LNA website. Post an abridged version of the social media guidelines on the LNA Facebook page.

(b) **Discussion of Kiosk Vandalism; Lock System (Low)**. The rekeying of the kiosk had been a topic of discussion since December when the Board member in charge of the kiosk had been removed for non-attendance.

The Kiosk was rekeyed at the end of March and new locks installed. On Friday, April 7, Rees (Luchini) emailed the Board that an LNA member/neighbor had contacted her to notify her that the kiosk locks appeared to have been tampered with and that there was anti-homeless flyering in the kiosk that was attributed to (signed as) “L.N.A.” One pane of the kiosk had been graffiti-ed. On Sunday, April 9, the Board received an email from LNA member Schultz indicating that there had ongoing vandalism of the kiosk with inappropriate postings since the end of March. The initial vandalism of the locks seemed as if someone had used a crowbar. Schultz emailed photos to the Board of the damage to the lock and the flyers that were posted in the kiosk.

The informational kiosk is the property of EPNO. The kiosk is maintained by LNA. In the past, there was just one keeper of the kiosk. There were apparently two keys, but no one knows who was the other keyholder.

Currently, there are two keys to the kiosk. One is held by Chairperson Low. The other is held by LNA member Schultz who apparently will be returning the key to EPNO, the owner of the kiosk. At the March Board Meeting, it had been agreed that there should be at least three keys. A decision also has to be made regarding who should have access to a key; whether the person needs to be a Board member; length of time before a post gets removed; where to retrieve community information for posting, etc. It had generally been agreed that expecting community members to leave flyers at a bar

(Eagle Eye Tavern) was not a very appropriate way to access community information.

In addition to the concern about property damage and vandalism, there was also concern about the rhetoric used on the posted flyers, “Homeless Go Away Now” and “Homeless Get Out Now,” signed by the poster as L.N.A. Another flyer said, “Just say NO to the L.N.A. Don't let them speak for you! Look what they let happen in Lents,” with still another flyer, using the Town Hall flyer, scribbled, “Homeless Free Snacks Please Come.”

Schultz recommended going to a heavier-duty, more security lock. He advised that cost, depending upon the lock used, could be as high as \$400. The locks currently installed cost \$30.

It was agreed by consensus that the discussion of what locks to install could be discussed at the May Board Meeting. In the interim, Schultz and other LNA members in the vicinity of the Town Center are being requested to check on the kiosk when they're out-and-about to monitor for any further vandalism or inappropriate postings.

Rees (Luchini) suggested a permanent flyer in the kiosk with information as to whom to contact (at LNA and at EPNO) to report vandalism or perceived inappropriate postings. Young also suggested a permanent flyer indicating “No-Hate Zone” or something similar.

A concern was also expressed about perceived escalation in anti-homeless rhetoric in Lents, whether in language used at Meetings or on Facebook or on flyers.

Action Items: Schultz and other LNA members finding themselves in the vicinity of the Town Center kiosk should periodically check the kiosk for vandalism and inappropriate postings. Place new lock options, appointment of “keepers of the key to the kiosk,” decision as to guidelines on posting and location to pick up materials to be posted, etc., on the agenda for the May Board Meeting. Post a “No-Hate Zone” or something similar as a permanent flyer in the kiosk. Post a notice as a permanent flyer, with contact information of whom to contact regarding vandalism or perceived inappropriate postings.

(Lents Founders Day Street Fair Planning Committee Chairperson Schultz had to leave, so the discussion below was inserted at this point:

Lents Founders Day Street Fair Planning Committee (Schultz). The Lents Founders Day Street Fair is a project of Oregon Walkways, in partnership with Green Lents and LNA. It is taking place Sunday, August 6. The total cost of the event (including permitting, street blocking, portapotties, etc.) is estimated to be approximately \$30,000,

most of which is being funded by Oregon Walkways, which is a PBOT project. Schultz estimated that LNA funding will probably approximate \$1,500 and that would be primarily for the cost of the stage, 5 acts of performers, sound system, chicken beauty contest, etc., at Lents Park. Hites, as Treasurer, reminded Schultz that East Portland Neighbors (EPN) is holding its Board meeting on April 19 and the project will require EPN Board approval. LNA will have to submit a project form to EPN for the Lents Founders Day Street Fair – or the LNA portion of same. This will include project name, project description, funds anticipated to be expended (the portion that will be paid by EPN), etc. Hites also reminded that EPN insurance will only cover that portion of the Lents Founders Day Street Fair that is LNA-sponsored.

Action Item: Schultz and Hites to collaborate on the project form to be submitted to EPN.

(c) **Code of Conduct and Ethics.** Leistner of ONI had forwarded the LNA Secretary copies of Concordia, Richmond and Sunnyside Neighborhood Associations' Codes of Conduct and Ethics for its Board members, which she, in turn, had forwarded to the Board. Concordia even expects its general members to aspire to a code of conduct. It was admitted that a Code of Conduct for general members would be more difficult to enforce than one for Board members, Committee Chairpeople or Committee members. It was clarified, too, by Leistner that the Code of Conduct and Ethics would be a separate document from the Bylaws. Reference to the Code of Conduct and Ethics would need to be included in the Bylaws. It is much easier to revise a Code of Conduct and Ethics, which is a policy, than it is to revise Bylaws, which is a structure document.

Having posted “norms” at meetings, social media guidelines and codes of conduct are good ways to educate people about what the expectations are. The Town Hall had “norms.”

Rees (Luchini) read a proposed draft Code of Conduct and Ethics that she had compiled using the “best of” the text of codes of conduct and ethics of Concordia, Richmond and Sunnyside Neighborhood Associations. Most of the text came from Concordia's. (The proposed draft Code of Conduct and Ethics is attached hereto.) This proposed draft Code of Conduct and Ethics had been sent electronically to Board members. Hard copies were also available.

West, who was absent at this Board Meeting, had replied via email that she had reservations about (3). “3. No LNA Board Member or LNA General Member shall engage in any writing, publishing or speech-making that defames any other member of the Board or any community leader, resident or business owner of the community. Personal attacks against Board members, other community leaders, residents and business owners are prohibited and are not consistent with the best interests of the

neighborhood.” West was concerned about (3) being interpreted as generalized to prohibiting anything “negative” being expressed about anyone on Board or General members' personal Facebook pages. Rees (Luchini) felt this concern should be discussed; however, she pointed out that the “writing, publishing or speech-making” had to be defamatory to be prohibited. Simply being negative – if it was true – would be an expression of free speech. “Defaming” usually involves the conscious dissemination of half-truths or lies in order to make misrepresentations that damage the reputation of the person being defamed.

Hites, Dennis and Collins pointed out that the second sentence in (9) needed to be revised. “9. ...LNA Board Members shall not present or vote on matters in which they have a direct financial or personal interest.” It was decided that (9) should be revised to read, “9. ...LNA Board Members shall not present or vote on matters in which they have a direct financial benefit,” omitting “or personal” and changing the word, “interest,” to “benefit.” It was stated that Board members, as members of the community – like any other community member – would reasonably be expected to have somewhat of a “personal interest” in the outcome of the vote.

Discussion ensued as to whether the Code of Conduct and Ethics should be rewritten only to apply to Board members. As written, the draft proposed Code of Conduct and Ethics applied to Board members and General members, which would include Committee Chairpeople and Committee members. It was agreed that it would be very difficult to enforce a Code of Conduct and Ethics for General members. It would be easier to enforce a Code of Conduct and Ethics for Board members. Sunnyside Neighborhood Association included provisions for expulsion/suspension of Board Members who violated the Code of Conduct and Ethics. The steps leading to expulsion/suspension required “sufficient cause.” Dennis, the Chairperson and Board Liaison for the Bylaws Commission, remarked that provision for removal of a Board member would be included in the revised Bylaws and would probably replace the recall provision.

Rees (Luchini) and LNA members Ken Luchini and Hailey Graves felt that the Code of Conduct should apply to Board and LNA members, with the Code of Conduct as something to aspire to for LNA members, even though its enforceability did not seem that practical. Rees (Luchini) felt that, at the minimum, Board members, Committee Chairpeople and Committee members should have to sign a Code of Conduct. LNA members Bader and Gorecki felt that Committee members should not have to sign a Code of Conduct. Hites felt that Committee Chairpeople should probably also be asked to sign the Code of Conduct. The concern with the Committee Chairpeople is that LNA practice has been that Committee Chairpeople do not need to be Board members. There is a Board liaison for each Committee to provide oversight. However, Committee Chairpeople are doing work on behalf of LNA and their Committee and often this work

involves collaboration with other outside agencies and community groups. The Committee Chairperson is not an independent agent. Having the Committee Chairperson sign a Code of Conduct would serve as a reminder to him or her that, although he or she may not be a Board member, there are still standards of conduct, including transparency, to which he or she is expected to adhere.

A motion was made by Hites that the Board approve the proposed draft Code of Conduct and Ethics as it applies to Board Members, with the revisions proposed in (9), and bring such proposed draft Code of Conduct to the LNA General Meeting for its approval. The motion was seconded by Young. The motion passed 2 in favor (in alphabetical order: Hites and Young), with 3 abstentions (in alphabetical order: Collins, Dennis and Rees (Luchini)). The Chairperson chose not to vote, preferring to vote only in case of a tie. The motion passed.

Hites raised reservations about a motion passing with such a feeble show of support. Only 2 Board members voted in favor. There were 3 abstentions, which did not count as a vote. Additionally, 2 Board members were absent from the meeting and the Chairperson chose not to vote.

It was decided to table the further discussion of the proposed draft Code of Conduct till the next Board meeting.

(At-Large Board member Jennifer Young had to leave the Board Meeting. It was past 9:30 p.m.)

Consideration of a Proposal by LNA Member Char Pennie (Low).

Chairperson Low submitted a proposal by LNA Member Char Pennie for the Board's consideration, the text of which follows below:

“I have a proposal for maintaining the Lents Neighborhood Association Website. I understand that Autumn, the webmaster does not have the time to maintain this website. I understand that Michael Collins and Cora Potter also have access to this website but neither wish to maintain it.

“I am volunteering my services to maintain & monitor the webpage. I understand there is nothing in the By-Laws that suggest that the webmaster need be a board member.

“Please respond with comments on this proposal.”

Dennis felt that the proposal should be tabled till the next Board meeting because two of the three Board members involved in the maintenance of the website (Potter and

West) were not present at the Board Meeting and could not provide their input. Collins and Rees (Luchini) agreed with Dennis. In addition, although the Board still maintained a quorum, Young had just left the Board Meeting and she should be able to give feedback as well.

Treasurer's Report (Hites). Hites reported that LNA has \$9,473.19 in its savings account and \$2,288.45, for a total of \$11,719.64. LNA earned 49 cents in interest.

(I NEED TO GET MORE DETAILS FROM RAY. THESE WERE RELAYED REALLY HURRIEDLY DUE TO THE LATENESS OF THE HOUR.)

(My notes reflect \$573.72 to date spent on lighting the Lents monuments; \$147.30 to renew the website and register the domain name. The EPN allotment and rollover from last year total \$1,555.74. My notes reflect that the spring cleanup grant report needs to be submitted by June 12 at the latest).

An invoice from Security Signs came in, addressed to Cora Potter, for the moving of the New Copper Penny sign from the Oregon Historical Society warehouse in Gresham to its new storage place at Tidee Diddee. The invoice was for \$1,260 for 10-hours. The original estimate had been \$120/hour for a maximum of 3 hours. Hites will contact Potter to inquire about this expenditure.

Action Item: Hites to contact Potter re Security Signs invoice.

Meeting Adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis and seconded in unison by multiple others.

Draft Minutes transcribed by Secretary Joanne Rees (Luchini), Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

Minutes approved Tuesday, May 9, 2017.