**MINUTES of the BRIARCREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION -- DRAFT**

**Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at Patty Pan Cooperative**

Attendance: Lee Keim, Bill Dwyer, Janelle Woolsey, Afifi Durr, Devra Gartenstein, Sarah Kaye, Alice Keller, Bettelinn Brown, guest speaker Eric Bratton

Meeting called to order by Sarah at 7:05.

Minutes from Sept. 11: Approved as amended.

Treasurer’s report – Sarah: The balance is unchanged from last month, $368.64. Sarah and Jean will open an account at BECU when they can go there together.

Council of Neighborhoods report – Bill: Mayor Will Hall talked about the proposed tax for new sidewalks at CON, but Bill said he wouldn’t report on that since Eric Bratton was at the BNA meeting to talk about it. Bill noted that a new tax is how city government will get the money for new sidewalks.

There was a small update on the new transit centers (i.e., for light rail and buses) on 145th and 185th. Traffic on 145th and Lake City Way is going to get very rough.

Jason Macmillan gave a good talk about more CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trainings and getting CERT people more involved in the neighborhoods. After that, Bill gave a presentation about what Briarcrest is doing in toward emergency preparation.

Next storytelling evening – Alice: The event will take place on Friday, Nov. 2, at the usual time (7:00-9:00) and place (Jon and Amy Anscher’s home, 16010 25th Ave NE. All are invited.

Mini-grant ideas, both from the City of Shoreline and the Arts Council -- discussion:

Afifi volunteered at the city’s recent welcome weekend and, inspired by that, would like to have immigrants tell their stories and successes. To encourage them, she’d like a mini-grant for a storytelling workshop specifically for refugees and immigrants to learn how to do it.

(Afifi also announced a workshop on storytelling sponsored by the Seattle Storytellers’ Guild on Sat., Oct. 27, 10-12:00.)

Lee suggested that Afifi might like to talk with Suni Tolton, Community Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator with the city, who might have ideas to contribute.

Bettelinn is most interested in a grant to benefit children in some way. Today she talked with Marla in the district office, who had ideas about a second year of the dual-language program for Spanish and English. They can always use more volunteers. However, it’s not clear what grant money would be used for.

Bettelinn said that in her opinion our most successful grant with the school district was helping provide playground equipment at Briarcrest Elementary in 2008.

Another suggestion was maintenance of the 19 (?) identification signs for the Briarcrest neighborhood. Do any of them need work? (One sign, for example, is just north of Prince of Peace church.)

Since our next BNA meeting will be Nov. 13 and the grants deadline is Nov. 15, we will need to discuss and vote on these ideas via email.

Rant & Rave: Shall we host one?: Jean attended this sort of event with the Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association. We will postpone discussion of whether the BNA should have one until November, when Jean will be back.

Emergency Preparedness Committee update – Lee: The committee now has 10 members, who met at Lee and Bill’s house on Sept. 25 to discuss the fifth-Saturday exercise on Sept. 29 to test communication systems. Bill and Lee set up a tent at the Hamlin Park east parking lot with FRS (Family Radio Service) radios and ham radios, including a 26-foot antenna. Other members called in via FRS radios, and Bill and Lee kept records of where people called from. Ham radios were used to call the Emergency Operations Centers at fire stations in Shoreline and the Kenmore EOC, plus monitoring King County, the City of Seattle, and Snohomish County EOCs. There exists a real network for communication. Briarcrest can be a template for what can happen elsewhere in Shoreline.

FRS radios work to connect to the communications hub from all parts of Briarcrest except the low area at the southwest end of the neighborhood. We do now have the capability to find out what’s going on in Briarcrest. We can also make contact with other local areas.

CERT members recently participated in a tabletop exercise led by Jason Macmillan. A situation (a building that had exploded) was presented, and small groups discussed what to do based on what they have learned in CERT training. In the scenario, participants had to decide how to deal with smoke, bleeding, lost kids, and updates on a changing situation. Lee said it was pretty exciting to work through. Bill said that knowing the neighborhood (location of apartment buildings, veterinarian, etc.) really helped, as it would in a real situation.

Guest presentation – Eric Bratton, Communications Program Director, City of Shoreline on the tax measure for new sidewalks, up for a vote on Nov. 6 as Proposition 1.

The original sidewalks in Shoreline were built to King County rural standards, so there weren’t many. People have been talking about more sidewalks since incorporation. It’s our next big infrastructure investment. Only one-third of the arterials have sidewalks, and neighborhood streets have even fewer. Residents aren’t satisfied with the condition of existing sidewalks and the need for more.

In Shoreline, 78 miles of sidewalks have been built, but we need 75 miles more to complete the city’s Pedestrian Plan – at an estimated cost of $110,000,000.

The recently approved increase in vehicle license fee will go to repair and maintenance of sidewalks, but not to construction of new ones.

Why are sidewalks so expensive? Besides construction costs, there are driveway crossings, fences and landscaping, utility relocations, curb ramps and other ADA requirements, and stormwater and amenity zones to deal with.

A 15-member advisory committee was appointed by the city manager to represent Shoreline’s different neighborhoods, backgrounds, and interests. [No one in Briarcrest was pm the committee.] The committee had to prioritize locations and look at funding options, working for about a year. Access and mobility for everyone was the highest priority: safety, equity, proximity (e.g., to schools and parks), and connectivity were the four criteria. Results: they established high, medium, and low priorities for all sidewalk projects.

The City Council approved the prioritization plan and looked at funding; they decided on an increase in the sales and use tax from the current 10% to 10.2% to be in place for 20 years. This means an additional 2 cents for every $10 purchase. 10.2% puts us in the middle of surrounding cities on sales tax.

15th Ave NE between NE 150th and NE 160th is one of the priority projects, but not necessarily to be done first.

Income estimate: c. $2,000,000 in the first year, $59,000,000 over 20 years. Projects will be built over a period of 10 years with a sale of bonds to finance them in half the time of the income from the tax increase.

Questions and comments from attendees included the following.

Q: Have any funding decisions been made about the new parks and aquatic center? A: No, no citizens’ committee has been established yet for that.

Q: Will any asphalt sidewalks be used? They don’t hold up well, especially for wheelchair use – lumpy in the first year. A: Agreed.

Q: NE 147th Street needs a sidewalk since it’s congested. Can that be added? A: There are many needs all over the city, and the committee determined priorities.

Q: Will there be traffic issues during construction? A: There will be some disruption during the process.

Q: New developments are required to include sidewalks. Will that help the process? A: If any of the priority areas are to be developed, developers would be required to do that.

Q: Are there any plans to have public pro-and-con discussions? A: The city isn’t planning that, but some organizations are.

Q: It would be interesting to know how the committee surveyed the Briarcrest neighborhood, or whether they did, since we didn’t have anyone on the committee. A: Information about the committee’s work is on the city website. The committee worked within the city’s 2011 Pedestrian System Plan.

Bettelinn made a comment about the proposed sidewalk on 15th Ave. NE along the western boundary of Hamlin Park. Charlie Brown advocated for a sidewalk to be placed just inside the woods, parallel to the street, not right next to the arterial, and this was well received by the then-head of the Parks Department.

Bill mentioned that people can go to City Council meetings to speak for 3 minutes each to advocate for specific sidewalks, but nothing can be done if there isn’t more money.

Recology presentation update – Janelle: – Thanks to the BNA for co-sponsoring the recology presentation at the Shoreline United Methodist Church. About 30 people attended.

A great deal of information was presented about how to recycle. For example, crinkly plastic (e.g., wrapping on toilet tissue) goes into the garbage bin. But other (non-crinkly) plastic bags can be stuffed into a plastic bag about the size of a human head and put into the blue recycling bin. Clean-and-dry is very important for everything.

Janelle thinks the church and BNA should do this again in 2 years to reach more people and to present any changes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11. Next meeting: Tuesday, November 13.

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary