

Southwest Hills Residential League
Board Meeting
May 17, 2007

SWHRL Board member Lena Lane called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Board present: Alice Stolzberg, Aloha Wyse, Lena Lane, Nan Koerner, Tom Miller. Norman Turrill joined the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Board excused: Darroch Cahen, Don Livingstone, Julia Harris, Steve Gann

Members present: Nancy Seton, Simone Goldfeder

SWHRL President Jim Thayer arrived at 7:10 PM and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Review of minutes of the last Board meeting

- Simone Goldfeder submitted some corrections to the minutes of the April 19th meeting at the meeting. They were amended to incorporate her corrections, including having Kendall Youngblood, from Energy Trust, as a speaker, possibly at a special workshop instead of a Board meeting. Nancy Seton and Simone will arrange this.
- Jim suggested asking Ruth Schriber to speak. She is a new member of BDS.
- The minutes were approved unanimously with the suggested corrections.

Treasurer's report

- Treasurer Alice Stolzberg did not have the May report, but said that the current balance is \$15,004.42. She will amend the report to incorporate credits and debits submitted by Nanette.
- The draft annual Treasurer's report that Alice brought to the meeting was approved unanimously.

Report on current membership drive efforts – Nanette Klimkow

- In late April, 221 Reminder letters were sent. Eight were returned as unable to deliver. Twenty-three were returned with contributions, which equals a return rate of 10.4%
- In early May, 225 Reminder letters were sent, this time with an addressed return envelope. Five have been returned in less than one week.
- Contributions from both equaled \$1,210.50. Expenses were \$254.17, for a net of \$956.33.
- Suggestions were made to increase revenue, including hosting a Neighborhood Night Out event, publishing remembrances in Viewpoints, sending a post-card follow-up to people that do not respond to the Reminder letter, and including suggested levels of contributions.
- Other suggestions included:
 - Making Viewpoints more of a neighborhood newsletter
 - Allowing people to give donations as honoraria
 - Publishing a list of neighbors who have donated
 - Picking people in the neighborhood to profile
 - Sponsoring animals at the zoo.
 - Coordinating with realtors to create welcome packages
 - Have a Q&A column like the ones in SWNI News
 - Coordinate with the Ainsworth and Street of Eames Home tours

- There was a discussion about quarterly meetings; the next one will be in September, which will allow time to prepare the next Viewpoints, incorporating the changes described above. More suggestions were made, including having articles about the history of the neighborhood, history walks, using a smaller font size, and moving the Board list to the inside and putting a list of sponsors on the front page.
- Nanette will modify the Membership application, removing the statement about SWHRL being independent, including the new membership categories, and stating that checks need to be made out to SWNI in order to be tax-deductible.
- A **motion** by Jim Thayer was made to change membership categories: up to \$35 would be a member, up to \$50 would be a sponsor, and up to \$100 would be a patron. In addition, renewing members would be publicized in *Viewpoints* in their respective categories. The motion passed unanimously.
- A **motion** by Lena Lane was made to seek advertising sponsors in Viewpoints. Nanette will ask Eric Davis at Stroheckers what he currently pays for advertising, and do further research on advertising rates in the SWNI newsletter. The motion passed unanimously.
- Nanette will talk to SWNI about a recent notice SWHRL received about liability insurance cancellation.

Transportation Committee Report

The committee did not meet this month, so there is no report.

Land Use Committee Report – Nancy Seton

- The committee met on May 8. Simone reported on a Citywide Land Use Group meeting in April that focused on Measure 37 issues, infill, skinny houses, and the shortage of funding for green building projects. A district planner, Brain Sheehan, was assigned as the liaison for the entire west side – the Portland Planning Department website has information on this.
- A major issue discussed at the meeting was the traffic problems in the Corbett-Lair Hill neighborhood.
- Suggestions were made to re-develop the Marquam Village area.
- OHSU is interested in increasing density in the central city area south of OHSU to accommodate its housing needs, and those of PSU, which has increasing needs for residential housing. There was talk of a new urban renewal area that would connect the south waterfront area to the ADP building and the Zell property. The last central city plan was drafted in 1998; a new one will come out in 2008 with some new ideas, and will incorporate a large outreach effort.
- A concern is that fixing the traffic concerns in the central city area might have an adverse impact on west coast freight, as much of it goes through that area.
- Nancy said that OHSU wrote a letter to the city expressing their concerns, but not strong objections, to the condo project on Sam Jackson Parkway. The SWNI Land Use committee voted to propose that the SWNI Board write a letter to the city Parks and Recreation department suggesting that they purchase the area under the proposed condos for a park, but the city may not have enough money to fund another green space.
- The Land Use committee hosted planner Beverly Booking, and Bryan Higgins and Skip Stanaway of architectural firm SRG Partnership Inc., who made a presentation on the Shriner's Hospital expansion. The Land Use Committee will write a letter in support of the project. Shriner's is proposing building up over their existing garage, in order to optimize the organization of their facility. Currently they want to build three stories, but may want to build six when they get the money. The Homestead NA suggested that the project could add more sustainable design features.

- Beverly maintained that existing green building guidelines may not be suitable to hospitals. OHSU has nevertheless implemented many such features.
- The SW Upper Drive project was recommended for approval by the city, dependent on satisfying certain conditions. The city sent in an arborist, who determined that more trees need to be preserved. The developer, Accent Homes, has hired an attorney, which is standard practice in situations like this. They may try to dispute the arborist's findings. Accent has chosen not to make adjustments requested by the city – they could not make adjustments at the last minute, because any adjustments would have to be studied by BDS and the city. This development is a contentious issue, and BDS is aware of that.
 - Simone asked how best to prepare for the hearing; she was advised to address the key points that were identified in the staff report.
 - Jim suggested holding the next Land Use Committee meeting at a home on SW Upper Drive; Simone will follow up on this.
 - The suggestion was made to find an articulate person to speak at the hearing. It would be good to have photos.
 - Jim is working with the Planning Department, BDS and BES, so he might not be able to testify for SWHRL. It matters how many people show up at the meeting.
- Nancy has written a letter about the SW Cardinell Drive project.
- SWHRL was contacted by a member concerned about a proposed sport court on SW Patton Court. The site is a beautiful ravine the in woods and the proposed court would tower 20 feet over the ravine. The BDS planner in charge told the applicant not to bother having his supporters write to BDS, since the approval process should not be problematic. The next-door neighbor, an architect, wrote a strong letter of objection. The BDS planner is new and unfamiliar with some of the zoning cods involved. Nancy spoke to the applicant on the phone, and requested that he give her the email addresses of the supporters. She already had letters from neighbors opposing the project. Nancy managed to get a letter in at the last minute that discussed neighbors' input, from both sides, expressed agreement with opponents concerns, and questioned the appropriateness of the project in a steep environmental zone, but did not directly oppose the project on behalf of SWHRL.
 - Nan raised the issue of what happens to the court when the current tenants leave.
 - Jim said that SWHRL has authorized heads of our committees to make policy statements on our behalf. We don't have to present both sides – we can take a stand on issues. SWHRL needs to decide what level to act on as issues like this come up.
 - Norman suggested that we treat this as a dispute between neighbors, and try to resolve the dispute.
 - Nan said that she thinks SWHRL should be proactive instead of presenting a balanced position.
 - Nancy recommended advocating for the creation of more play areas, which might obviate the need for this type of development.

Nominating Committee Report – Norman Turrill

- Norman presented a list of nominees: Darroch Cahen, Steve Gann, Julia Harris, Lena Lane, Don Livingstone, Tom Miller, Alice Stolzberg, Jim Thayer, himself, Aloha Wyse, Nancy Seton, Simone Goldfeder, and Andrew Holtz.
- Lena suggested contacting Dale Farr.
- Norman's new neighbor Lucy Bosworth might be interested, but has a prior commitment on Thursday evenings. He suggested that SWHRL might reschedule the meeting time.

Annual Meeting Planning

- Jim said that he is meeting with Bruce Warner tomorrow, and asked for input on what SWHRL would like him to address in his presentation. This is the first time that the Portland Development Commission (PDC) has met with a neighborhood association.
- Aloha asked whether, as a result of the recent election outcome, the PDC feels obligated to relate to neighborhood associations in a new way.
 - Jim answered that he had received an email from Warner today that stated that things are going to change. Aloha asked whether the PDC is trying to discern the reasons behind the election outcome.
- Tom asked what the relevance of the PDC is to SWHRL. Jim answered that the PDC spends money in urban renewal areas. The closest thing to SWHRL is the Vista tunnel, which was the first PDC project. Mostly they work on are large projects that don't impact neighborhoods per se. The Central City plan is probably the project that would affect SWHRL the most.
 - Jim works at PDC on the economic development side, looking at how freight issues affect the economic development of the community. One issue is the question whether to distribute low-cost housing equally throughout the city versus consolidating it.
 - Simone asked about projects in environmental zones that have characteristics like the projects we have in SWHRL.
- There was a discussion about meeting coordination, including making sure people sign the right sheet, and are given colored cards for any floor votes.
 - Nancy asked for help in handing out her survey.
 - Nan and Lena volunteered to help on the sign-in table. All Board members need to arrive early.
 - The speaker will be first, followed by the business meeting. It will be important that people not leave the meeting so that there is a quorum. Once a quorum is established no one can question it. It will be necessary to be sure people are members before they are allowed to vote.
 - There is no agenda for the board meeting immediately following the meeting.

The Board presented out-going president Jim Thayer with a gift and card.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Klimkow
Executive Assistant to SWHRL