LNA General Meeting: April 23, 2019

Note-taker: Marci Addy

**7:08 PM Meeting called to order**

Territory Acknowledgement

Introductions

7:21 PM Announcements

Kelly Elementary: Kindergarten Open House Monday, April 29, Community Classes, Play group for children

Transportation Forum, Youth Internships over the summer. Contact Leisl Wehmueller for information.

New Copper Penny sign has found a new home in Eagle Eye, pending repairs.

Paint the Town Green June 1st, 9 am -1 pm. Breakfast and lunch provided.

Jason Byrd: looking for input from community about Lents History for the Lents Historical project.

Memory Garden project last week was very successful, open to everyone, SE 104th and Bush in NE Lents.

7:36 PM Discussion: Portland’s Commission form of government: Is it time to restructure?

 Julia DeGraw with Portland Forward, Dan Rivas with City Club of Portland

 City-wide elections lead to areas of the city being neglected and unrepresented.

Our mayor is one of five city commissioners, which makes up our city council. Everyone has an equal vote on city council. Each commissioner is responsible for multiple city bureaus. Our commissioners typically come from the same inner NE or SW Portland. Most other cities who adopted this form of representation quickly abandoned it; we are currently the only large city that has a commission form of government. Commission form creates potential conflict and competition between commissioners and bureaus. 80% of time, the commissioners and their staff are running bureaus: who is creating policy? Five people are representing our population, whether we are a city pf 200,000 or 700,000. City Club has researched the issue multiple times over the past 106 years this form of government has been in place. Included in this year’s report are four main recommendations:

Recommendation #1: Hire a city manager who is an expert in the field, accountable to the mayor and city council, and who can work across all city bureaus.

Recommendation #2: Increase the size of city council to match the population of Portland, to at least 8 members.

Recommendation #3: Move to district representation

Recommendation #4: Consider alternative voting methods (ranked-choice voting, etc.)

Open discussion about primary system, city managers, auditors, power of the mayor, long-term planning and vision, possibility of adding it to the ballot in 2020, getting voters out for the vote so that it passes this time.

8:34 PM Action Items

Review March 2019 General Meeting Minutes.

Sabina moves to approve March General meeting minutes. Marci seconds the motion. 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 10 abstained. Motion carries.

**8:37 PM Meeting Adjourned**