**MINUTES of the BRIARCREST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION APPROVED**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – meeting via Zoom**

Attendance: Jean Hilde, Sarah Kaye, Devra Gartenstein, Bettelinn Brown, Alice Keller, Heidi Shepherd, Bill Bear, Lee Keim, Kristine S---, Rachel Roberts, Roxanne Tucker.

Guest speaker: Jacob Bilbo

Meeting called to order by Jean at 7:03.

Minutes from Feb. 11: Approved with one change by Alice.

Treasurer's report, Sarah: $562, unchanged.

Sarah said that the BNA kiosk on 25th has graffiti. She'd like to spend some money to have this repaired/touched up by the neighbor who painted the design. Bettelinn will talk to the artist.

She will also talk to Kevin Hickenbottom, Shoreline Urban Forester, about pruning the conifer that blocks the view of the kiosk.

Revised BNA Bylaws: Devra

Devra invited a discussion of the newly revised BNA Bylaws, which were emailed to all members last week. Alice mentioned 2 small revisions that members suggested in response: In Article II: Purpose, to expand the last bullet point to "Advocate on behalf of Briarcrest residents with *entities including but not limited to* the City of Shoreline and Shoreline School District 412," and in Article IV, Officers, to add this to the duties of the Secretary: "Be responsible for sharing the financial status with the Active Participants."

There was a motion to approve with those two additions, and the revised Bylaws were unanimously approved.

They will appear on the website: https://www.briarcrestneighbors.org

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

With new insurance information from the city, we're good to go on this, at Shoreline Elks. If we set a quarterly schedule for hybrid meetings, Sarah suggests June for the first one, and then September and December.

Shoreline Elks would like a $50 donation for each meeting ($200/yr for quarterly meetings). We might fundraise for that purpose.

The Elks are interested in working with neighborhood groups.

Spring party: Bettelinn -- Saturday, April 26.

Arrangements have been made with the Christian Reformed Church, where we had this party last year. Bettelinn will create a special events team for the event.

Sarah will have a BNA membership table with some Briarcrest history.

Since we've established Kindness as the theme for the party, relevant materials will be near the membership table.

Some city staff will be invited, including the Emergency Preparedness manager.

Bettelinn would appreciate help in hand-delivering invitations to residents of the 6 areas of Briarcrest.

South Woods: Bettelinn

Bettelinn and two other South Woods volunteers met with Kevin Hickenbottom, Shoreline Urban Forester, and Kiley Pazcoguin, Urban Forestry Specialist, to set up a work plan for the year at South Woods. There will be restoration work in an area severely affected by recent storms which uprooted and felled trees.

A work party is scheduled for April 5, focusing on the area east of the main path.

Guest speaker -- Jacob Bilbo, City of Shoreline Parks Capital Project Manager

With a series of visuals, Jacob Bilbo gave a brief history of the 2022 Park Bond Measure, including how public input was obtained in 2022-23, and where things stand now for the east side of Hamlin Park, on 25th Ave NE between Shorecrest and Kellogg schools.

The measure includes improvements to 8 parks, including Hamlin Park, for land acquisition, parks design, and art.

The Briarcrest neighborhood park will have its own name, but for now it's still officially Hamlin Park. The name could become Briarcrest Park, but that's not determined yet. There will be an official process to rename it.

*Features in this park include the following:*

One large play area on the hill with a large play structure for climbing. A large concrete slide on the slope, ADA accessible. Intended for ages 5-12.

A smaller separate play area for younger kids.

Play surface: will be like the new surface in Ridgecrest Park, rubber. Cork could be an alternative, but in this area, it seems prone to rotting. They might test it out in Hillwood, in a smaller area.

Two splash pads of different sizes --

A smaller splash pad to the west for smaller children, more accessible.

 Concrete wall for seating alongside. A more gradual slope for wheelchairs, etc.

A larger splash pad to the east will have more objects, more actual spray, for more active play. An accessible path to it.

When the water is shut off in winter, there will still be play elements.

Some water-play elements may be removed in winter to prevent vandalism.

Current restroom will be renovated to be much nicer.

A bending river feature.

2 loop paths, a picnic shelter (big enough for 2 tables), multiple benches around the park.

Accessible parking spots, and an accessible ramp, an accessible path from it.

A zipline, the longest allowed without additional safety gear, over 100 feet long.

Opportunity for a mural on pump room plus more art.

More trees will be planted.

Lighting will be Dark Sky compliant.

*Construction time frame*

The park will be closed as of March 24. Starting date for construction is now. The date has been a moving target due to uncertainty about issuance of permits. They're hopeful that permits will be issued next month.

It's difficult to give a realistic time frame due to many factors. Apologies for that.

Much demolition is to be done.

Construction will last till spring 2026. Other parks in this project have been ahead of schedule.

Site access will be announced and signed for users as it changes.

A boundary for the ballfields will be set now so that people don't start using them and then have to get kicked off.

Ballfield 5 remains open for now, though it will have to close during parts of construction. Ballfield 6 will permanently close.

There could be partial or full closure of parking lot during construction.

SaniCans will be available while the restroom is being renovated.

*Trees*

Five treeswill come down for the widened ADA ramp on a steep slope, the same location as the current path from the parking lot. These trees were deemed not healthy or in the way of the path. The planners tried to preserve as many trees as possible.

Trees to be removed are being recorded. There are now 334 trees on site; 13 will be removed, which means 90% retainage. Fifty-five new trees will be planted, which is many more than required. The current design of the accessible ramp has the least impact on trees of the designs considered.

Additional trees will be planted. Jacob will provide a list of those species (to Jean, I think).

*Ospreys*

There's been a lot of concern about disturbance to nesting ospreys in the park.

A Best Practices Plan presented by the environmental consultant will be followed. Demolition will start as far away from the nest as possible. The majority of that will be done by hand, with as little noise as possible. No staging of materials near nest. Noise and disturbance to vegetation will be minimized. Now is not the ideal time for this project, regarding the birds, but winter isn't ideal, either, for other reasons. They're trying to balance construction with osprey needs.

The nest will not be disturbed, but there will be a new nesting platform on a pole. The goal is to provide a better habitat for them. The ecologist thinks ospreys are likely to move over to a better platform, and there's local precedent for this having happened. The new platform will be fairly close to the existing nest, 20-30 feet away at most.

Some ballfield lighting will be removed, but not the light pole with osprey nest.

The Shoreline Area News had an article about a glitch in the reporting of funds for the remaining projects, so the City Council needed to approve more spending. Jacob clarified that the money was already in the budget, but it just had not been officially approved for expenditures. This was not a change in the money budgeted for the project. Now the City Council has approved the expenditures.

The city provides periodic updates in the Shoreline Area News on line and the *Currents* publication from the city.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:33.

Next BNA meeting: Tuesday, April 8, via Zoom

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary