

PIEDMONT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2016

Present: Jan de Leeuw, Judy Farmer, Deanne Gomez, Dan Pape, Daniel Cohnstaedt, Danno Regester, Max Brown, Sarah Medeiros

Absent: Brian Borrello

Guest: Tom Griffin-Valade, North Portland Neighborhood Office

Location: Peninsula Park Community Center, Fireside Room

Introductions: Board members introduced themselves and mentioned the areas of interest they had in the Piedmont Neighborhood Association. In addition to their PNA interests, Jan will continue to attend the monthly NPLUG (North Portland Land Use Group) meetings; Danno will follow PSAC (North Portland Public Safety Action Committee) issues and activities and attend their meetings; Judy will continue attending the NoPoParks Meetings.

Officers: Jan will serve as the PNA Chair, Judy Farmer as the Secretary and Deanne Gomez will continue as Treasurer. The other Board members concurred in this decision.

Annual PNA Events: Neighborhood Clean-up at Holy Redeemer Church in April, National Night Out in early August in Peninsula Park and the Annual Neighborhood Block Party on the last Thursday in August at Deanne's home.

Actual and possible Projects List

At some point, it will be necessary for the Board to decide whether to concentrate on a few specific items or move forward with all projects.

Farragut Park Dog Park: Jan briefed the group on the efforts to create a fenced dog park in the Northeast corner of the park, hopefully, using the in place Union Pacific fence for the North border. The last time the matter was discussed with Parks Jan was told that all new initiatives were on hold. Danno mentioned that he had conversations with Stephen Bouffard, Parks Property Management Specialist, that some dog park proposals were moving forward. *Danno offered to talk with Bouffard about folding the Farragut Park proposal in with the ones being considered for approval.*

Tom offered to get contact information for the person coordinating the Union Pacific Railroad charitable arm so we could pursue building connections with them in hopes of someday soliciting financial support from them.

Jan wants to have the Dog Park as an agenda item for the January 2017 General Meeting since there are neighbors who are opposed to the project.

Historic status for Peninsula Park: A proposal was developed in 1985 to obtain historic status for Peninsula Park and Rose Garden, but, for unknown reasons, this did not happen. Judy will continue to investigate this matter, using the 1985 proposal as a starting point. Jan will research his records for the name of the current city designee who is responsible for this activity.

Intersection Street Painting: Various intersections have potential to be painted, including Williams Ave, North of Lombard; Bryant Street Bridge; Kirby and Farragut; Baldwin and Commercial. Brian Borello has offered to assist with planning and doing street painting projects.

Neighborhood Watch Blocks: Danno has worked with neighbors in the northwest section of Piedmont and several watch blocks have been activated.

PNA Website: In early 2016, work was done by a paid intern over a four-month period, revamping the website and making it a Word Press blog before she returned to school. So the website has been dormant for the past few months. *Danno knows someone who might be interested in working on the web site and will check with them and report back.*

In addition to information about PNA events and activities, Jan wants to post short bios about the board members.

e-Newsletter: The possibility of developing a quarterly e-Newsletter was discussed in terms of creating content and how much time it would take. No decisions were reached. Overlook neighborhood does a Friday e-mail blast. Kenton neighborhood provides an e-Newsletter.

Soil sampling: Sampling could be taken in the Piedmont Parks as this area is known for having dangerous chemicals in the soil. Ginger Edwards has soil samples taken from other North Portland parks. Some heavy metals have been found in these area park playgrounds

Air pollution monitoring: The first thing to do on this issue is to locate the monitoring stations in our neighborhood or the closest ones to Piedmont.

Contact non-geographical ONI entities: There are several local government entities with resources available to the Piedmont neighborhood including Commissioner Fritz's office, although commissioner department responsibilities may change when Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler takes office in January 2017. There are 3,000 street trees in Piedmont now dropping their leaves. There was some discussion about who is responsible for picking up the leaves. The first item to research is finding out the City Leaf Districts.

Contact Historic Columbian Cemetery: This is another initiative that can be considered. The Cemetery is located at 1151 N Columbia Boulevard.

Contact industrial neighbors: A general welcome letter can be developed and sent to the companies, large and small, that now have been incorporated in the Piedmont Neighborhood with the recent by-laws change.

Neighborhood development guidelines: As the Piedmont area continues to rapidly grow, it will be important to consider a coordinated plan for development.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Farmer
Secretary