

## **Bigelow Highlands Neighborhood Association Elections Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 6:45 - 8:30, at City Hall

- All officers were in attendance: President Rus Geh, Vice-President Angie Warner-Rein, Treasurer Melissa Allen, and Secretary Jim Burlingame.
- We all introduced ourselves.
- Ian Christopher let us know that there is a neighborhood lending library (a box on a post) on Bigelow near Wilson. It's actually in the Upper Eastside Neighborhood, but anyone can take or leave a book.
- Rus got started summarizing BHNA's accomplishments over the last 2 years, and others joined in. These include: the kiosk in Bigelow Park; the 4 metal neighborhood signs (at least one of which, on the traffic light at State and Puget, is now up); the sidewalk tile art (all the tiles are done; Rus is just waiting to get the go-ahead from the relevant city person to put them in the sidewalk on Central); the Neighborhood Directory (which grew to include a neighborhood survey, with at least 54 respondents, and a doorhanger with important information, which will be passed out to all BHN residents soon, and which accomplished the original goal of finding an easy way to connect with people...the Directory itself, which will be available to those who opt in, will be done in November); very nice "BHNA Volunteer" buttons, which can be reused for a variety of projects; the Matching Grant we pursued and won; all the volunteering hours people put in, which, if monetized (Angie figured out, based on \$10/hour), would have cost us \$21,000 over the last year (including, for example, 163 hours/\$620 for the Directory Project; 134 hours/\$1340 for the Neighborhood Signs Project; 202 hours/\$2200 for the Sidewalk Art Project; 120 hours/\$1280 for the newsletter; 100 hours/\$1100 for Block Watch; 500 hours/\$5000 for Graffiti Removal; 20 hours/\$200 for the Park Picnic; and 345/\$3450 each for the Hale Place Community Garden and the Capital Vision Christian Church one); our Block Watch and Graffiti Removal Projects have both become citywide successes (Angie said of the former, "part of the goal of creating it was to create a culture of responsiveness," and that describes the latter too); the Emergency Planning Committee met with representatives of CVCC and Olympia Metro Church and a woman from Thurston County Emergency Planning, last year, to begin to coordinate how we all could best serve the needs of the neighborhood in an emergency, and Angie organized her block for the Map Your Neighborhood program, plus we have 3 neighborhood emergency kits, 2 at Bob Peller's house (1215 Glass) and 1 at the Shomshors' (604 Garrison); we created a free, easily-maintained website and facebook page; we made and distributed 4-5 newsletters a year; we removed a lot of graffiti (a little over 500 pieces, from small tags to big murals) and Linda created a great database of them, which is interfaced with the OPD to facilitate arrests; we had our annual park/church party; our annual Trash Pick-Up on MLK, Jr, Day; our annual Garden Tour; and the return of our Home Remodel Tour.
- Rus and Angie passed around sheets for people to sign-up to help in different areas.
- Jim gave a report on the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations meeting he attended last night, pointing out that the OPD officer in charge of the Eastside is Lt. Ray Holmes, whose contact information can be found on the OPD website; that Cathie Butler, from the city's administrative office, said it's working to reduce the amount of redundant

and/or overly-complex mailings it sends to NAs; that we should check to see if BHNA's website has links to the city's and the CNA's; and that the CNA's proposed sub-area mapping changes (pertaining to the city's new Comprehensive Plan) wouldn't effect BHNA boundaries. He also talked some about the value of staying involved in the CNA.

- Jim talks about the Public Safety Bond Measure that the city's putting on the November ballot. If it doesn't pass, the financial loss to the OPD would be the equivalent of losing 11 and a half staff members, which would include Amy Stull, the invaluable community liaison, who has helped us with Block Watch, Graffiti Removal, getting officers and herself to meetings, and more.
- We discussed what led to Jim and Bob redoing the BHNA Bylaws. Rus made a motion that they be accepted, Bob seconded, and all agreed to do so. The copy of the new Bylaws Rus signed and dated will be kept with a copy of these minutes, and Jim will email copies of both to Jennifer Kinney at the city.
- Melissa gave the Treasurer's Report. We've gotten 18 dues for the fiscal year that starts November 1. She would like to get to the point where we can know how much to expect each year, and then plan for how we'd like to use those funds. Our balance is \$245.38, after some spending throughout the year. She sent our annual report to the Secretary of State.
- Rus discussed the idea that we can look for other ways to raise funds, such as putting out a hat or jar at BHNA events. We all supported that, although Simone had some reservations about the overlap in presenting ourselves, on the one hand, as an organization raising funds professionally (dues, grants) and, on the other, one that asks people to put money in a jar.
- We discuss the structures we have to avoid internal theft: our Bylaws and the habit Bob had, when he was Treasurer, of always having an additional Officer also sign checks.
- Rus talked about what being President has been like for him.
- Bob said that in the last 2 years, this board has saved the neighborhood association.
- Simone said that, coming from the opposite end as Bob, in terms of experience here, she wanted to thank the board for making her feel so welcome.
- Jim said he will still host the annual Trash Pick-Up on MLK, Jr., Day in January.
- Scotty nominated his mother, Simone Boe, to be President, Jim seconded, and Rus passed her the apple crumble he'd made. She discussed her qualms about accepting, then she did accept and we unanimously voted her in. She will serve through the October 2014 Elections Meeting.
- Jim nominated Marj Shomshor to replace him as Secretary, Angie seconded, and Marge accepted. We unanimously voted her in. She will serve through the October 2014 Elections Meeting.
- Gail Garrard will take over for Jim as CNA representative.
- Gail Sanders will take over for Jim as Newsletter Editor. He will help her get the hang of it.
- Simone is hosting a meeting for Directory Project volunteers Sunday, October 14, at 9:00. She will arrange a separate meeting for the new board to meet.
- The next general meeting will be the second Tuesday in January, unless the new board decides otherwise. The next newsletter will be distributed two weekends before that.