

**LENTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LNA)
MINUTES FROM SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, December 15, 2016

KingPins Bowling Alley, "The Chalet" Community Room, 3550 S.E. 92nd Avenue

- **Summary of Decisions reached posted on LNA Facebook Page on December 16, 2016**
- **Draft Minutes submitted electronically by LNA Secretary (Joanne Rees (Luchini)) on January 9, 2017**
- **Minutes approved on Thursday, January 19, 2017.**

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order): Michael Collins (Vice Chairperson); Krista Dennis (At-Large); Ray Hites (Treasurer); Joanne Rees (Luchini) (Secretary); Nick Schillaci-Kayton (Transportation Chairperson); Autumn West (At-Large); and Jennifer Young (At-Large)

Board Members Absent (in alphabetical order): Judy Low (Chairperson), due to illness; Cora Potter (Land Use Chairperson), due to illness; Gary Primack (At-Large), no excuse given; Randy "Icebear" Schroeder (Public Safety Chairperson), unavailable due to family "shuffle" of responsibilities.

Attendees (in alphabetical order): John Dennis; Kris Dennis; and Ken Luchini.

The Board Meeting was convened at 7:05 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Michael Collins, acting on behalf of Chairperson Judy Low, who was absent. The Board Meeting was a Special Board Meeting. (The Thursday, December 8 Board meeting did not occur due to inclement weather.)

Approval of Minutes from the October and November Board Meetings. Minutes from October and November Board Meeting were approved unanimously by all Board members present and are available for posting.

Removal of At-Large Board Member Due to Non-Attendance. A motion to remove At-Large Board Member Gary Primack from the Board due to non-attendance was made by Schillaci-Kayton and seconded by Dennis. The removal of Primack from the Board due to non-attendance was approved unanimously by all Board members present. The 7 Board members present constituted a majority of all Board members currently in office (11), which, according to the most recent version of LNA Bylaws, was the number necessary for removal of a Board member due to non-attendance. Primack had missed 4 Board meetings and 3 General Meetings in the period between August and December 6. Removal of a Board member for non-attendance at 2 or more meetings within a 6-month period, according to Bylaws, is at the Board's discretion. Primack's handwritten letter to the Board in response to the notification of removal, which had been previously relayed

electronically, was distributed and read, the text of which follows below:

“Dear LNA Board,

“It warms my heart that you've noticed I was absent a couple of times. I guess I thought that you wouldn't even make mention on it.

“Fact is, I was out of town and couldn't make those board meetings. I'm sure that it has happened before with other members. And after all, I am 'at large.' And I could say that I've been doing research, a fact finding mission if you will. Most likely, you were just as courteous and kind to the others as to send them such a nice reminder. If not, well, thank you for making me feel special.

“Yes, I have contributed to Lents, for over 33 years now, more times than you can imagine, my heart is here, my neighbors are here, and we all get along. I'll keep up my help and good deeds.

“So, yes, I intend to continue my service.

“Oddly enough though, while you pose your two questions to me in your letter, I note that you intend to vote on my decision for me. And realizing that at least five of you on the board have already voted against me (in the form of your signature on a recall petition), this letter from you isn't really asking my anything, is it?

“Apparently you've decided to enforce a 'non-rule' while you let other, clearly spelled out rules, get broken over and over.

“But, for the record, in answer to your query, I intend to remain.

“Regards,

Gary Primack
Nov. 2016”

Primack's contributions to the community were acknowledged, particularly his advocacy for the homeless in the form of individual service through the Pilgrim Lutheran Church and the Paying It Forward Store. Gary also served the Board as an At-Large member whose main focus was outreach and was the keeper of the informational kiosk. However, it was also recognized that Primack could be perceived as disruptive and frequently vacillated in his decisions. Primack's declaration in an LNA Facebook post and in an email to the Board and cc-ed to East Portland Neighborhood Office (EPNO) that he had essentially “quit” when he had ceased attending Board and General

meetings, only to un-quit on the LNA Facebook page approximately one week later, was perceived as “jerking the Board and LNA around.” It was also affirmed that it is not acceptable for Board members to be absent and incommunicado for months at a time with no explanation. Current LNA bylaws indicate that removal of a Board member for non-attendance is at the Board's discretion. Despite prior Boards' apparent refusals to remove Board members with longstanding absences and/or nonfeasance of duties, the current Board intends, in accordance with the LNA Bylaws, to consider removal of Board members who have missed more than 2 Board meetings in a 6-month period. Primack's removal is predicated upon his non-attendance at Board and General Meetings, missing 4 Board meetings and 3 General Meetings between August and December 6. His absence at the December Board meeting constituted a fifth absence.

A letter will be mailed to Gary Primack from the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson on behalf of the Board, notifying Gary of the Board's decision to remove him from the Board due to non-attendance. The letter is to be mailed certified. Primack is also to be requested to return the key to the kiosk.

Disposition of Complaint Against a Board Member by an LNA Member. A complaint had been lodged at the November 10, 2016 Board Meeting by an LNA member (Lauranne Kealiher) against a Board member (Public Safety Chairperson Randy Schroeder) alleging receipt of Facebook posts from said Board member that were perceived by the LNA member as threatening. The Facebook posts that were perceived by the LNA member as threatening had been emailed to Rees (Luchini) as Secretary and forwarded to the Board upon their receipt. There have been challenges in getting the Board member to respond to these allegations with his side of the story due to the Board member's non-attendance at the 2 Board Meetings and 1 General Meeting subsequent to the complaint.

A motion to approve the draft letter, with minor revisions, was made by West and seconded by Dennis. A draft letter to the Board member was approved unanimously, with minor revisions, by all Board members in attendance to be sent to the Board member. (There was a quorum of Board members present in order to effect the decision – 7 of 11 Board members were present.) The letter respectfully asks the Board member to respond by January 1, 2017, to the allegations made by the LNA member at the November 10, 2016 Board Meeting, so that the Board and LNA can complete its investigation into the allegations and an attempt can be made to reach an equitable resolution to the matter. The letter, with some minor revisions, will be mailed by the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson on behalf of the Board early next week via certified mail. The text of the letter is attached hereto, with minor revisions incorporated.

Board members inquired as to whether there had been any response from Schroeder as to the allegations. Rees (Luchini) as LNA Secretary indicated that an

email had been sent to Chairperson Low from Schroeder notifying of possible legal action. Low had forwarded the email to Rees (Luchini) as LNA Secretary for the record. Low also informed Schroeder that she would be consulting with EPNO (Director Richard Bixby).

Other Board members (Hites, Dennis, Schillaci-Kayton and West) asked that Secretary forward the Schroeder email to Low to the entire Board. It was requested that, in the future, any correspondence possibly affecting the entire Board, regardless of to whom the email was originally sent, should be forwarded to the entire Board.

The Board also felt that the matter was possibly becoming too complicated for them to handle and that it might ultimately need to be referred to EPNO or ONI.

Future Business.

Portland Development Commission (PDC) Community Livability Grant Review Committee. Chairperson Low was requested by Leila Aman, PDC Project Manager for the Lents Urban Renewal Area, to sit on the PDC Community Livability Grant Review Committee. Aman wished someone from Lents to participate on the Committee. Low had sent an email asking the Board whether there were any objections to her accepting the role.

Potter had objected via email earlier, citing the controversy surrounding Low's recall and Low's ongoing computer problems which has contributed to Low's being perceived as nonresponsive. Young, Dennis and West also felt that it might be preferable to have some other Board member to represent Lents on the Committee. Rees (Luchini) felt that sitting on the Grant Review Committee was fairly "innocuous" and was more of a public service role than a representational one. Dennis said that she might be interested in serving on the Grant Review Committee, depending upon the time commitments and her availability.

Rees (Luchini) asked about the possible conflict of interest if LNA had a rep when it was her understanding that LNA might be a grant applicant for the "Lents Park gazebo project." Hites said that it is not unusual for grant applicants to sit on grant review committees and that the grant applicants usually excuse themselves from reviewing their own grant. Collins, who is a member of the "Gazebo Committee," corrected that the grant application for the "Lents Park gazebo project," has been postponed so the issue is now moot. Rees (Luchini) stated that she would try to find out the time commitments and timeframe for the Grant Review Committee from Low and relay same when she receives it. She would also try to find out whether the position required a Board member or whether it could also be filled by an LNA member.

Social Media Guidelines. West has volunteered to be the Chairperson of the Social Media Guidelines Committee. She already submitted draft social media guidelines at the December 6 LNA General Meeting. West expressed dismay at the continued lack of password access to the LNA website. This will need to be discussed further at the January Board Meeting. It might be necessary to start up another website from scratch. Possible models for the LNA website could be Woodstock Neighborhood Association's and Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association's. It will also have to be considered how much "moderation," if any, should occur on the LNA Facebook page and who should be the moderator. Currently, any Board member who has given Low their "Facebook email address" should be an "editor" on the LNA Facebook page and able to post on the main page, rather than as a visitor's post. Currently, there is only one admin for the LNA Facebook page and that is Low as Chairperson.

Status of Recall Initiative. There is currently a recall initiative for the recall of the Chairperson. Signature verification just occurred last week and was confirmed by Director Richard Bixby of EPNO. Of the 40 signatories, 33 were able to be validated. Currently, according to the LNA Bylaws, it is virtually impossible to effect a recall because it is almost impossible to determine who is LNA's current "voting membership," the 2/3 of which will be necessary to effect a recall. Dennis is the Chairperson of the Bylaws Revision Committee. The Bylaws also cannot be revised without access to an updated voting membership list. Rees (Luchini) as Secretary will enter data onto an Excell spreadsheet of voting membership from the September General Elections and any other sign-in sheets she has in her possession. These will need to be cross-referenced with existing EPNO records. Hites, as the LNA EPN rep, suggested that LNA do a notice by publication in the East Portland News, which is published quarterly and mailed out to every resident in East Portland and distributed at public venues, such as the libraries. The notice by publication could consist of an alphabetical list of names of current LNA members and a request that eligible members contact LNA to add or remove their names.

Transportation Chairperson Vacancy. Nick Schillaci-Kayton, LNA Transportation Chairperson, advised the Board that, effective at the January Board meeting, he will be resigning from his position on the Board. He and his spouse will be moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico, after the sale of their home. The Board was saddened to hear of Nick's departure, thanked him for his service and wished he and his wife much happiness in their new home.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Schillaci-Kayton and seconded unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by LNA Secretary Joanne Rees (Luchini)

