

Southwest Hills Residential League
Quarterly Membership Meeting
Ainsworth School, January 31, 2007

The meeting began at 7 PM with SWHRL president Jim Thayer presiding. Jim opened the meeting with a few minutes of silence to honor Sean Fennerty, a SWHRL resident who was killed in Iraq.

Jim established that a quorum was present.

Board members present: Norman Turrill, Lena Lane, Aloha Wyse, Don Livingstone, Nan Koerner, Alice Stolzberg, Steve Gann, Jim Thayer

SWHRL members present: Mona Brett, Andrew Holtz, Kelly Holtz, Nanette Klimkow, John Knapp, Suzanne Knapp, Jim Lafky, Harris Matarazzo, Paul Meyer, Madeline Nelson, Blythe Olson, Nancy Seton, Richard Seton, John Slocum, Laura Torgerson, Phyllis Towne

Others present: Lee Perlman, Andrew Goodell, Erik Espazza, Laura Lacey, Joel Raftern, Ruth Ann Angell

A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Bylaws Change – Nan Koerner

The main impetus for the bylaws changes instituted last year was to give members more of a say in the organization; previously the Board had total control except for annual board elections. Another reason was that since the 2005 Annual meeting, there are fewer people participating by being on the Board, so there is no longer representation for all of the sub-neighborhoods of SWHRL.

However, the vote today is on 2 specific minor issues. One is to change the words “Executive Secretary” to “Executive Assistant”. The second is to change the wording that stipulates that a quarterly meeting must be held on a Wednesday.

A final vote on these changes will take place at the March quarterly meeting as required by the new bylaws. The exact proposal would make two sections of the Bylaws read as follows:

Article IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 15. **Agenda:** Any Resident may request the President or Executive Assistant to include a subject for consideration at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Such request shall be in writing and received by SWHRL at least three (3) days before the notice of the meeting is required by Section 9 of this Article.

Article VIII. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 3. **Date and Time of Membership Meetings:**

a. **Annual Membership Meetings:** Annual Membership Meetings for the election of Directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the

meeting, shall be held each year at 7:00 P.M. on a date during the month of May at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. If the Annual Membership Meeting is not held in May, the President may call the Annual Membership Meeting within ninety (90) days after May by notice. If the Annual Membership Meeting is not held in May or during the ninety-day period thereafter, then any ten (10) Members may call the Annual Membership Meeting at any time.

b. **Regular Membership Meetings:** The Board of Directors shall set a time and place for Regular Membership Meetings on a date in at least the months of September, January and March.

Motion: Approve the 2 bylaws changes described above.

Made by: Norman Turrill

Second: Paul Meyer.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on whether or not to join Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI)

Jim Thayer referred to a 2-page handout available at the meeting, which is a recap of the article he wrote for the fall 2006 *Viewpoints*. He urged people to be respectful of our sense of community, our sense of unity. He has his own opinion on the matter but will not push it. Practical reasons should not be the main motivator on this if people feel that being an independent NA is an integral part of our character.

The pros of joining include:

- SWHRL could extend its leadership role to a wider area by working in concert with other NAs.
- We could still oppose the city if it were necessary
- We would benefit from SWNI's event insurance and 501(c)(3) status
- Their monthly newsletter would give us a wider and more timely method for disseminating information
- More comprehensive and timely notification from many city bureaus

Motion: SWHRL should join SWNI.

Made by: Norman Turrill

Second: Aloha Wyse

John Slocum: What about SWNI's position, if SWHRL should to decide to oppose the city?

Jim Thayer: SWNI bylaws state that it will not take a position in opposition to any one of its members. There are 16 NAs in SWNI. Each one essentially has veto power, which has its pluses and minuses.

Nancy Seton: There are 16 NAs and 3 business associations. Leonard Gard from their Land Use committee attended a SWHRL meeting, and Nancy is excited about his ability to help SWHRL on Land Use issues.

Steve Gann: Asked whether we have access to his assistance now.

Nan Koerner: We work with other NAs now, e.g. on the overlap issue, we don't need to join SWNI to do that.

Jim Thayer: He has attended SWNI meetings, but can't vote, can't lead.

Harris Matarazzo: He is very opposed to joining SWNI. As taxpayers, we should get access to ONI's services as it is. The SWNI newsletter is all written by the city, in his opinion.

While we don't currently have non-profit status, we could get that status in minutes.

Jim Thayer: We could still sue the city, even if we did join SWNI.

Harris Matarazzo: We couldn't sue them for monetary awards.

Jim Thayer: The coalition would give us access to insurance. We are the only residential NA, except for Healy Heights that is small and inactive, which is not part of a coalition. SWHRL has tried for years to obtain 501(c)(3) status and failed. The SWNI newsletter is written by members of local NAs, and is not a city organ.

Norman Turrill: Spoke to the contention that SWNI is controlled by the city. It's an independent 501(c)(3) that has a contract with the city to deliver certain services. It is not controlled by the city; joining it would allow us to expand our influence.

Steve Gann: Asked where SWNI money comes from.

Norman Turrill: From fund-raising activities and from the city contract.

Jim Thayer: The city gives SWNI \$2K for every NA member.

Paul Meyer: What would we lose by joining SWNI?

Jim Thayer: Historically, SWHRL has been independent from the city, and seen as being squeaky clean by virtue of being on the outside. But this position may no longer be useful in terms of how we work with other NAs, and may have become a barrier to working effectively on Land Use and Transportation issues, which are inherently regional. The issue has both emotional and practical sides.

Paul Meyer: So we could reap the benefits of both cooperative and independent status? There's no downside?

Jim Thayer: There are the issues raised by Harris Matarazzo.

Harris Matarazzo: In the past, SWHRL took on the city many times; we could not do this if we were in SWNI. As an independent organization, we could sue for attorney's fees. We are regarded with trepidation by the city for a reason.

Norman Turrill: Does not see why we could not sue.

Harris Matarazzo: One part of the city cannot sue another part of the city.

Norman Turrill: SWHRL has suffered a loss of regard as a result of past legal actions. We would not be part of the city, so could still sue if we wanted to do so.

Steve Gann: He entered SWHRL at the end of its last legal battle with the city – said it felt like the city was trying to keep SWHRL under its thumb. During the 2005 SWHRL elections, many people were afraid of this move to join SWNI. The idea to join was not a top-down decision by the Board – it all came from Jim Thayer. Steve doesn't see why we need to do it.

Jim Thayer: He has taken the time to look at the situation, and is concerned about how the neighbors feel; he won't push the issue, but we need to consider it. It's important to consider what we want to do, remain independent or work more with others.

Motion: Postpone the decision until the March quarterly meeting.

Made by: Paul Meyer

Second: Steve Gann

Paul Meyer: He is new to the organization and feels like he does not have enough information, needs more detail on the legal aspects. What are the legal rulings around our ability to act independently if we join SWNI?

Aloha Wyse: She is a member of 2 NAs, Hillsdale and SWHRL, as well as SWNI. She has attended many of the latter's meetings and knows how they act. They devoted a large amount of time and effort to help SWHRL during the overlap dispute, with the mailings, survey, and interpretation of survey results, and we were not even a member. She

understands Meyer's concerns, but stated that SWNI was present at the last quarterly meeting in September; we have discussed this issue fully once already.

Norman Turrill: Point of order – we need to vote on Paul's motion.

Jim Thayer: On the legal issue, he is not certain that we can sue for money, though we could sue. Harris's advice on this got thrown out of court previously.

Harris Matarazzo: It was his other advice that got thrown out, not the decision to sue the city.

Norman Turrill: Called for a vote on postponement motion.

Yes: 8

No: 11

Motion failed.

Nancy Seton: She is concerned and puzzled by the emphasis on litigation. The city has so many channels for NA feedback; there are many avenues of influence besides SWNI.

Jim Thayer: Suggested that people look at the SWNI website. Many of the city's decision makers meeting with the 7 coalitions but not with individual NAs – it's a time-saving tactic.

Vote on Norman's motion to join SWNI.

Yes: 14

No: 5

Abstain: 2

Motion passes.

SW Upper Drive Development – Doug Strickler

He has gotten a sense of the neighbor's concerns, and can modify his plans to address them. He has brought in some consultants to address technical issues. There are a number of areas with stability concerns, and part of the area is in an environmental overlay. He wants to replace 2 existing houses with 7 houses.

Don Livingstone: Would the new lots be less than 10K sq. ft.?

Doug Strickler: Yes. They have gone through the pre-application process, and have a letter from the city, but the application is incomplete. We need more information; for now the comments should be only on the completeness of the application, not on the content.

They are asking for variances because of the slope (including a retaining wall and grading), and on setbacks, especially on lot #1. There would be 10 ft. between the new houses.

Sean Foushee (Accent Homes): He knows that there are significant trees on the parcel; the ones they cut will be allowable under the city's code. The zoning is R-7, and they are meeting that requirement. The variances include a 2 ft. setback because of the slope. They would not be taking out any environmental areas.

Norman Turrill: Tract A is steeply downhill from the site – it will be in the city's environmental overlay, and would be dedicated to the city.

There is a brief discussion about how much of this development would be visible from Highway 26.

Jim Thayer: He has a question about the house facing into the cul-de-sac. The original Bureau of Development Services (BDS) ruling said that 6 houses would be too dense, and now they are proposing 7.

Shawn: That's because we've added more land to the original plan.

Jim Thayer: The design and density are out of character with the existing neighborhood, especially the density. This will have a significant impact on SW Montgomery Drive traffic.

Proposed replacement of the radio tower on Council Crest Park – Jim Thayer

When this tower was built 35 years ago, it was supposed to be temporary. Now it is in bad repair and the city wants to replace it on the same site. Notice of this went to Hillsdale and SWNI, but SWHRL was not notified. As a result of the powerful opposition the city encountered at the Hillsdale NA meeting, they will not be presenting this proposal again until March.

There is a public information, freedom of speech, first amendment aspect to this project, if the city can make the case that this is the only location that would allow dissemination of this information. We may need technical assistance on this aspect of the project.

Sam Jackson Parkway and Broadway Drive Condo Projects – Don Livingstone

The condos on Sam Jackson are proposed for 45 – 90 ft. tall. There would be a huge traffic impact, 2,200 car trips/day, and the cars would come out of the condo project on a hairpin curve with limited visibility.

Jim Thayer: The OHSU expansion is driving all of this high-density development. They should be looking at other areas for redevelopment instead of these sensitive areas, most notably an area near PSU. The Marquam Village area is also another likely target for redevelopment, though the landowners there are favored by the current status quo and would be resistant to redevelopment.

Other Business:

There is mention of a possible commercial development on Vista, across the street from Ainsworth School.

The Transportation committee succeeded in getting the city to change the timing of the traffic lights on the I405/Broadway interchange, to allow civilized access to cars coming down Broadway Drive.

Andrew Holtz: He is waiting on work from the city about walk-able swales. Don Baack of SW Trails is pushing hard for this. The Transportation committee needs to get together with the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) on this.

Don Livingstone has been looking into getting a left-turn light installed on Scholls Ferry at Patton Road. This area is in unincorporated Multnomah County. They are also looking at getting bike lanes created on Scholls. New development brings in money, especially if they are asking for variances. We might be able to get the city to use this money to put in sidewalks, etc. system development charge (SDC) money can be used over wider areas.

Member Kelly Brunn has looked into getting the city to install rubber blocks and reflectors on the center lane of Humphrey Blvd, after the snow season. He will also try to get them to move the arrow so that cars have more advance notice of the curve that is coming. There is no street light in the area. The pavement there is not thick enough for indentations. The city may try to borrow ODOT equipment to put down thermoplastic strips.

Jim Thayer: He wrote to FlexCar, exploring the idea of having a car in the SWHRL area.

SWHRL “war chest” – Jim Thayer

We have money from SWHRL’s lawsuit against the city, and from William Goode’s donation of his legal fees. Maybe we could use some of it for a challenge grant to build bio-swales. He asked people to think about ways to spend the money.

Paul Meyer: He mentioned the mayor’s Charter Commission. The City Council will probably refer charter amendment proposals to the May ballot.

Crime prevention coordinator Michael Boyer stated that he would like to speak to the group in the future – he acts as a liaison between the community and the police.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Klimkow
Executive Assistant for SWHRL