

Minutes for the BHNA General Meeting

January 10, 2012, 7:00, at the downtown firehouse

- Officers present: President Rus Geh, Vice-President Angie Warner-Rein, Secretary Jim Burlingame, and interim Treasurer Bob Peller
- Rus gave an introduction and went over the agenda
- Hilmar Kuebel from the Olympia Dispute Resolution Center spoke about what that non-profit does. There are 26 in Washington. Its goal is to help people solve their own disputes voluntarily, confidentially, at low-cost, and quickly. It promotes better relationships between people. DRC volunteers are certified in mediation. A session between parties with a dispute can usually be set up anywhere from 3 to 6 weeks after initially contacting the DRC. It usually lasts 2 hours. No one, including lawyers, can be present, except the interested parties and the DRC mediators. Hilmar's seen this work many times for couples, neighbors, people setting up wills, etc.
- General introductions
- We talked about the Treasurer's duties. Rus nominated Melissa Allen for the office. Pat Kilmer seconded, she agreed, and everyone present did too. She will serve until October, 2013.
- Melissa also got an Old School Pizzeria coupon from Rus for bringing the most people to the meeting.
- Jim and Rus talk about the Monday, January 16, MLK, Jr Day neighborhood clean-up activities. People interested in picking up trash can start whenever, in the morning, cover as much area as they want, and stop by Jim's place (603 Garrison) at 11:30 for hot drinks and snacks. People interested in helping document and erase graffiti should meet at Rus's (602 Tullis) at 10, and they're welcome to come by Jim's later, too.
- Rus asked people what they're interested in for the year ahead. Fizzo Pannosch wanted the topic of solar energy to be discussed in the future, so Rus said we'll give him some space in an upcoming newsletter and/or time at a meeting. Gail Garrard wants us to look into moving our BHNA funds to a local bank or credit union (as opposed to Bank of America); Bob said the appeal of B of A is the free checking. Gail will look into whether we can find this at a local place. Jennifer Kinney (who lives in the Northeast Neighborhood, but was here representing the city) talked about how NENA is going to lobby IT for more times on the 21 route; she thought our NA might be interested in that, too, since that bus line passes through here. Pat said she'd talk with the incoming IT chairperson. Heidi Ranger-Geh said she was interested in getting traffic calming options for our area. Jennifer said that and speeding are the top two

things people call the city about, and there is a long wait list for getting them put in, but in the meantime we can apply for temporary options, such as one of those trucks with flashing lights and volunteers holding a radar gun and a sign telling drivers how fast they're going. Jim asked about sidewalks and Jennifer said those are expensive and also have a long wait list, but she encouraged us to look at places where we could create "urban trails." Fizzo expressed an interest in emergency preparedness, and Angie described what's been happening with Map Your Neighborhood. Jim said fliers to set up an initial MYN meeting for the houses on Garrison, from Bigelow to Thurston, will be handed out soon. Angie said she'd like to see increasing communication within the BHNA in the next year. Besides the new website, www.bhna.org, she said we'll have a connected Google Groups listserv up and running in the next few months. She would also like us to try and do the neighborhood clean-up twice a year, and invite landlords or BH rental properties next time.

- Rus talked about the purpose of BHNA committees, and he ran through a few people could help us with: Graffiti documentation and clean-up, Events, Grants and Finances, Communication, and Neighborhood Improvement. Simone Boe said she'd help increase neighborhood connectivity. She (and Jim, Angie, and Pam Judd) will meet with Rus soon to talk about this.
- Robert Thetford brought up the idea of a Newcomers Welcoming Committee, which others liked.
- Rus encouraged people to look on our website for calls for help on certain committees or with certain events
- Pat suggested we regularly list not only all our officers on the newsletters, but also brief descriptions of why people might want to contact each (e.g., which committees they head).
- Bob offered up BHNA window stickers. Melissa will have the roll now, if anyone else wants one.
- Angie explained about the Thrifty Card (if BHNA residents tell Ralph's or Bayview they want to help us, a small percentage of each purchase at those grocery stores will come to us).
- Jennifer talked about the city's Neighborhood Matching Grants. The maximum is \$4000, or higher if more than one neighborhood work on a project together. Consideration of what constitutes "matching" funds is pretty loose. The deadline for applying is February 1. Funded projects must be completed by the following December. Rus will get the ball rolling on our applying, but please let him know what you think we should put the money toward. Jennifer also talked about the fact that the city will be asking for public input in reviewing its Comprehensive Plan this year, and that part of what's being proposed is sub-comprehensive plans for Olympia's

neighborhoods. She said we can keep our eyes and ears open for public meetings on that this spring.

- The next general meeting will be April 10, at 7:00, at a location to be announced. The next newsletter will be distributed over the last weekend in March.
- Bob and Jim (and probably others) will look into cleaning up/changing the wording in the BHNA bylaws. They will probably have a proposal to be voted on at the October meeting.
- Jim will represent the BHNA at the next Coalition of Neighborhood Associations's meeting, in February, and report on it at our April meeting.