**MINUTES of the BRIARCREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION APPROVED**

**Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024 – meeting via Zoom**

Attendance: Jean Hilde, Sarah Kaye, Devra Gartenstein, Bettelinn Brown, Paul Kowalski (checking in), Heidi Shepherd, Alice Keller

Meeting called to order by Jean at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes from Nov. 12: Approved as written.

Treasurer's report, Sarah: $562, unchanged from last month.

Camp United We Stand

We discussed having a collection again this January, as we have done for a couple of years, from BNA members for items on the camp's wish list. We've refilled their propane tanks, as well. Jean has had trouble recently getting in touch with the camp since they have a new chairperson, but Jean doesn't know who it is.

Heidi will contact Bill Leon, a board member, to find out what they currently need and what date would work best for them. In the past, they have sent us a wish list and we have asked BNA members to donate new and high-quality items, responding to the wish list.

Heidi said that the camp is required to make changes to comply with fire-department requirements for whatever city they're in. They didn't have the money to do that for their current location (Shoreline Free Methodist Church on 175th), so Heidi contacted the Rotary Club. Their Community Service Committee was, fortunately, able to pay for those changes. (Shoreline is more encampment-friendly than Seattle.)

Update on Briarcrest Park (east Hamlin Park, Sarah

The city is hopeful to receive permits for this work soon. Notices to neighbors about construction noise may be sent soon; the parking lot on 25th will close during construction. The city has not considered parking impact to neighbors.  
The hope is that work will start in the first quarter of 2025. The target is to finish before ospreys return to nest, which is April-ish, though some of us wondered if that's going to be possible. Sarah asked about the expected duration of construction and received no answer.

Future of the BNA, Devra and all

There was an extended discussion of what the future of the BNA should be.

*Non-profit status:*

There is a confusion between non-profit status, which we have and maintain through an annual registration (not a re-application); and 501(c)3 status, which we do not have and which would involve a lot of doing to achieve. We need to maintain our current basic non-profit status to get mini-grants and mailing support from the city, but we do not need 501(c)3 status.

Should we continue our non-profit status? We have to comply with various requirements for that. If we're not a non-profit, we can do whatever we want without having to meet those. The annual registration costs $20. Since we don't take donations or ask for tax relief, we don't really need nonprofit status, except for eligibility for certain things from the city.

We will continue this part of the discussion when Bill Bear is in attendance, since he has opinions on the topic.

*Attendance at monthly meetings*

We have made various good attempts to increase attendance at the monthly meetings, but that hasn't really worked for whatever assortment of reasons. The termination of the Council of Neighborhoods has also led to less coordination among neighborhoods.

But maybe we shouldn't actually worry about low attendance at most of our meetings. The Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association, for instance, isn't concerned about attendance at their regular meetings, as long as people show up for their annual ice cream social, which is always a big success. Should we follow that example, as long as people come to our picnic?

Perhaps we should just focus on one or two regular activities per year that people can look forward to: a spring dinner (as we did this year) and our August picnic, both of which have had good turnouts. We could focus our energy on those things, with publicity through the city (as usual) and by us.

Devra would like us to feel good about what we do instead of wringing our hands about what we're not achieving.

*Do we want to continue monthly meetings?*

If so, should we invite more guest speakers? It's not worth the work and a speaker's time if attendance is very small and consists mostly of people who are already pretty well tuned into what's going on city-wide. However, city staff have community outreach as part of their job, so we can ask them.

Should we change the meeting length to 1 hour instead of 90 minutes? Would more people show up in that case?

*Continue meetings via Zoom or change to in-person? How about hybrid?*

We had a good turnout for a Zoom meeting with the chief of police in 2022. Hybrid meetings tend to be awkward for communication. All-Zoom meetings work better than hybrid, but we could try one. Sarah volunteered to be in charge of the tech aspects -- but not in January, when we have a guest speaker scheduled. Sarah suggests trying in February since she doesn't know if the attempt will go well.

Devra isn't in favor of all in-person meetings. Location could be a problem. She may not be able to offer Patty Pan, as she did before we changed to Zoom during the pandemic. They were devoting a third of their space to something that happened once a month, which didn't work well for the business.

Jean will ask Bill Bear to find out how much it would cost to meet at Briarcrest Elementary.

*Possible revision of by-laws*

Our by-laws were revised in 2015 (with one amendment in 2018), when we were about to reboot the association after a year's hiatus. Since at that point we didn't really know what our renewed organization would look like, maybe it's time to take another look at the by-laws to see how relevant they are today, as we actually operate.

Alice will send out the current by-laws with the minutes to ask for response and to seek any volunteers interested in being on a revision committee. We already have a couple of people from tonight's meeting. Such a committee would meet in person, and Alice has offered her living room.

January meeting

Eric Ingraham of the Shoreline Firefighters Union and the Shoreline fire chief will speak about the prospective merging of the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments as a Regional Fire Authority. This will be up for a vote in February.

Heidi suggested that we might invite another neighborhood association to participate, as well.

Jean will try to get out earlier publicity for these speakers, perhaps in the Shoreline Area News, besides emails.

Miscellaneous news

Lois Harrison is doing well in retirement at Ada Culver. She has a comfortable apartment there and enjoys visitors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01.

Next BNA meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025. Guest speakers (see above).

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary