

## **HNA General Meeting June 17, 2020 via video conferencing**

Present: Don Baack\*, Rick Meigs\*, Dylan Parkins, Alex Morris, Glenn Bridger\*, Julia Daigneault, Will Reese\*, Gail Stiffler, Dan Stiffler, Bre Wende\*, Keturah Pennington, Natalia Bronner, Robert Hamilton, Marie Tyvoll\* (on and off on the phone while attending a protesters rally), Eric Wilhelm\*, Tatiana Lifshitz \*(taking minutes), Samina Reese, Sharon Keast

### **\*indicates board members**

Agenda for June 17<sup>th</sup> is approved unanimously by the Board, with two corrections by Glenn Bridger (electronic voting of Board members will take place by voice vote, results will be tallied and published at the end of voting) and addition of Don Baack's motion regarding transportation about confusion near the greenway near the library, which Don emailed out earlier same day due to last minute changes necessitated by other changes; Don likewise wanted to ensure that the motion about police reform was already on the agenda, and Glenn confirmed it was indeed.

Minutes of June 3 meeting were not available at this time for approval due to Glenn's having taken the minutes at that meeting and the time he had to devote to organizing the voting and getting the word about the voting out to the general membership and cooperation with Sharon Keast. Approval of minutes was postponed to July 1 meeting

Membership list was updated for voting by Tatiana Lifshitz and distributed to requestors. Ms. Lifshitz informed that many of the members' entries were lacking address, email address and any other contact information in the sign-in sheets and she urged those who could, please provide us with their contact information.

### **Officers' reports:**

**Marie Tyvoll:** reported that OHSU employees who handed food and water downtown, some were assaulted, one arrested; and a car drove into protesters the night before, read about it in the [Portland Mercury](#); Marie stated she was manning the medical tent and anyone who wanted to get involved, please let her know

**Glenn Bridger:** stated he reexamined a point of order at the Jun 3 meeting

**Rick Meigs:** no change from last month in the treasury balance

No other reports were available at this point of the meeting

Moving into the elections portion of the meeting, Glenn pointed out that the candidates have already posted their BIO and information on the HNA website, nevertheless Glenn offered the candidates an opportunity to say a few words. Don Baack went first, Julia Dagenault (a new candidate) had connection troubles due to being on the Walowa lake), Robert Hamilton stated he has time once again to devote to HNA, that he is a former HNA Secretary and co-President, he previously served on the Board for at a long time (a decade or so) and that he would like to be re-involved with at least one of the committee,

and s to see the strengthening of HNA ties with SWNI Coalition, then Glenn Bridger stated he became interested in HNA when he moved here from Wisconsin 29 years ago, when he discovered that his daughter could not safely cross the street to attend Wilson High school.

Nominations from the floor were invited. No nominations from the floor followed.

Don moved to create a **slate of four candidates to be elected simultaneously and unanimously**, Rick seconded. Motion for Election of the existing nominees, seconded, was voted on at this time, only “yes” votes were heard. However, some members did not vote apparently, and Tatiana pointed out that we have not had an opportunity for questions to be put to the candidates, and a questions period was allowed.

Julia was asked what changes she had in mind, as she mentioned, and she pointed out issues with safety in our community to cross streets due to high speed limits. She stated she was also involved with the Beth Israel social action committee. Julia stated she lived in Multnomah village before and her interest in HNA was that of a neighbor and not a result of any personal agenda of advancement in the City; Ms. Bronner asked Julia if Julia has been a member of HNA earlier and how did Julia hear of HNA. Julia responded that she learned about the HNA board elections from a Nextdoor post.

Ms. Bronner posed a question to Glenn Bridger, both as candidate and as current board member about her emailing over the weekend to Glenn regarding what she considered to be a violation of the bylaws regarding downsizing the board from 13 to 11.

Ms. Bronner stated she did not receive a response, So, she was wondering if Glenn could give a response, or kind of address this issue. Glenn replied that he will provide an email response, but a brief perusal of the issue would show that HNA has not had 13 seats filled, many seats remained vacant, with downsizing to 11, a number of seats still remained vacant to be filled, thus the Board, in its discretion, had entertained a motion and passed it, the approval later having been ratified by the general membership vote, according to the bylaws. Glenn stated he will respond in writing. Ms. Bronner asked Glenn if tonight the elections were proceeding on the basis of the reduced number of Board Members, and Glenn confirmed that tonight’s elections will be based on the reduced board size.

Ms. Bronner had a question for Don Baack: two years ago, when the membership in HNA criteria was relaxed, Ms. Bronner stated, as far as she remembered, Don and Glenn voted against this membership qualification relaxation, and while she wasn’t sure if they were previously asked to explain their vote, as she wasn’t present at that meeting, she wanted to take this opportunity now to ask them to explain why they voted against it then and how would Don vote now, if this questions arose today. Don Baack took the opportunity to explain that he did indeed vote against it then, because there was taking place a powerplay regarding the change in the membership requirements which threatened the stability of the organization while no real need to make the change existed, and the proponents of the change were against deliberations of the change prior to voting as well, therefore Mr. Baack thought it was entirely an inappropriate action and he would vote the same way under the same circumstances today.

There were no other questions for the candidates.

Glenn asked Don to restate his motion. The motion was to cast unanimous ballot for the candidates that were nominated and record it as elected. Don's motion for the unanimous slate, seconded by Rick was voted upon and passed with no nay votes or abstentions. Glenn confirmed that we have four new Board Members elected. However at this point Ms. Bronner voiced her misunderstanding of the motion (which in fact represented the election of the four candidates) and her bewilderment at the fact that the vote had already taken place by voting for the four candidates at once. Ms. Bronner said she believed every candidate should be voted on separately.

Tatiana asked Ms. Bronner if she was objecting to the entire slate or a specific candidate. Natalia explained that she wanted to actually make it easy by saying she wanted to vote against Don, Robert and Glenn, but for Julia. Ms. Lifshitz pointed out that since the motion was for a slate, she would have to record a "no" vote on the motion. Eric restated that since unanimous slate was required, amendment of the motion would be needed. Don Baack amended his motion on a slate of four candidates without the unanimous requirement, the amendment was seconded by Glenn Bridger, and the slate was elected by all except Ms. Bronner voting against the motion.

There was a strong opposition voiced by several attendees to the re-voting, as they felt the elections were clearly announced prior to voting. However, the chair chose to accommodate divergent views. Dylan Parkins stated he was calling for there to be no special treatment for any one attendee.

Eric Wilhelm had a point of order comment. He said the motion was for unanimous vote for the slate, but with Natalia opposing, it was not unanimous. Don Baack intervened by moving to elect the slate (dropping unanimous requirement), Ms. Lifshitz seconded and pointed out that a revote will have to be done. Ms. Bronner voted "no", all the rest voted "yes", there were no abstentions.

Mr. Bridger stated that the newly elected Board members, while their terms begin July 1, are able to meet before July 1 for the purpose of election of officers, but that July 1 would be Wednesday, at 7 pm, a virtual meeting will be held, the regular time for the HNA monthly meeting, and there was no need to meet earlier.

All are welcome to the Board meeting, it is not a closed meeting.

Funding opportunity report, of funds to be reconciled by SWNI, up to a \$1000 grant offered to each neighborhood association. Last meeting we voted to organize a committee to manage the grant. 8 days prior there was a zoom meeting attended by Ms. Bronner, Mr. Baack and Mr. Bridger. Marie was unable to participate. Brian Brady provided comments. Zoom license as top priority was agreed upon by everyone at the meeting, but now it has been announced that SWNI will acquire the license and share it with the neighborhood associations, so it is no longer needed to expend grant funds for Zoom license.

**Other priorities for the grant money were identified as: ONE:** planting a tree on the South side of Capitol Hwy to the West of Verde Cucina restaurant in the expanded right of way adjacent to the roadway next to the Red Electric trail to honor those who died from COVID-19, estimated cost is \$200

**TWO:** a publicity mailing to send cards to the neighbors to inform them of the availability of this virtual meeting platform, estimated at \$700

**THREE:** pilot project along SW Burlingame avenue to provide support costs, tools, materials and foreman services to support the project. Estimated at \$50.

It is believed that SWNI will be capable to purchasing the Zoom license beginning July 2020 out of its operating budget.

Estimate on the mailing: to produce a card one sided with mailing address was 11cents a piece and mailing was 23 cents a piece over 700 households in Hillsdale at 34 cents a piece mailing sums up to over \$1147.50. Additional funding may be required.

Tatiana Lifshitz voiced a firm opposition to mailing out post cards because of it being ineffective means of getting anyone's attention likely to draw-in the neighborhoods participation nowadays. Tatiana recommended the Board seek advice of a professional what would be effective instead. Motion was seconded by Rick Meigs. Tatiana stated she wanted to exclude the post card mailing item from the application. There was a lot of discussion objecting to Tatiana's opposition to the blanket mailing piece idea. Rick, Don, Glenn and Natalia Bronner insisted that Tatiana's objection to the mailing category was not important at this time, and that the Board could decide on the specific form of mailing later. Tatiana pointed out that a grant application is a budgetary planning action and that cards automatically go into a waste basket. Tatiana pointed out that HNA does not have this money and it is a budgetary hole.

Glenn pointed out that although an estimate for a post card mailing was obtained, the actual motion proposes publicity/announcement. Tatiana stated that she cannot support this item when we are discussing spending over a thousand dollars on a postcard.

Eric Wilhelm pointed out that he too had reservations about this blanket request , he suggested that the grant application include a letter stating that it is the HNA Board that will decide later how to precisely spend the money in furtherance of drawing in the neighborhood participation. Tatiana moved to amend the motion, seconded by Eric, motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda, Don Baack's motion from a previous meeting regarding police reform was debated.

Don moved HNA write a letter to the City Council and urge SWNI President to write a letter to the City Council urging police reform, text of the Motion published at the bottom of the agenda for the June 3 meeting. Actions of reform include: a truly independent accountability board with a subpoena authority to review the old police actions; reviews of fatal police shootings and deaths in police custody by a special prosecutor or the Oregon Attorney General's Office. County prosecutors who rely on the police departments for these investigations, will no longer be responsible for them. Revamp basic community policing to ensure community partnership is imbedded in all the courses from the moment that a recruit is sworn in. Limits to community protections which often shield police officers in civil cases. A national police misconduct database to track problem officers, so they cannot get work at another police agency.

This debate was interrupted by Marie Tyvoll, who said that she was driving and was busy to listen to the meeting, and she wanted to state that she has been demanding the documents supporting the PPP loan application SWNI filed with the Federal Government that SWNI refused to provide to her. That she opposed planting a pandemic tree or the neighborhood outreach mailing effort because the grant money was intended to the underserved populations. Finally she stated she was donating groceries to a family in SW Portland. Then Marie left the meeting.

Ms. Lifshitz and Dylan Parkins tried to interrupt Ms. Tyvoll multiple times because Ms. Tyvoll was interrupting others and speaking out of order. Rick Meigs suggested to let Ms. Tyvoll have at it. Ms. Lifshitz finally commented that there was in fact nothing wrong with the PPP loan application and the documents supporting that application were provided to Marie, to the extent allowed by Federal law. That the pursuit of this documentation continued for reasons other than valid concerns.

Don Baack urged the Board to return to the debate of the police reform motion. Natalia Bronner indicated she was wondering if there were a rush to write the letter because, while she herself did not form an opinion whether the proposed reform actions were good or bad, she felt they should be discussed with the Hillsdale neighborhood. She suggested the reforms are statements basically out of the scope of our neighborhood association competence and if we choose to urge for those reforms, lets identify a purpose how to balance an open process for this discussion. She stated she felt more comfortable to have this motion be originated in the public safety committee as well as Keturah's input because Keturah has had many interactions with police, as well as we should have a discussion at the SWNI level with their public safety committee. While Ms. Bronner acknowledged that it is clear police reform is needed after the Minneapolis death, we must also be mindful of the lack of police oversight in our community where crime rates are going up-Keturah has been telling us Hillsdale only has two police officers for monitoring our safety during the night. Ms. Bronner stated that she feels less safe in her neighborhood and before we introduce the reform subject we should consider the repercussions of the drastic changes. It would be helpful to hear from different parties, including those who used to be on the police force.

Don Baack replied that the text of his motion is a quotation from [The Oregonian](#) and represents the collective thinking in the public arena. These are Councillor Hardesty's words and they are not new. He stated he thinks we need to support it, it is not a new situation. Eric Wilhelm stated he thought there should be a neighborhood vote on this, as well as the Board, HNA should serve as a forum to discuss such topics, secondly police budget is about 30M annually, and it is not being reduced. While these changes are necessary, the budget will ultimately be the changer, and how we select to change that is a big conversation. One big question is how do we get street response on the ground, especially now pushed back due to COVID-19.

Tatiana shared her thoughts again, as she did in the June 3 meeting, that this letter urging reforms is a means of issuing judgements rather than inviting a discussion and searching for solutions. The reasons we are in this situation now is because judgements have been issued too many times and polarized the parties, but solutions have not been encouraged. Accordingly, HNA should write a letter, but not this one, rather a letter urging a search and debate for effective solutions, a dialogue.

Marie Tyvoll returned and shared that Hardesty's proposals have been superseded by recent legislation proposals and perhaps HNA should look at those instead.

Glenn Bridger invited an advisory vote on this Motion. Robert requested that the Motion be read again.

Tatiana moved to table the motion, Will Reese seconded. Motion to table fails.

Vote on Motion by the Board at this time: 3 yes, 2 abstention, 2 nos. Motion fails.

An additional motion brought up by Don Baack regarding traffic near Hillsdale library.

Don explained that the City put up the signs near the library without consultation with the neighborhood and the signs interfere with traffic. Furthermore, for most people in Hillsdale the signs are meaningless because residents do not know where the Greenway is. SW Westwood drive is what we are trying to protect. The sign does not inform people where the issue is. Don suggests to move the sign to the problem site. Seconded by Tatiana. Bre asked if the sign was in front of anyone's house. Don explained the signs were in the center of the street, and one out at the library 3 feet away from the curb. Ms. Bronner wanted to see the Motion to better understand exactly what Don was proposing. The motion was presented only to the Board, and Ms. Bronner just had not seen it. Ms. Lifshitz said that Don's motion is for the Board to decide but Ms. Bronner noted that she would like to see that the Board involves the membership in discussion of proposed changes and the Board agree at this time that no motions will be sent out close to the Board meetings, but instead be broadcasted to the membership first. Ms. Lifshitz commented that wasn't not possible. Mr. Bridger responded this was not a reasonable request, because sometimes the need for motions arises at the last minute. The whole idea of our open meetings is for the neighborhood to participate. Please join in the meeting and speak your mind. While it is agreed that it is desirable to get the Motions published as far in advance as possible, it cannot be the case always.

Ms. Bronner suggested that if the proposed changes are not urgent, to delay the discussion of the motion until the next meeting (after members have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the motion.) Ms. Lifshitz pointed out that such practice could have a substantial interference with the functions of the Board. Ms. Bronner noted that one of the primary responsibilities of the Board is it's duty to listen and, when a motion is sent out to the Board only, the Board restricts other members from providing feedback. Ms. Lifshitz disagreed and invited members to join the meetings if they want to participate in discussions.

Board members wanted to know what the signs say. Eric explained that these signs are a part of the greenspace initiative, an established map of street routes that are available for public pedestrian use during COVID and need to walk to exercise. We don't have a connected scheme of streets which are prioritized for pedestrian travel. In the middle of the street the barrels are intended to catch people's attention to the prioritizing of the street for greenway purposes. There is also feedback invitation to PBOT. The barrel on the curb is blocking a parking spot to keep that intersection safe and the barrel in the middle of the street prevents people from speeding down the street and has a traffic calming effect.

**Eric stated he thinks there is no need to move the barrels and that we have bigger problems at other spots.**

Board Vote on the motion: Don-yes, Rick – abstain, Bre –yes, Tatiana – yes, Will-no, Marie – No, Eric – no, Motion fails.

Ms. Bronner asked to send the motion to the membership list. Don promised to do so, After further discussion, Rick Meigs sent the motion to the membership list.

**Public Safety Committee Report: Ketoura had no update this time.**

**Land Use, Tatiana did not have any update due to work on the membership list and other election related tasks.** RIP is coming up for testimony at the City and there should be an update coming up.

Eric Wilhelm, Transportation Committee: 1) a person was killed by a car on Barbur and SW Capitol Hill Rd. by a hit and run driver. This is a second death in our neighborhood. The first one was at Parkhill dr. The County does not post signs to a pedestrian death on ODOT roads. Glenn said that there is no space to place the sign at the accident site so a sign was placed at the front end of the bus stop.

2) SW Terwilliger has been shaved to Bancroft.

Rick Meigs informed that the coming Saturday at 10 am 8 churches will conduct a peace march. Please attend.

Rick Meigs will no longer be Treasurer, as he is no longer on the board. We thank him for his service.

Please wrap your mind around electing a new slate of officers come July.

Minutes submitted by Tatiana Lifshitz