

HILLSDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MINUTES

A PLACE FOR DIVERSE OPINIONS "WE LISTEN

SEPTEMBER 02, 2020 GOOGLE MEETS VIRTUAL GENERAL/BOARD MEETING

HNA Minutes are designed to ensure its meetings are public and transparent informing the Neighborhood about day to day business, its goals, issues being worked on, views advocated for the community good, decisions taken, motions advanced, arguments in favor and in opposition, and minority opinions. Minutes are not intended to be a verbatim record, but are rendered as detailed summaries of organizational activities, collaborative efforts, speakers' platforms, community partnership, Officers' and Chairs' reports, informational materials presented at meetings and reflect HNA work with City Government on rule making and policies affecting the Neighborhood.

HNA Minutes include the minimum requirements set forth in HNA bylaws and ONI standards to ensure the minimum uniform standards of public records are maintained. Minutes are rendered to reflect the actual meetings and work of HNA on your behalf.

Present: Don Baack*, Glenn Bridger*, Julia Daigneault*, Keturah Pennington, Mark Zimmerdahl, Robert Hamilton*, Marie Tyvoll* (absent manning medical tent), Tatiana Lifshitz*, Sara Hohn (taking minutes), Sharon Keast, Leslie Pohl-Kosbau, Eric Wilhelm*, Aslan Newson* was absent (no notice), Bre Wende* (absent excused), Don Merrill

*indicates board members

Approval of Agenda. Glenn moved; Don seconded. Agenda approved unanimously.

Sara Hohn did not finish minutes of August 5th meeting due to illness in the family, minutes will be available shortly.

Tatiana informed that she appointed a temporary grievance committee, Glenn Bridger chair to work on two grievance received on August 17th. Board approved unanimously. Within the next 7 days Committee will designate a meeting date and Board must ensure final disposition by October 16th. A special meeting may be required in the future for Board action.

Glenn Bridger reported on a Covid-19 related Science organization New Democracy

Summary of Mr. Bridger's report:

Healthy Democracy – 2020 Oregon Citizen Assembly on COVID-19 Recovery

What should our State do to hasten recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic? This is the issue the Non-Profit, non-partisan organization Healthy Democracy choose to explore in Oregon this Summer.

For the first time in the US, they convened a Citizen Assembly to tackle this issue. Let me tell you what our 40 person Assemble recommended as a result of 2 months of work, then a couple more comments on what the process looked like.

Our starting point testimony to our Legislature's Joint Committee on COVID, organized by topics ranging from Economic Development to Human Services to Health and Healthcare. 120 Topics were proposed at this forum; our panel prioritized those thought to be most important. A similar list of core principles regarding pursuit of was developed and agreed to.

Highlights of these PRINCIPLES are:

Oregon's response to COVID-19 should be guided by the best science and research currently available.

Every person has a right to safe, clean, and livable housing.

Health and economy are closely integrated:

All jobs fill a specific need and everything should be done to make sure those jobs continue to exist.

Essential service workers should get hazard pay

Ensure health and safety for students, teachers, staff and their respective households in the process of engaging all students while acquiring their education.

Narrowing down the issues most important to pursue was a challenge, but the process brought us to ONE housing recommendation and THREE Education recommendations.

HOUSING:

Keep people in safe and secure homes, including helping those already displaced, and

others who have the potential of becoming houseless. It highlighted processes for volunteering or donating, efforts to food sufficiency, and moratorium on evictions.

EDUCATION:

Student support, including resources for children slipping behind or at risk and special needs students

Guidance for teachers to identify struggling students

Monthly small-group activities

Assisting small groups

Bring together for Art and other activities in a controlled environment

Internet access and technology

Services availability, working with county, district and community to provide subsidizes

Student and parent training, plus helping teachers in online teaching

School Districts and Local Government to create metrics and safety measures to keep everyone safe. Parents should have option to choose an online option

Glenn will post resources on the site later.

Due to technical difficulties on Don's end Don Merrill's presentation was delayed, the order of the Agenda was rearranged.

Julia Daigneault reported on a hugely successful HNA effort to organize a Hillsdale Tutors Volunteer Resource: Julia is a teacher and she is especially aware of the issues families and students will be facing this school year. She designed a questionnaire for the volunteers and for families; 34 people responded in the database. Once the forms are filled out, they are loaded into an excel spreadsheet which is shared with PTAs at Rieke and Robert Gray, they have sent it out to their families. She also reached out to the booster club at Wilson. Families can review the database and if it matches their needs, go ahead contact. Volunteers are highlighted so if families do not have money, there are options for help. Hayhurst Neighborhood Association is doing something similar to our initiative now.

Tatiana informed that as a bit of background about this initiative, last month she attended Hillsdale Business Alliance meeting, where a few attendees said they would like to volunteer to help students, but no one came forward to take the lead. Tatiana sent out an email to all who attended, but did not get much of a response, so she and Julia decided to do it under the HNA. School principals wrote that they would like to be a resource, and we are working with the PTAs. Now we have lots of feedback from residents in Hillsdale who want to be tutors. It looks like this is morphing into a very nice matching service that can be used by the schools, PTAs and families, students. Half a dozen families have already found tutors through this program.

Robert Hamilton signed up as tutor. There will be more announcements about this program, link published repeatedly; schools will be announcing it too.

Glenn commented that this program is a very good one, this initiative is right on target with the state-wide guidelines of engagement that New Democracy was looking at, students getting help, non-profits getting involved; so if HNA can do more, let's do more.

Update on SW Parkhill drive safety, since last meeting there was only one incident. A group in their 20s going through mail boxes and cars parked on the street, unlocked mailboxes had mail stolen, but fortunately the people attempted to cash one of the stolen checks at a Tigard Bank, where they were apprehended. Keturah suggested to bring that up at the SWNI crime prevention committee. It is important to fill out the on-line crime report so it becomes a statistic.

Tatiana asked Julia to prepare a presentation next meeting to show us where to register and how to fill out the crime report form. Also we should place it in the resources on the website. Tatiana commented that she tried to engage Parkhill residents in a more active crime prevention endeavor, a couple of them responded and they are thinking about it. Don Baack added to Keturah's report that there have been a few thefts along SW Burlingame avenue and place, mainly open garages and going through cars. Tools and other easy to carry items were taken. Other suggestions include getting a locked mail box from a local hardware store, signing up for Postal Service Informed Delivery App and checking your mail box daily. We must be more vigilant and make it difficult to lift stuff. Lock your cars.

Don Baack reported about Rieke parking lot construction and why it hasn't been completed. The district is in discussion with the City Bureau of Environmental Services. The problem is the school wants to have speed bumps but the fire department is objecting to them. There is an impasse and HNA might be called upon to help resolve it.

Robert added that he had another conversation with 3 Kings and their permits have not yet been approved by the city.

While waiting for Don Merrill, Tatiana summarized the SWNI situation. She attended a SWNI Board meeting that had to do with financial planning. Basically we had to cut everything down to nothing, employees to 75% also, because SWNI is running out of budget. Civic Life Office is signing a contract with an auditor; it is unknown how long it will take to accomplish the audit because the scope is unknown. The legal team is working with the city attorney on that issue.

In light of this, it would be good to wait on the acquisition of Zoom license. Tatiana suggested to have a test drive of Microsoft Teams virtual software. It can be free to HNA, provides free cloud storage and other functionality. It is a nice program, easier to use in many ways than Zoom. Hardly anyone responded to the email that was sent out, but if the Board could do it on a Thursday or a Friday night, a demo could be arranged.

Glenn Moved to arrange for a software Teams demo at such time when a reasonable number of Board members can attend and any outsiders are also welcome, and that HNA presently hold off on purchasing any software to carry out our meetings. Don Baack seconded. Passed unanimously.

Second part of the SWNI update is the neighborhood Covid grant process. If Board recalls, we applied for planting a tree and sending a mailer to the neighbors to announce that HNA is holding meetings on line. Most other neighborhoods also applied. **8 best applications were chosen out of 15 applications. Hillsdale's proposal was the worst one.** It received the lowest points and unlikely to ever get the grant. The 8 best are not getting their grants any time soon because SWNI Board voted to suspend the program indefinitely. Hence, this entire undertaking is dead in the water and **Tatiana announced she is disbanding the grants committee the existence of which has come to her attention.** She tried to read the bylaws to ascertain if the Board action is also needed to disband the committee or is the President declaring it disbanded sufficient? Glenn answered that President is within her rights to disband it, but Ms. Lifshitz asked for a motion as well, just in case to eliminate the need to return to this issue. Robert Hamilton moved, Glenn seconded, passed unanimously.

Tatiana Lifshitz reported on Earl Blumenauer future participation and the important races nationwide roster created by his office, with live updates. In summary, Board decided to post the link to the live updates on the website.

Peter DeFazio is working on preparing a similar updated resource the other side of the isle.

Rep. Salinas will be joining us next meeting. Ms. Lifshitz asked the Board to submit questions by September 23rd for Rep Salinas, especially please give a thought to what we could work with her on as a Neighborhood.

Another request by HNA President was put forth for questions for Amanda Fritz, she will be joining HNA on October 7th.

Don Baack suggested to invite Mayor Potter, an expert in community policing. Maybe a special meeting will be needed. Board asked Don to arrange the meeting.

Don Baack summarized the action taken related to slowing down traffic in the neighborhood. Earlier in the month of August Tatiana alerted to extra resources availability in the PBOT SWIM program. In Summary: Subsequently several highly recommended streets for slowing traffic were selected by the Board and reported to PBOT. Money is being aggregated in SW in Motion (SWIM) for SW Troy & Canby, where there is a curve, there will be improvements. Additionally, a bicycle path will be paved. Some improvements around Safeway and trails crossing, and a bicycle path. The funds come from property owners in non-town center or corridor areas sidewalk construction fund. Some segments of Tryon creek watershed have also been designated for improvements.

Eric Wilhelm reported on crosswalk painting and other safety measures how to make the existing conditions of our walk/bike networks safe for everyone while the concrete projects keep getting pushed back for lack of funding. Many of these missing links have been on the books for decades.

Summary of Eric's demonstration: PBOT's Transportation Systems Plan map showing the planned bike/walk/car networks and emergency response routes. At most places where these networks overlap or intersect, the road design prioritizes car traffic over the safety and ease of people walking or biking. Existing conditions lack crosswalks, sidewalks and/or bike lanes.

Several examples of what is being called "tactical urbanism", or using temporary prototype designs for crosswalks to reduce wide-open pavement with barriers, curbs, posts, and paint were examined.

Eric thinks HNA would benefit from policy which directs PBOT to address the unsafe conditions more immediately, using these tactical fixes until a future project can be built, and prioritizing the functionality of the network for people walking, biking, and accessing transit. They could use the locations as part of their project outreach (post signs, stick a website url on the barrels,

etc.) to get more feedback from people who would actually use it, and even allow neighbors to get a DIY permit if that's what it takes to cover the few dozen worst issues in every neighborhood.

Following Don Merrill's presentation, Eric Wilhelm picked up where he left off, discussion of possible HNA action ensued, including inviting a PBOT traffic safety engineer to illuminate the standards PBOT utilizes to evaluate future effectiveness of traffic calming measures depending on the location. Don and Eric will collaborate to invite Wendy Collie, new design engineer at PBOT to the SWNI Transportation meeting that we can all join.

There was a Board discussion of possible actions and a general consensus emerged to discuss the various standards and methods of determining which measures would be more effective in a specific location with a PBOT engineer. SWNI transportation committee might be interested in getting involved.

Don Merrill joined the meeting and talked about a non-profit CNBSeen Summary of Don's presentation (some details were difficult to capture due to connectivity issues):

Presentation Agenda: Background about Don Merrill, What's the idea for the Project, Types of sponsorship, Types of coverage, coverage in different parts of the city, Statistics that show the disparity in stops, especially some Board members look forward to seeing.

Don Merrill was a journalist for the US Armed Forces Broadcasting, a reporter in Cincinnati, a public affairs specialist for the Department of Interior, he moved to Portland in 2012 and became a new volunteer for KBOO public radio. While at KBOO the station received a grant for investigative journalist to do an 8 part series on the effect of the effect of the American legislative experience on legislature. In 2014 Mr. Merrill worked on a book about public radio, which is now completed. The idea for the non-profit to deal with police stops came to him in 2016, when he was busy working, but he registered the non-profit fortunately, so when he was able to pick up the idea again, the organizational portion was done.

The non-profit is designed to change light bulbs for anyone who needs it, a social justice issue and a safety issue. Emphasis is on those neighborhoods where there is a higher percentage of stops of African Americans because in some neighborhoods such stops are as high as 25%. A lot of bad things happen after the stop is made and police orders them out of their vehicles. All 95 Portland Neighborhoods were contacted. Many neighborhoods and coalitions responded. Bulb manufacturers were contacted to donate bulbs. Major auto manufacturers and area car dealerships were also contacted. Some responded. The go fund me is half way through to its goal.

Humbolt Neighborhood is the first one on the list for the event. Then the goal is to have one event a week. If at the end of the year the effort made a difference in police stops statistics, the non-profit will continue, and if not, it will sunset.

Every quarter PPB produces a report "Stops Data Collection", it shows in each precinct how many were stopped. North is the largest, then East, the Central. The goal is to go to the neighborhoods with the highest number of stops first. In the US there has been a lot of research done to learn what prompts the police to stop cars with burned out bulbs. In some states and jurisdictions it is not a high priority. Police uses a broken windows theory when deciding if to stop a vehicle. This theory is a police enforcement tactic where they assume that anything amiss on the car denotes other activity. They feel that law abiding people will have all lights working on their cars. In a lot of economically challenged neighborhoods it isn't always possible and they become targets.

It is worth mentioning that Oregon state police has a program where they give a voucher, not a ticket, giving time to fix the broken lights.

There will be an event in Hillsdale, but site has not been identified. Don explained that when he partners with a Neighborhood Association, he is asking to identify and secure a site and volunteers. Action plan is being created. Distancing can be observed, pull up, stay in your car, have your bulb changed and drive away. Volunteers are needed to direct traffic in and out and ensure everything proceeds smoothly.

Tatiana asked who among the Board Members might volunteer to be a point of contact person – Eric agreed to help out. Suggestion to Contact Rick Meigs about possibility to use the Church parking lot to hold the event.

Eric inquired into the stops statistics detail as to whether it shows how many stops resulted in citations and why. PPB publishes traffic citation data but it is segmented by traffic division enforcement, so it is not clear where are the citations issued by the patrol division reflected. It shows that Patrol division had about half the stops of the Traffic Division, but detail is not shown. Don said he is about to submit a public records request to learn this information. Don Baack asked if schools were contacted about this program. No, schools have their hands full and normally Neighborhood Associations have relationships with schools. Mr. Merrill clarified that this program is about drivers and police, it is not intended to exclude police, we want to show that police are public servants and there can be a good relationship between the two. Some neighborhood associations do not want the police included. It is not Don's goal to exclude the police, but to ensure that police does what they are asked. The whole point is to involve them and try to build a relationship. Tatiana asked if consideration has been given to approach PPB to give out a leaflet about this organization when making a stop with burned out bulb. Yes, but police liaisons are too busy and do not respond.

Officers' and Chairs' reports:

Glenn gave land use chair update: PBOT concluded that bus stops and crosswalks should be coordinated, it took decades to arrive at this conclusion. Let's keep pushing in this direction. Presently the appeal hearing on SW 13th Drive development is scheduled for Sept 9, attempting to set it over a bit.

Ms. Lifshitz gave President's report about existence of committees. She intended to clarify, since apparently people think HNA has many committees, that HNA does not actually have any committees at this time, except for the temporary grievance committee. HNA has a Land Use chair, a Transportation chair, Schools Chair, Safety Chair, Parks Chair. These people work individually and they consult others when they feel the need to do so. That's how the chairs functions at this time, without committees whatsoever. Chairs report to the Board at the meeting and we look forward to the chairs' updates in case any action must be taken.

Transportation Chair report: regarding policing and enforcement: there is some discussion with SWNI transportation committee, There was a meeting with Kim who chairs SWNI safety committee. Kim explained how the law applies to traffic enforcement. What Berkeley is doing moving enforcement of Department of Transportation was discussed. Also discussing how to minimize stop, similar to what Don Merrill was talking about. There is a disproportionate number of stops of people of color and black. Automated enforcement becomes very important to remove selective enforcement. Taking the officer's discretion away might be helpful.

Schools: Robert Hamilton applied to be on the Wilson High naming committee, as did Julia. Robert received a letter stating he was not chosen, but Principal Filip asked if Robert would serve on a subcommittee. Filip said he agreed with that the naming committee should publish its principles for selecting the name. Julia received nothing from Wilson. She found out that the only method it was advertised was on Wilson's Facebook page. Julia is concerned that Wilson should invite the Neighborhood to comment on name choices for Wilson High, once those are identified. Robert was asked to write a letter to Wilson High. Who is on the committee and request open meetings.

Tatiana updated that SWNI and Hillsdale websites have been under a spoofing/phishing attack for a while now. The contact HNA address is full of spoofing. Nothing of consequence has been received there. However, if we receive any land-use notice, we will send them out to the members list.

Update on Chabad fire: Chabad had a second fire two weeks ago, it is still under investigation for an arson. Robert Hamilton suggested we pass a motion of support for Chabad next meeting, and hopefully by then we will have some more information about the fires.

Update about three young people living in a tent in the Bertha viaduct, we have arranged for social workers to assist assessing their needs and getting the situation straightened out.

Motion to Adjourn by Glenn, seconded by Don Baack. Meeting ended at 9:15

Minutes prepared by Sara Hohn.