

Bigelow Highlands Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2012, at Capital Vision Christian Church

- Officers in attendance: President Rus Geh, Vice President Angie Warner-Rein, Secretary Jim Burlingame, and Treasurer Melissa Allen
- Introductions
- Rus gave an update on the Sidewalk Tile Project. It's a 3 part process. Part 1, the workshop where people made designs on tiles, happened two weekends ago. We have more than enough decorated tiles now, about 25 or 26. Part 2, where a woman with a ceramic studio fires them in her kiln and the original designers get a chance to add pigment, will probably happen in early August. Rus will contact people with details. Part 3 will be when we will embed them along Central Street.
- Rus gave an update on the BHNA Signs Project. He said he'd still like input on the design. We aim to have that finalized by the end of August. He spoke to one local sign making company and was told that we can get 24" by 30" aluminized surface signs for \$100 each. He will check prices and turn-around time at another place, too. Rus, Angie, and Jim will come up with a list of potential poles at the edges of our neighborhood to put the signs up on, and they'll check with the city and/or PSE about permission and/or whether they or we will put the signs up.
- Melissa gave an update on the Directory Project. We need volunteers—ideally about 26—to go door-to-door, gathering residents' permission and information. The goal is to have this group put together soon after the August Park Party, if not before. There will be a blurb about it in the newsletter preceding that event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Simone Boe at 534-9239 or teachergirloly@gmail.com.
- That next newsletter will begin to be distributed August 10. At the suggestion of Pat Kilmer, who is in charge of our newsletter distribution, we will begin passing newsletters out two weeks before meetings or events, instead of one week before.
- Jim gave an update on the Annual BHNA Party. It will be Saturday, August 25, from noon to 4:00, at Bigelow Park. It will be a potluck, with BHNA providing a few staples, such as hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, and condiments. If you are interested in bringing a dish, drink, or anything else, contact Jim at 754-5228 or jimburlingame4u@gmail.com. He will make sure we have a couple of every category (dessert, salad, etc), so that, if one or two people don't show up, we'll still have plenty of food. He will also invite local politicians and candidates for

local office, as well as the fire department, who usually bring a truck for kids to climb into. Pat will do face painting. Also, a band composed of her music students will play. Jim will ask the Parks Department about amplification rules.

- Rus talked about the Good Neighbor Award, which he will give out at the Park Party. There will be a nomination form in the August newsletter, but, if you have suggestions in the meantime, contact Rus at 705-0862 or rusgeh@yahoo.com.
- Rus talked about the Mandala (or Compass Rose) Street Art Project. The plan is for it to be in the intersection of Tullis and Bigelow. Currently, Jessicarae Nuñez and Kate Arvin are working on getting the city-required permission signatures of residents who live within two blocks of that site. If that includes you, and you have not yet signed the consent form, contact Jessicarae at awildiris@live.com. Perhaps the Street Art will be unveiled at the Park Party.
- Gail Sanders gave an update on the Home Renovation Tour. It will be on Saturday, October 6, from 3:00 to 5:00. (It might go longer). There will be wine and cheese, etc, at the different stops. Any type of home alteration, big or little, from a new closet to a whole new house, qualifies. If you are interested in helping or being a part of the tour, contact Gail at 357-5737 or gail6877@netzero.com.
- The newsletter preceding this event will begin to be distributed September 21.
- Our Elections Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 9, from 6:30 to 8:00, perhaps at the main Fire House. Angie will pin the location down, and make sure a city official comes, if it's there. It will be a dessert potluck. The two offices up for reelection are President and Secretary. NEITHER RUS NOR JIM WILL BE RUNNING AGAIN, SO WE NEED CANDIDATES FOR THESE OFFICES. Both are two year terms, ending in October 2014. For more information about what these jobs entail, contact Rus at 705-0862 or rusgeh@yahoo.com or Jim at 754-5228 or jimburlingame4u@gmail.com.
- Angie gave an update on Block Watch. In two months, she will resign as Block Watch Captain. In the meantime, she will begin divvying up tasks, to make it easier for her replacement. Block Watch has moved away from using the phone tree to alerting people through the BHNA Block Watch listserv. If you are not yet on it and would like to join, contact Angie at 705-3459 or angie.warnerrein@gmail.com. The phone tree will still be used for imminent danger situations. The next Block Watch Meeting is Thursday, July 19, at 6:30 at the Olympia Metro Church, at the corner of Bigelow and Puget. Amy Stuff from OPD will be there. Topics will include residential burglary prevention and how to respond to a suspect. Someone asked how Block Watch is different from Map Your Neighborhood. MYN is a way for neighbors to plan for large, natural disasters. Contact Angie for more information on that, too. Mike Dixel, President of the North Eastside Neighborhood Association is putting together a crime prevention meeting that will

include NENA, BHNA, and the Upper Eastside Neighborhood Association (UENA). It will be either July 24 or 25. He will provide us with details soon. Angie reported that there has been an increase in crime in Northeast Olympia in the last few months, usually during the day, even while people have been home. Lock your doors, even if you are at home. According to Amy Stull, our Block Watch is the biggest, most active in the city. OPD really appreciates the information loop we've created between us and them.

- Jim gave a report on the draft on new BHNA Bylaws he put together, with the help of the other officers and Bob Peller. [A PDF of them will be sent out with these minutes, and will be posted on the bulletin board at the park.] People can read through them between now and our October Elections Meeting, when we will vote on approving them. We talked about whether people who work (but don't live or own property) in our neighborhood should be written in to be eligible as voting members, but decided against that. If such people begin to show up regularly, then we can revisit that issue.
- Jim gave a report on the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations Steering Committee Meeting he attended the night before. Representatives from the Boys and Girls club gave a presentation. CNA will host a forum in August or September to smooth over the Boys and Girls Club's second attempt to get an OK on a new location from the public. Julie Hankin, the CNA's City Council Representative, talked about the city's new Graffiti Ordinance (changing charges from "property damage" to a specific crime with "gross misdemeanor" consequences) and the city's new Repeat Violator Code Enforcement Ordinance. Both were to be on the Council's Consent (Yes or No) Calendar for its July 10 meeting, as well as the CNA's MOU. Jim asked the CNA's advice about business's that are slow to erase graffiti, and it sounds like our approach is in sync with other NAs': talk with business owners about our Graffiti Busters efforts and about the property owner's responsibility, then, if need be, after several weeks or a month or whatever time feels right, let Code Enforcement know if the graffiti remains. Really, though, any individual can call Code Enforcement with questions or complaints at any time. Meanwhile, on our end, Rus and Angie are going to work on building strong relationships with the businesses in our area, before we turn any over to C.E. We will revisit this issue at the October Meeting. If anyone would like to take over representing BHNA to the CNA, let Jim know.
- Melissa thanked all who made the BHNA Garden Walk such a great event.
- She gave the Treasurer's Report. We have \$362 at Twin Star Credit Union, and someone passed her their \$10 dues. She would like it if, on a regular basis, we informed our members about what their money is going towards. We will talk more about that at the October Meeting.
- Susi O'Bryan talked about the second annual Love Our Local Festival that will happen August 19 in the intersection in front of the San Francisco Street Bakery, from 1:00 to 9:00. It will have

bands, educational and community booths, kids' areas, etc. She is in charge of "the commons" aspect of it, or "reskilling," bringing together people to pass on knowledge, such as how to do beekeeping, darning, etc. In conjunction with that, she's putting together a tour of all the Community Gardens in Northeast Olympia: the Hale Place and Capital Vision Christian Church ones in the BHN and the Wendell Berry Garden in NEN. Contact Susi for more information at suzobryan@yahoo.com.