

APPROVED

General meeting March 27, 2018

Board members present: Sabina Urdes, Ray Hites, Lacey Hamerin, Barbara Bader, Christo Brehm, Cora Potter

Board members absent: Michael Collins

Meeting brought to order at 7:06

**Opening:**

Urdes: Introductions, code of conduct read.

Public comment: Robert Schultz Lents NRT. Meet 4th Sunday of month

Community member: Wants more police coming by to check on a specific home, how can she do that. Urdes recommends calling city referral line, community member offers advice. Erick: Lives in Mt Labor neighborhood. Gives presentation on Powell McDonalds that is set for demolition. Wants Lents NA/citizens to submit letter of support to keep the building. Needs to be done in the next day or so. Bader makes a motion that the LNA write a letter of support for the work and to save the site. David Carroll seconds. 27 in favor. 1 opposed. 6 abstain. Motion carries. Judy Low asks who is going to write the letter, nominates the chair. Potter offers to draft the letter.

Urdes moves to approve the agenda. No one opposed.

**Speakers:**

David Porter: 500 smoke alarms will be installed in Lents area on May 12, for free. Wants to hear from people who need alarms. Opportunity to upgrade for renters and homeowners. Must contact Red Cross to get the alarms.

Brandi Tuck: They help homeless families with children get back into housing and stay there. They operate 4 programs and 3 shelter programs. Currently have 105 people in Goose Hollow shelter and another one. These are night shelters. There is a day shelter at 13/Salmon. Also teach life skills classes. Considering buying the building at 92/Tolman. Historically, the building was a Russian church. For the past 10 years it has been an inpatient treatment center for homeless men. Teen challenge is selling the building because it is too large and expensive for them. None of the current residents will be displaced. Put offer in December 17. Due diligence happening now. Will likely close on the building in May. The purchase would allow them to help 26 more families and expand their programs. Envision family movie nights for the whole community. They would acquire 8 buildings of 2 bedroom housing that would be transitional housing at first, and then permanent, affordable housing. Plan to build an additional 40 units of housing in the back parking lot. This is close to where families actually live and the building is already set up for what they need. 10 years of data to show that their approach works. Says they will address concerns: increase in trash, presence of drug use and loitering. Taking that

seriously. Skilled at addressing issues so they don't become problems. Homeless families tend to have less of these issues. Shelter is 24 hours, so they don't have to line up. Perform background checks on all staff, families and volunteers. Drug free shelter. Staff does checks every hour on property.

Questions: will you make it a priority for Lents residents? If she has control of that, yes.

Sometimes the county decides.

Potentially build more units, do you have statistics about what it does to property values in the area? Doesn't think property value would change because use of the building isn't changing, but not sure. Also, guarantees that facilities are clean and meet health standards. Happy to give tours of the current programs.

Concerns that this will go well for a month and then crash and burn and there isn't anything the neighborhood can do about it because it's a done deal. Have you knocked on the doors of the people directly attached to property? Not yet, not a done deal. Happy to take that suggestion and knock on doors.

With 100 people in such a small area, this plan has more impact than current situation. What is solution to mitigate noise and ensure privacy? All families have private room. As for noise mitigation, happy to chat with neighbors about that. There is a gate right now.

How do you define long term? A year or more. 94% of families are in housing indefinitely. Work with them forever.

Brandi is happy to come back, continue conversation.

Joel Schoening: New bottle redemption center coming to the neighborhood. History of bottle bill and the redemption centers. 23 around the state. Plan for 40 in the next 5 years or so.

82/Holgate, planned location. They can attract can collectors and neighbors are concerned about that. ORBC has experience with this, can have security, have lighting, fencing. State law mandates where redemption centers can be located. Need specific access and building requirements. Looking in Lents for over 2 years. The move is happening, but ORBC understands that has impact on neighborhood. Explanation of green bag and blue bag system. Questions: Example of location that has failed? None have failed. Neighbors have complained but there are others who are happy. No location has been closed. Complaints are addressed as they come in.

What's going to be different with your drop off center? People bring kids to the centers all the time. Employees on site at all times. Will trespass people if they are disruptive, disorderly, doing drugs. No smoking in bottle drop.

What is nature of complaints at other locations? Vagrancy. People wandering neighborhood looking for containers.

Always seems to fall on the backs of the poorer neighborhoods? No, there is a location in the Pearl. State law requires accessibility for everyone.

Juliet Pursell: Adult basic education at PCC, help students get GEDs. Oregon has historically low graduation rate with a goal to increase that.

Question: Do you help special ed students to get GED? PCC has have disability services, can maybe get modified diploma.

Cathy Hashuka: KINK radio, working with Metro and Solv for Paint the town Green event. Saturday, June 16 is clean up day. Hawthorne, Division Clinton, Richmond, Brentwood-Darlington, FoPo neighborhoods have already signed up. Wants Lents to join. Urdes makes a motion to participate. Carroll seconds. 23 in favor. 0 against. 3 abstain. Motion carries.

### **Action Items:**

Urdes: New at-large Board member. Carroll reads statement. Brehm makes motion to approve, Urdes seconds. 19 in favor. 0 abstain. 0 opposed. Motion carries.

Urdes move to approve February meeting minutes. Brehm seconds. 6 in favor. 0 opposed. 12 abstain. Motion carries.

### **Committee Reports:**

Handouts. Brehm, Urdes, Hites give oral reports. Robert Schultz wonders how much money is in the summer events fund at EPN. Hites isn't sure. Will have to ask. Schultz says we have money in that account, Sabina will check into it.

### **Discussion items:**

Urdes: What advocacy issues are important to membership? Below are comments/suggestions from community members.

-Feels like speakers are asking for forgiveness rather than permission. Engagement early on.

-More input on topics. Didn't feel there was enough time on the agenda. Wants more time on agenda.

-Schutz expresses appreciation for the tone of this meeting. Food was amazing.

-Wants LNA more involved in schools, like Lents or Kelly PTA representative to hand out info at meetings so community could be better involved.

-Hites wants the LNA to actually take positions on issues as a group. Urdes is open to having fewer speakers, more discussion and smaller group discussions. Group seems to agree.

-Brehm wants the NA to advocate for what GreenLents is doing. Urdes says that is a possibility. Will propose at next board meeting to form a committee. Bader thinks it is a great idea.

-Suggestion for Green Lents or city to get more involved in the new landscaping requirements. Potter says Friends of Trees, Backyard Habitat certification program, and other resources are available.

-Does anyone know status of west Lents floodplain and the vacant houses? Potter: Doesn't know much, but can contact the team at BES. Thinks it's initial planning phases. Another project north of Foster and east of 205 is another focus. New modeling of 100 year flood plain.

Per Nicole from Green Lents: They run tool library and Malden court community orchard.

Encourages people to sign up for newsletter. 4/8 garden swap. Lents garage sale on July 7.

Initiating softball tournament in August and another outdoor event in October.

Joel from OBRC answers follow up questions/concerns: Refillable bottle program starting this summer. Question regarding the 82/holgate site and a possible comment period? Says the OLCC process is constrained so livability issues aren't usually part of that review. Members raise more concerns about the center.

Closing remarks:

Urdes: Acknowledging time and and people who helped during event. Asking for more help in the future if people can contribute.

9:00 meeting adjourned.