

Lents Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

Date: 11/12/2020

Location: Virtual Zoom

6:30pm-

Meeting called to order by: Sabina Urdes

Board Members Present: Sabina Urdes, Nicole Williams, Katie Penna, Jennifer Breedlove, Jason Bird, Jean Fang, Gerald Adkins, Natalie Adkins, Morgin Carpenter

Others Present: Robert Schultz

Sabina submitted a reminder that the meeting is a board meeting and, although open to the public, is only for board members to engage and to conduct board business and participation in it is by board invitation only.

Introductions: Nicole Williams At-Large 2 years, Jason Bird At-Large 1 year, Jean Fang Vice Chair, Gerald & Natalie Adkins, Treasurer & Public Safety respectively, Morgin Carpenter Secretary, Jennifer Breedlove Land Use Chair, Katie Penna At-Large 1 year, Sabina Urdes Chair.

Sabina thanked the board for being here and hopes to foster a smooth transition for the next Chair, whoever that may be. Jason thanked Sabina for all of her work.

Agenda Items:

Schedule New Board Member Orientation: Sabina talked about training new board members to become comfortable in their roles, city standards of conduct, and fostering supportive roles with other board members, etc. The District Coalition Office will not be able to facilitate that training this year, but plan to do so sometime in January 2021. Sabina suggested that new board members have a meeting or an online “retreat” to get up to speed and answer any questions, but mostly to get on the same page about what the board might like to do in this next year: discuss goals, run a survey in the community for guidance purposes, etc. A tentative date in early to mid December was suggested and, by a show of hands, the majority present expressed interest in attending. Alternatively, Sabina offered to meet one on one to answer any questions and will conduct a poll to find a suitable date for the retreat. Sabina will also be in touch about the District Coalition training schedule.

Bylaws Revisions: Sabina discussed implementing the community suggested and revised bylaws that were not voted on a year ago and would like the board to look them over and vote on them in January. Board members were asked to look out for them in their email soon.

LNA Suggested Priorities 2020-2021

- Bylaws (Revising them is very important as they set the foundation for why and how the LNA operates.)
- Clean Ups (Discussed the recent successful dumpster cleanup orchestrated by Jennifer Breedlove and how the board would like to do more in that vein.)
- Beggars Tick Restoration (Continue advocacy efforts with the clean up and restoration of the Beggars Tick Wildlife Refuge, continuing conversations with METRO for funds to do so.)
- Grocery Store (Bringing a grocery store to Lents, possibly using funds from the Lents Urban Renewal Area through Prosper Portland to create a community co-op as suggested by Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty.)
- Street Roots Partnership (Program to train community members on how to better communicate, deescalate conflict and help facilitate conversations between the housed and houseless communities.)
- Houseless Statement (Brought forth by Nicole Williams. Make time to discuss the houseless issue in Lents. The board should make a stance on houselessness to get ahead of the topic that will most likely be brought to the board by the community.)

Katie Penna stated that she is part of a community action committee operating outside of the LNA that has been working for the past three years to bring a grocery store to Lents and expressed concerns of duplicating efforts. Efforts are currently underway to bring an Aldi to the area by submitting a proposal to them complete with potential plots of land for sale in Lents.

Jean Fang asked if the board has access to a folder to submit offline ideas. Sabina is adding everyone to the Google Drive folder to facilitate that.

Administrative:

Check Signatories: The LNA currently pays most bills by writing checks and needs to transfer all the information from the last Treasurer to the new Treasurer, Gerald Adkins. It was suggested that two signatories were needed on checks, possibly the Treasurer and Secretary. Multiple options were discussed but it was decided that, as Treasurer, Gerald would look into those options after the motion for check signatories carries.

7:04pm-

Motion by Sabina and seconded by Nicole to make Gerald Adkins and Morgan Carpenter the LNA's check signatories:

Motion carries unanimously.

Sabina will be in touch about a time to go in person with the minutes and transfer the old signatories to the new signatories at Unitas Community Credit Union.

Zoom Account: The LNA requires its own Zoom account to conduct meetings in times of COVID.

Two Zoom options were discussed and the Business account was determined to be the best option for board business.

7:12pm-

Motion by Sabina seconded by Jason to create an **LNA Zoom business pro account for \$199.90** a year to be created and managed by LNA Secretary, Morgan Carpenter:

Motion passed by all except Jean who abstained pending more information related to budget/spending.

Sabina noted that the board has about \$1,000 in funds available after the cleanup costs are paid. She also mentioned the possibility of applying for accommodation funds to help pay for the Zoom license.

PPS Re-Balancing of Lent K-8:

Kaie Penna brought up the pending redistricting and “re-balancing” of Lent K-8 and the need to help advocate for the neighborhood community it serves to PPS. Concerns are that Lent K-8 has been an historically under served school and the recent PPS proposal to disband the neighborhood program and make it a full focus option Spanish immersion school, requiring all neighborhood program students to attend Marysville School in Foster/Powell, is a continuation of that lack of service and consideration. Katie sees the LNA board as a vehicle for organizing on behalf of the Lent PTA to ensure their voices are heard irrespective of personal opinions regarding what should be done. There was a discussion about the need for clarity in the dialogue between the community and PPS. There seems to be a great deal of misunderstanding surrounding this issue that could be mitigated by the LNA with Spanish outreach and other community organizing should Katie act as liaison. It was ultimately determined that it would be more advantageous for a committee to be formed instead.

Jean supports being a forum to help organize community communications between neighborhood parents/students and PPS.

Jennifer suggested that the role of the LNA is well suited to get into the nitty gritty of an issue on behalf of the community members to ensure all voices are heard.

7:25pm-

Motion by Sabina, seconded by Jean for the LNA to start an **LNA Educational Outreach Committee**, with Katie Penna as Chair and Gerald, Nicole, Jennifer, Natalie, Jean and Sabina as founding members, with the initial goal of serving as liaison/organizational advocates for the Lent K-8 PTA (help organize meetings with PPS, communication forums, Spanish outreach, making sure all the voices are heard, etc) and report back to the LNA on the progress made on the PPS re-balancing of Lent K-8:

Motion carries unanimously.

General Meetings:

The LNA usually meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month with the exception of November and December due to the holidays. An option to not have the meeting altogether was proposed or to have one meeting in the beginning of December. Tues Dec 8th at 7:00pm via Zoom was tentatively suggested for the next general LNA meeting. This would be advantageous as there are many things to update the community about and foster further community engagement.

Possible Topics:

- Street Response Launching in Lents (Could be as early as January, according to Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's staff.)
- PSU study of Lents Town Center and Lents URA (Students would like to present interesting findings of their study. Perhaps discuss community collaboration?)
- Prosper Portland funds for Lents (Discuss left over money from the Urban Renewal Area and what it could go toward.)
- Street Roots (Would like to present about their training program regarding communication between housed and unhoused community members.)

Concerns of time constraints were brought up and it was suggested that Street Response present closer to the time of launch. Not all suggested topics are expected to be in the meeting.

One other calendar needs to be checked to see if the above mentioned meeting date will work.

Closing:

Sabina will be in touch about scheduling a retreat for training of new members. New and old signatories will coordinate through email about a time to go to the bank to transfer the signatories. Katie Penna will start off an email for when the LNA Educational Outreach Committee will meet.

Sabina checked in with Jason Bird to discuss the History Committee and the website chronicling the history and old photographs of Lents. Morgin Carpenter volunteered to join.

Jean asked for a list of currently standing committees. Sabina agreed to get one out for all the new board members.

7:53pm-

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Morgin Carpenter