**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association General Meeting**

**March 8, 2016**

**Patty Pan Cooperative**

Present: Alice Keller, Afifi Durr, Ian Taylor, Devra Gartenstein, Lee Keim, Bill Dwyer, Erin Middleton, Bettelinn Brown, Amy Anscher, Jean Hilde, Sarah Kaye, Lois Harrison, Glinda K. Matthews.

Meeting called to order at 7PM by chair, Jean Hilde.

Meeting minutes. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with revisions.

Treasurer’s report. The ATM card and PIN have arrived for the new bank account. Sarah Kaye will be out of town for work periodically so she suggested that Jean Hilde be the backup treasurer during those times. The checks were more expensive than anticipated, but the organization now has enough checks for the foreseeable future. The bank account currently has a balance of $145.11.

CON report- Erin Middleton reported that a public relations firm, PRR Communications, was hired to do research on why people hate Shoreline. The city has some investors, but should be able to attract more. The company is testing a character they’ve named “Squatch”, along with the slogan, “You don’t know Squatch about Shoreline.” People at the CON meeting were excited about Briarcrest’s Roger Fernandes storytelling event.

Newsletter. July will be Alice Keller’s last newsletter issue. The neighborhood needs to find someone to take over, preferably someone proficient at desktop publishing. Attendees discussed the possibility of advertising, but noted that it’s difficult to pin down distribution numbers because the newsletter goes out through so many different channels.

Earth Day and Neighborhood Trees. Lee Keim spoke about plans to plant more trees in Shoreline. Christine Southwick (also known as the “Bird Lady”), wants to spread information about the importance of tree canopy for the area bird population. The National Wildlife Federation gave her 500 trees to give out at the Earth Day celebration at Central Market on April 16. Volunteers are needed to table, give away trees, and raise awareness about the issue. Alice Keller mentioned that the developer who built on the former church property on 27th Ave NE made a promise to replant and replace many of the trees taken down for that development project, but the developer hasn’t followed through and the city hasn’t followed up with accountability.

Emergency Preparedness. Bill Dwyer spoke on the urgency of the issue and reported that Shoreline has just hired a new emergency preparedness person. It would be good to have a neighborhood plan in place, which would involve identifying at risk populations and planning for how to reach out to them in the event of an emergency. There are nursing homes, daycares, and adult family homes in the area, with a total of 426 beds. We could use to have more people trained via the CERT program. At the very least we should be aware of where vulnerable people live, and where we can find people who can help. Jean Hilde suggested organizing a neighborhood-wide presentation, and Bill said he can find other people who can help educate.

Homelessness- Lois Harrison spoke about the issue and reported that, while the city expresses concern and acknowledges the urgency, local planning is short on specifics. Tent cities need more sanitation facilities, and lockers to store possessions. There should be safe parking lots for people living in RV’s and cars. Tiny houses with electricity are a potential first step towards a more permanent solution. The city relies on human services organizations for funding for projects to address the issues that homeless people face. Tent cities are band-aids, and a broader issue is the high rent-low wage differential. Rob Beem recommends contacting your favorite city councilmember to say that tackling homelessness should be a priority. Jean Hilde asked what the BNA can do in this neighborhood. Attendees suggested finding a liaison with the school system, or finding a way to propose a mini grant for a related activity. Bettelinn Brown raised the issue of respecting privacy issues, and mentioned that a lot of people in need don’t want help. One possibility might be to create an environment where people can tell their stories. Lois will talk to Pam Russell about ideas for networking with the church around the issue.

Summer picnic dates. This will be the second annual Briarcrest summer picnic. August 13 seems to be the best date. Jean Hilde will approach the city about nailing down the date and reserving the Hamlin Park shelter.

BNA welcome packets. Jean Hilde has found someone to draw map, and is looking for people to send ideas for neighborhood sites of interest to put on the map.

Game night. Attendees agreed to aim for consistency and hold the event on the third Friday of each month, starting with March 18.

Shoreline Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan. Maureen Colaizzi, the Parks Projects coordinator, would like someone from their team would like to talk at next BNA meeting for half an hour. Alice Keller asked whether the BNA might be spreading itself too thin, and Lois Harrison repled that if they’re planning something for Hamlin Park, it would be worth the organization’s while to have input.

April 1 storytelling event. The Roger Fernandes storytelling evening will be held at Fircrest chapel, which has great acoustics. The association needs people to manage parking, hang posters, and collect suggested donations. The BNA will split the collected money with NWHRC. BNA’s contribution will be in-kind donations of time, such as set-up and break-down, and materials, such as refreshments. It’s important to to keep track of time, and provide data about the extent of BNA members’ contributions. Affifi Durr hasn’t yet been able to find someone from the Middle East for the June 3rd date, which had been floated for another higher profile event, but logistics for that date need to be figured out soon. The larger April and June events are out of the ordinary. In general the BNA will be holding smaller, neighborhood focused events. There was a motion, which passed, to not do a June event with NWHRC.

Adjourned at 8:47.