

**Overlook Neighborhood Association
General Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2009**

Board Members Present: Matt Scoggin (current rotating Board Chair), Alan Cranna, Alan DeLaTorre, Clare Matthias, Steve Lanigan, Michelle Thompson, George Spaulding, David Chott, Tom Kilbane

Number of community members and other guests in attendance: 11

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

Matt facilitates group introductions around the room—board members and community members.

Grievance Committee Election

- Matt explains purpose of Grievance committee and issues call for volunteers or nominations for elected seats to this committee
- Mattie Davis (community member) self-nominates
- Gayle Vrla (community member) self-nominates
- Matt initiates formal election. Both candidates unanimously voted to committee. Matt moves to approve the election and vote was seconded.

7:06 pm

Ride Connection Presentation by James DeWitt (of Ride Connection)

- As an outreach initiative to Overlook, James DeWitt presented the purpose and services of Ride Connection. The organization provides transportation services and options to older, disabled, and needy adults (e.g. former inmates matriculating into society) throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties.
- These services include door-to-door rides to teaching people how to use public transportation. All services offered at no cost to participants.
- Services offered Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm. No weekends. Some portions of their fleet are available for loan to groups that formally apply.

7:19

Portland NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team Training) Presentation by Gayle Vrla

- Gayle Vrla, a citizen volunteer and team leader with NET in the Overlook Neighborhood presented the purpose of NET and opportunities for community members in Overlook to get involved in Neighborhood Emergency Team Training.
- All training provided by Portland office of Emergency Management. Purpose is to have a team of trained, ready-to-deploy community members to serve the emergency coordination needs of neighborhoods during a major emergency before and when formal disaster services are not available. This includes a coordinated team to check on neighbors who may be in distress, helping to remove individuals from debris and danger, administering first aid, etc.
- City provides NET training 3 times a year. Next training starts April 10, 2010.
- More information available at www.pdxprepared.net
- Gayle informed attendees that the Overlook NET staging area during an actual disaster will be in the vacant lot at the corner of Interstate and Killingsworth.

7:48 pm

Pittman Hydro Park Update presented by Darcy Cronin of the PDX Water Bureau

- Darcy provided a brief overview of the one-year history of the Pittman Addition Hydro Park project.
- Informed attendees that there would be a next-steps meeting for the park on Wednesday, November 4 at 7 pm at Krakow Cafe. The meeting will be facilitated by Darcy Cronin and Brian Berello a local artist. Topics at the meeting will include creating a process for making the space into a sculpture park for temporary installations, and also planning for future community events to be held at the park.

Community Crime Report by Mark Wells, Crime Prevention Coordinator with Office of Neighborhood Involvement

- Mark reports that crime in Overlook is up significantly in recent months. Much of the crime reported is car prowls and residential burglaries.
- Mark urged anyone who is a victim of a crime (or witness) to call the non-emergency number 503-823-3333 and file a crime report. He stressed that the number of police officers allotted to the neighborhood is determined by the number of crime reports on file; accurate crime statistics are needed to ensure that our neighborhood receives adequate police presence.
- Mark informed group that the FBI would be in attendance at the next North Portland PSAC meeting to provide identity theft and fraud training.
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8:06 pm

Small Grant Presentations

- Matt introduced the topic of the Small Grants Program offered by the North/Northeast Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement.
- Alan DeLaTorre presented his interest in submitting a grant to fund a study that would springboard from his recent PSU summer Capstone Project. The grant would fund examination of ways to support older adults aging in place in Overlook.
- The project would create a document that would summarize four major projects in recent years in Overlook that have focused on the well being of older adults, including GOAH and NORC.
- A spring event would be proposed to gather community responses to proposed ideas for community support, including possibly a senior center, a printed guide to elder services, and/or a white paper on what would be most beneficial.
- Matt moved to support this grant proposal. Tom K. seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Michelle Thompson and Matt Scoggin of the OKNA board presented their intention to apply for a \$2,000 grant to generate financial support for the OKNA Views newsletter.
- Tom K. moved to support this motion. Alan seconded the motion.
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8:18

Newsletter Topics for Next Issue

- Michelle Thompson, OKNA Newsletter Coordinator asked group for input on what topics they would like to see covered in the next issue. Ideas suggested included the new Willamette Blvd

light posts, the proposed bike boulevard on Concord St., an ICURAC update, and a story about the North Portland Tool library.

Old/New Business

- Jon Bostrom, a resident new to Overlook expressed his concern over the number of recent liquor license applications pending for North Portland and the potential for a negative impact on the livability of Overlook. Discussion among group ensued.
- Matt offered that this topic would be added to the agenda for the November OKNA board meeting, with the possibility of a statement of concern to be put forth to the OLCC by the board, pending discussion by the board.
- Michelle Thompson raised concern about the large sign for the Killingsworth/Interstate sunflower lot that has recently fallen over during heavy winds. Suggestions were made for how to secure the sign.
- Alan DeLaTorre mentioned that the PSU Urban Studies MA candidates are interested in potential projects in PDX neighborhoods; Alan asked group if we should try as a neighborhood to propose a possible project that could benefit residents. It was agreed that this would also be a topic at the November OKNA board meeting. Neighbors were invited to submit ideas.
- Tom Kilbane mentioned that the Madrona Plaza project is continuing to move forward slowly and that more information would be available soon.
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8:45

Chair Reports

- Alan Cranna reported on upcoming events at the Overlook House
- Matt presented information on the Friends of Trees upcoming January plantings; presented on behalf of Cynthia Sulaski who was unable to attend the meeting.

Meeting adjourns at 8:55 pm