**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at Patty Pan Cooperative**

Attendance: Jean Hilde, Afifi Durr, Lee Keim, Bill Dwyer, Sarah Kaye, Janelle Woolsey, Lois Harrison, Bettelinn Brown, Ian Taylor, Alice Keller, Paul Kowalski

Meeting called to order: 7:04

Approval of minutes from March 13: Since amendment and approval were already done via email, no further action was necessary at the meeting.

Treasurer’s report: Sarah reported that our balance remains the same, about $234.

BNA picnic reservation: Jean has received confirmation of our Aug 25 date, but for the wrong hours. Jean will go back to the Parks Dept to get the error corrected.

Council of Neighborhoods: Bill reported on this month’s CON meeting, where there were 2 speakers.

First, Susan Chang spoke about what the City Council is working on, prioritizing 3 areas -- economic development, safety, and inclusion and diversity -- though she didn’t elaborate. She mentioned the current ordinance against people living in vehicles; the Council considered changing it, but will continue to rely on the Police Dept. to tell people to move on, without issuing citations. The aquatic center is still being studied, as well as a transportation plan for seniors.

There’s a sidewalk committee with 14 volunteer members, but it seems no one from Briarcrest. Priorities are under discussion. It would take $377,000,000 to do all the new sidewalks that the city / committee would like. All of the needed repairs would cost $15,000,000. Perhaps it will be necessary to raise taxes for this since there’s nothing in the budget. For more information, see the Shoreline Sidewalk Prioritization Plan on the city website.

Then the city traffic engineer, Kendra Dedinsky, spoke about neighborhood lighting, which is being studied in committee; there’s no money for action. The city website shows where they want to add new lights. We have LED lights in our area, but they’re expensive to maintain. Seattle City Light provides the electricity, but rates keep going up, so the city saves electricity, but not money.

Next BNA Storytelling Evening: Friday, April 27: This evening has been moved forward from the usual first-Friday date in order not to conflict with the “1001 Nights” event.

“1001 Nights” Storytelling Event, May 4 & 5: Yesterday Afifi, Jean, and Alice, along with 3 people from the Seattle Storytellers Guild, checked out the space we’ll use at the Unitarian Church. Allison Cox of the Guild is in charge of the event. Afifi is on both the Board of the Guild and the Leadership team of the BNA – doubly committed! The BNA will be in charge of a “culture room” with food and dancers in a brand-new building (occupancy permit only 2 weeks ago) – a lovely space. Devra (Patty Pan) will provide lunch and dinner on Sat.

BNA people are needed to distribute flyers, which have been printed in 3 sizes. Lots of volunteers will be needed for the two days of the event. On Friday, May 4 – set-up help needed at 5:00. On Saturday – volunteers needed at noon. Plenty of assorted tasks for volunteers!

Jean said that in the “culture room” we need decorative items with a Middle Eastern feel – room-dividing screens with cloths over them, for example. Members with such items are asked to please provide. Afifi has cushions and brass tables, tablecloths, clothes she is willing to lend.

One of the participants, Raja, has a tent to set up between the sanctuary and culture room (separate buildings) if the weather cooperates. This may be of interest to children. Storytelling suitable for kids will be Saturday afternoon only, not in the evenings.

Update on Grace Cole Nature Park: Ian’s group had been trying to reach out to the Lake Forest Park city government about having an entrance to the park from Briarcrest, but got no response. Last week LFP had a forum on their Parks and Open Spaces plan, which they’re working on now. Ian spoke with the city Outreach person, who told him that it’s already in the plan. He’ll follow up with this person again.

Shorecrest student Ethan Vasquez is a videographer and is willing to shoot a promo video on GC Park. He’s already begun in the park. Next, he’ll interview some of the people who are key to the park, such as Lois and the founder of the park, Mamie Bolender. Chris Southwick should be included, too. Ian and Lois went to a Briarcrest Elementary assembly, where they spoke to about 500 students, who were very attentive. They did a Q&A with them, too.

Swingin’ Summer’s Eve Book Sale, July 18: Alice outlined the book, CD, and DVD sale that is part of the annual city-sponsored Swingin’ Summer’s Eve party at Cromwell Park. This very large sale is done by some of the neighborhood associations, who then divide the proceeds. Each participating association must bring at least 150 books and provide volunteers for at least 4 1-hour shifts at the sale plus at least 1 person for take-down. The BNA hasn’t participated for several years, but Alice asked if we’d like to do so this year. A motion was made, seconded, and passed with 1 abstention.

Alice will chair our participation, with her garage available for book (and CD and DVD) drop-offs from July 4 through July 17. A team of Ian, Jean, and Lois will help sort books into the designated categories and deliver them to Cromwell Park.

Newsletter and website: With her new family responsibilities, Emily cannot continue as editor after the upcoming issue. The BNA appreciates her excellent work. We need someone to be new editor. If no one volunteers, is it time to discontinue the quarterly newsletter and to be more active with website? – except for the annual summer edition which city sends out. The city will no longer provide physical packets for the new-neighbor program, instead referring people to information on the website, and some neighborhood associations now use only on-line methods, such as a website or Facebook. Should we join this trend? Jean has asked Shorecrest High School if there are students seeking community-service hours who would like to work on our website. Sarah can continue managing the site at the current level, but not more intensively.

Objections voiced about discontinuing the newsletter were that the website isn’t the same and won’t reach the same people. We’ll lose people and interaction with them. When we stopped distributing to all households in Briarcrest several years ago, we promised we wouldn’t exclude anyone, including non-computer-users. A community-service high-school student would be short term. It’s been very difficult to get a student to do anything for our communications up to now.

After considerable discussion, Jean said that we should think about this and come back to it in May.

Block parties: Bettelinn announced that the deadlne for on-line applications is June 1. After that, anyone must go to the city in person.

Officer elections: Candidates are Jean Hilde for Director, Devra Gartenstein for Assistant Director, Alice Keller for Secretary, and Sarah Kaye for Treasurer. This slate has been posted per the bylaws.

Amendment to Article IV of the BNA Bylaws: Following up from the last meeting and her subsequent email to the Leadership Team with her proposal to amend the article about when to publish the candidates for office, Jean read the current and proposed versions. The purpose is to adjust so that it will not be necessary to publish the list of candidates prior to the April meeting, but immediately after it. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

The section now reads as follows, with the change in bold.

“The Leadership Team shall nominate a slate of candidates for the following offices: Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. The candidate slate may include one or more candidates for each position. These candidates shall be current or former members of the Leadership Team. **Nominations shall be presented by no later than the general-membership meeting in April. The slate of candidates shall be published by no later than the end of the second day following the April meeting**. Posting on the website and sending an email to all members of the neighborhoord listserve shall constitute adequate publication. If possible, the slate of candidates will also be included in a newsletter.”

Welcome packets: Lee still has some on hand, so we can distribute them to new residents as reported to Jean by the city. The city, however, will no longer provide them. There will just be a printed announcement to deliver to new residents referring them to the city website.

Improvements to the Eastside Off-leash Park: The BNA supported Greg Anderson’s request to the city, but it was turned down. The city can lease the space for only one more year, so they don’t want to put any more money into it.

Disaster preparedness: Bill and Lee attended a lecture at UW by Seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones. She spoke about how cities can make themselves more resilient when disasters happen. She’s been working with Los Angeles on this. In Western Washington, in a sense we’re unfortunate that we so rarely have earthquakes, because we have a false sense of security in spite of the inevitability of a major quake. Because we don’t experience damage and deaths from quakes, there’s no impetus to prepare for them. Dr. Jones will give a talk about her new book, *The Big Ones*, at 3rd Place Books, LFP, at 7:00 on April 24.

Lee and Bill went to the Red Cross office and talked with the disaster program manager for an hour. The most important thing people can do to prepare is to have water for their household for a week since it may well take that long or longer for the Red Cross to respond adequately in case of a disaster. Shoreline government is relying on organizations like the Red Cross to rush to our aid, but in fact they won’t be able to provide the needed support.

No disaster manager has been hired yet for Shoreline to replace Brian Dixon, who has already left.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22.

Submitted by Alice Keller