**MINUTES of the BRIARCREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**-- APPROVED --**

**Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025 – meeting via Zoom**

Attendance: Sarah Kaye, Devra Gartenstein, Bettelinn Brown, Alice Keller, Trevor Braund, Heidi Shepherd, Bill Bear

Meeting called to order by Sarah at 7:00.

Minutes from Jan. 14: Approved as amended (by one word).

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

If we meet at the Elks Lodge next month, they ask $50. No objection from attendees.

Update on BNA Bylaws evolution, Alice

The committee to look over the bylaws (Alice, Devra, Rachel) has met twice, examining every phrase and clause to try to bring them into alignment with how the BNA has evolved since 2015, when these bylaws were extensively revised. They now have a document that they think is close to ready to present to the BNA for discussion and a vote at the March meeting.

They'd like input on one point tonight: the term "Leadership Team," which has been used for the entire email list, regardless of how active an individual is in the BNA. There's been discussion within and beyond the committee about whether to change that, but so far no consensus.

Alice read quotes, anonymously but with permission, from two people whose emails seem to sum up the pros and cons of whether to keep the term "Leadership Team."

In favor of keeping the term: "While I understand that not everyone on the email list is participating in "leadership", including everyone in that term is (a) very inclusive and (b) might make folks *feel*like they're part of the "leadership", which (c) could inspire them to actually become more active participants."

In favor of changing the term: "I found the term "Leadership Team" to be really confusing when I joined. The term 'leadership' implies exclusivity. Not everyone can be a leader. Who is the Leadership Team leading, if the team is everyone?

From a practical standpoint, I also wasn't sure if I was in the right place for the first meeting because I was new to the group and therefore expected that I wouldn't (and didn't really want to) be on the Leadership Team from the start. A lot of people want to try things out without a lot of commitment and joining a 'Leadership Team' off the bat might be intimidating."
Sarah said she's in favor of a change, shifting to "active participants" as a more inclusive term. No others verbalized an opinion.

Sarah suggested sending the question out to the email list, and Alice agreed to do that.

Sarah pointed out that there are actually two email lists, the "Leadership Team" list and a Google Group list, which had not been clear to the committee before.

[Since the meeting, Jean has clarified that the Google Group is not connected to the BNA but is, rather, a neighborhood list that Jean maintains. She sometimes sends announcements of BNA activities to that group, as well as to the BNA list.]

The committee is recommending that the BNA allow support of ballot measures (but still not of candidates). Sarah will ask Mallory Van Abbema, Community Opportunities Coordinator with the city, whether we'd be in trouble with the city if we take a stand on ballot measures.

Spring party, Bettelinn

Shoreline Christian Reformed Church has given an official OK for Saturday, April 26. Jim Miller, a member of the church and the BNA, has been very helpful.

Bettelinn asked for recommendations for a good printer for the invitation. Suggestions: Aurora Print near JoAnn Fabrics and Prestige Copy and Print at 125th and 15th.

Bettelinn needs a team of helpers for the party. Sarah would like to do some BNA membership recruiting at a table there. That will be her focus this year.

Bill suggested dues so that people feel more like *members* -- just $1 or $2, and not annually, once only, just to sign up as a member.

Bettelinn asked whether there should be background music and if so, who. People liked the idea, but no suggestions.

What about a theme for the party? "Kindness" was agreed on, due to our stressful times and because it's on our BNA signs. How should that be expressed at the party? Devra suggested making it interactive, such as drawing or writing things on large paper to reflect kindness in the Briarcrest Neighborhood.

Sarah will have more signs made by the date of the party.

There will be name tags based on the area of Briarcrest where each person lives.

Heidi suggested that people put a colored dot on their home's location when they come in, using the same large Briarcrest map as last year.

Devra asked whether to have a taco bar again, like last year, or something else. Consensus to repeat.

Publicity: announcements on the BNA website, plus hand-delivering invitations on blocks.

With the world in turmoil, what can we do to encourage kindness in Briarcrest and in our wider community?

Now we have it as the party theme.

Since Jean has announced that she's not going to continue as director next year, Sarah said that she would be willing, for one year, with a focus on membership. Beyond that, her time is too limited.

Members should think about officer nominations for the April meeting. Elections in May.

East Hamlin Park update, Sarah

Construction has been postponed till May, which may be bad for ospreys nesting there.

Chris Southwick may be a source for information about osprey nesting. Heidi also suggested Birds Connect Seattle (formerly Seattle Audubon) and will contact them. Jacob Bilbo, Parks Bond Project Manager, hasn't responded to Sarah's emails about protecting the ospreys.

[Note: The following day, Sarah received this message from Jacob: "Our goal is to minimize disturbances to the Ospreys while also improving this park for Shoreline residents. Our environmental consultant has provided guidelines and best management practices for working near the nest that will be followed during the project. They will also continue to monitor construction and make changes to those guidelines as needed. The site plans have changed somewhat from the schematic drawings shared online due to site constraints and stormwater requirements, however the planned amenities are remaining the same."]

Bill said that the city will pay attention to people with some clout, as a recognized authority. The BNA can do more in that regard, for instance by going as a group to the city on an issue.

Bettelinn added that the South Woods group has been working to develop more authority. It's unfortunate that the school district has put up a fence on the high-school side and a gravel path without communication with the South Woods group.

Update on hybrid (in-person + virtual) future BNA meetings, Sarah

The March meeting will be hybrid if it can be worked out with the Elks Lodge on 15th Ave NE.

Ideas for the BNA, Trevor Braund

1. Traffic and safety: 25th Ave NE is something of a racetrack. Could there be speed bumps, speed cameras? A coordinated effort would be beneficial.

2. Hamlin Park has opportunities for volunteering. The park and the BNA might coordinate.

3. Increase in Briarcrest's tree canopy. Advocate for trees in city rights of way. The city offers free trees to residents.

4. Increased socialization among neighbors. The website might have a section in which people request certain types of help and neighbors respond.

Re. Item 1: The BNA did have a meeting with a police officer a few years ago on this topic. The police don't want speed bumps because it makes their work more difficult. It's also bad for snow-plowing.

A speed camera might be a good idea, the type that shows how fast a car is going, not for purposes of ticketing.

Re. Item 2: Neighbors helping neighbors, a sustained effort, would be great. Maybe we could get this started at the party.

Sarah hopes we can use these ideas to stir up interest and get more people involved.

Severe weather shelter, Heidi

Due to behavioral and medical issues (such as drugs), this is now run by King County at St. Dunstan's, by the Homelessness Authority with paid staff from the Urban League along with church volunteers. It's been full in this cold weather, with 25-28 people every night. St. Dunstan's is the only severe-weather shelter in North King County, the only place that has volunteered to host. It's open from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m., when it's still very cold, but people must leave then, so there is urgency for a day center.

Shoreline has a leadership position on this in the area, with funding from the city, unlike the other 5 nearby King County cities.

Time to think about mini-grants. Ideas?

Sarah asked people to be thinking about this.

Future meetings to stir up more interest and increase attendance

More suggestions put forward: We might offer some kind of training in every meeting, perhaps something in the human services world. Spotlights on new people in the neighborhood. Work on building community.

More speakers -- Devra suggested the Shoreline Farmer's Market director. Heidi suggested the new principal of Briarcrest Elementary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Next BNA meeting: Tuesday, March 11, either Zoom only or maybe hybrid (in-person and via Zoom).

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary