

Bigelow Highlands Neighborhood Association

Minutes for general meeting on June 28, 2011
At Capital Vision Christian Church

- Officers in attendance: Vice-President Tami Schoen, Treasurer Kelly Smith, and Secretary Jim Burlingame
- Melissa Allen recapped the recent Garden Tour
- Angie Warner-Rein gave her Block Watch report. Block Watch has two components: Operation ID and the Phone Tree. Operation ID simply means residents make a list of their important possessions, with serial numbers and photos if possible, to have on hand if something gets stolen or lost. The Phone Tree goes like this: After calling 911 or the non-emergency police number, when you see something illegal or suspicious, call Angie, the Block Watch Captain, at 705-3459; she will then notify the two people below her on the list about what you saw; they will notify those immediately below them; etc. Angie has tried to place people whose homes are physically close to each other close to each other on the list. If you want to join the Phone Tree, call Angie. Residents who participate will be given Block Watch stickers to put on their front door. Our neighborhood has two old Block Watch road signs, but we'll probably get 2 more soon. Angie will keep the BHNA abreast of any crime patterns in our area that she learns about from the police. Anyone can look up crime info at www.crimereports.com. Above and beyond the official Block Watch program, it's a good idea to get to know your immediate neighbors and get their phone numbers, so you can notify them quickly if you see something suspicious, such as a car you've never seen before parked at their place when you know they're not home, someone you've never seen before walking around their place, etc.
- Angie also gave a report on the MYN (Map Your Neighborhood) project. This is a communal emergency planning method, which involves the residents in small chunks of our neighborhood getting together to plan what they would do to help each other in an emergency—for example, by noting where each other's gas and water shut-off valves are (in case some people aren't at home when the emergency happens), noting which households have the tools to do this, noting which residents might need to be checked on, etc. Angie has one such group organized for her part of Thurston, and Ben Shomshor will soon pass out an announcement for a MYN meeting for the households on Garrison from Yew to Prospect. If anyone else would like to start one of these groups for their area, contact Angie or Bob Peller (352-2096) to borrow a DVD about MYN. Angie is tentatively planning a meeting in mid-August for the BHNA Board, herself, representatives of the 2 churches in our area, someone from Thurston County Emergency Planning, and perhaps the Captains from the small MYN groups to discuss more overarching coordination. Finally, in regards to emergency planning, in September Jim will be the liaison between BHNA and Roosevelt Elementary, familiarizing our group with the school's emergency plans and vice versa.
- We discussed our annual Part in the Park. Now it's going to be The Annual BHNA Party...at Capital Vision Church. The benefits to this are: in the case of bad weather, we'll have access to large in-door spaces, the church can run its own bounce house for kids on its own property, we don't need to worry about vie with other groups over the park picnic tables, etc. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS: THE PARTY WILL BE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, FROM 12-4, AT THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER OF FIR AND YEW.** The Party Committee consists of Bob and Jim, with the former dealing with food and the latter getting a fire truck to come (for kids), inviting candidates from local elections, and reminding Pat Kilmer about her promise to paint kids' faces and to invite Intercity Transit Board members.
- Rus and others will make the next newsletter and get it to Pat, our distribution coordinator, to be passed

out around September 9th. It was noted that some people got the last newsletter just a few days before the Garden Tour. Pat has a plan: she's re-divided up our neighborhood into more equitable chunks for distributors to walk. It means it'll take most newsletter distributors less time to walk their area, but it also means Pat needs a few more volunteers. Please call her, at 956-1380, if you'd like to help.

- The next newsletter will also announce our Fall Elections meeting. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR: THE NEXT BHNA MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, AT A LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.** We will be voting for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer, which are two year terms.

- After quite a bit of discussion, by consensus everyone agreed to finally add certain clarifications to the BHNA Bylaws that had been agreed upon—and tacitly followed—for years. (A copy of the Bylaws, with the new sheet at the end, is attached to these minutes). The main issue was whether neighborhood residents should be able to vote for officers if they haven't paid their yearly dues. It was decided that, since all adult residents in our neighborhood are automatically members, whether or not they have paid dues, which are voluntary, they should all be able to vote equally, for bylaw changes, officers, or whatever. The sign-in sheet at election meetings will say "I am a resident within the BHNA boundaries," and those providing suitable addresses below that will be allowed to vote. If there are questions about officer election results, other BHNA officers and/or BHNA residents can seek redress through consulting the Bylaws.

- Jim read an announcement by Rus about graffiti. The new kiosk in the park was tagged recently, but Rus's wife Heidi cleaned it up quickly. We have two graffiti removal kits in our neighborhood: Rus and Heidi have one, and David Billings (davidbruce1956@hotmail.com) has the other. If you can't get ahold of them, contact the city for clean-up information: Public Works sometimes deals with street signs, but anything in the park is the BHNA responsibility, as per an agreement a while back. If something looks like a gang sign, let the police know, since they track gang activity. If you would like to help with this in general, contact Rus (705-0862) to be part of a Graffiti Removal Committee. Bob Peller did point out that he used to do this for our neighborhood and, back then, the city made you take a training because of how toxic the removal materials are.

- We briefly touched on our electronic communications, namely whether our listserv is working well. Some people said "Yes." Some people are looking into other options, such as using Google Groups. Tami has contacted our webmaster Byron about possible changes, such as letting residents be alerted via e-mail if someone has posted something on our website's discussion page on a topic or topics they are interested in, but she hasn't heard back from him yet.