

Bigelow Highlands Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
January 8, 2013

Our newly elected president Simone Boe called the meeting to order. The Association met in the music room at Roosevelt Elementary School with childcare available in the large gym. 14 people were in attendance. After introductions Simone shared the vision for BHNA as the desire to foster the meeting and connecting with neighbors and to make this a neighborhood where people want to come live and raise their families. Outgoing board members Jim Burlington and Rus Sec were presented with certificate of appreciation for their past several years of service on the board. Thank you Jim and Rus

The treasurer's report showed that as of the end of November the Association had a balance of \$512.38 at our local Twin Star Credit Union. Most of our income comes from the suggested \$10 membership dues and from Ralph Thriftway's community rebate program. Currently there are 30 dues paying members. The Association's main expenses are the annual picnic, the paper for the printing of the newsletter and graffiti cleanup supplies. The group was then asked if there were any expenses that the Association might want to take into consideration. One suggestion was to replace the corkboard on the sign at Bigelow Park.

Ralph Thriftway has a community rebate program that provides 1% back for all purchase made at Ralphs for those individuals who have sign up. If you are not a member of Ralph's Value card program one can sign up online or at the store. Those who already have a rewards card and want to make sure BHNA is getting 1% of their expenditures contact Storeman's Office located just behind Ralph's (360-754-2203 ask for Penny). It was also suggested that one might want to occasionally check if the money is being sent to the Association.

Some of the activities that BHNA have undertaken include Block Watch, Map Your Neighborhood, graffiti busting and title the sidewalk. Chris Hawkins spoke about a new proposal he gave the City for their sidewalk/path projects. Chris explained that the City has identified where it thinks new sidewalks or paths should go, but then opened it up to neighborhood associations to also provide their input. 17 projects were identified with Chris's being among them. The City has \$125,000 set aside for projects.

Chris's suggestion is to add a walking path that would extend Thurston Street through the water shed area to meet up with Olympic Avenue on the other side. This would provide a direct route to the bay and the Children's Hands on Museum eliminating the need to walk down the busy State Street. Plus it would provide a safer route around the corner at Bethel and Thurston. This area has a blind spot and it is not pedestrian or bike friend area. The City is currently reviewing all proposals and will give their recommendations to the City Council sometime this week. The group asked Chris to keep the Association in the loop about how things are progressing.

Chris Rekkdal our representative for District Legislative 22 was our guest speaker. He shared with us how he sees this legislative year shaping up. He believes the revenue is stabilizing, but with the court decision about education funding and some upcoming lawsuits the State will still face a deficit for this next fiscal year. The good news is that we now only need a simple majority

to pass bills which Chris believes with force both parties to work together and compromise to find an acceptable solution for all parties. When asked what we can do, his response was to be vocal let him and others know what we want and what is important to us. Also while the economy is slowly recovering the local governments are the front lines and the legislature needs to start sending money back to them. The \$10 billion in budget cuts over the past several years have taught us what we can and cannot live with. Also he does not expect to see a build up to the former status quo that we had in better times. Mr. Reykdal left sharing his personal erk. The past several governors have made Olympia their home, living and raising their families here. The new governor wants to make Seattle the center of government not Olympia. For Seattle the additional revenue would be a small blip, but the lost to Olympia would be huge. Thank you Representative Reykdal for coming and sharing your insights with us.

Simone resumed the business meeting by saying that the 2013 grant proposals are due in mid-February. If anyone has ideas please send them to the board. This last year's grant money purchased 4 BHNA signs which the City is in the process of installing. We also purchased material for the sidewalk title art project, and for the door hangers letting people know about the neighborhood.

Another outcome of last year's grant proposal's was Simone's idea for a neighborhood directory. Simone took this idea and created a survey which to date 49 people have responded with 15 opting in to have their names listed in a neighborhood directory. We are waiting for 10% of the neighborhood to opt in (50 households) before actually printing the directory.

Linda Donaldson is BHNA graffiti queen. She is known within the City of Olympia for all the work she has done cleaning up the graffiti in our neighborhood and creating a database to track it. Linda now has 7 buckets ready to go if everyone finds some graffiti. We ask if you find some on public property, take a picture, note the location and clean it up or pass the information along to Linda. With the information and picture Linda logs the data in her database and then passes it on to the City. The information is sometimes used in court cases and stiffer sentences are handed down to taggers. There is also a feeling that the cleaner we keep our neighborhood the less likely tag artists are to come back and the less crime we have. Metro Church and Tough Tone have also sent out groups to also help clean up graffiti in the neighborhood.

On Martin Luther King Day Jim Burlington will host a neighborhood cleanup day. Meet at his house 602 Garrison St NE at 10AM to start the day with hot coco and cookies before going out and cleaning up the neighborhood. Bring gloves and a garbage bag and come help keep the neighborhood clean.

In the past BHNA has hosted a remodeling and garden tour with everyone having a good time. It is not as much about how beautiful your garden is or how big your remodel was, but the most fun was getting to meet other neighbors and share stories. If anyone is interested coordinating one of these activities this year drop a line to one of the board members. Garden tour will be in July and the remodel tour late summer or early fall.

One last bit of information shared is that the City hosts a monthly meeting where the presidents from the various neighborhood organizations get together to share problems, issues and

exchange ideas. The City also has a wide variety of resources available including, but not limited to Accessory Dwelling Units, Energy Efficiency and Walking Tour Guides.

Safe travels home to everyone, go out and meet a new neighbor and see you in April for the next BHNA general meeting.