



## BWNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

12/11/23

Zoom

**Prepared by:** Patti Koehler

**Adopted on:** 1/8/24

**Board Officers:** Patty Nelson, President; Al Ellis, Vice President; Patti Koehler, Secretary; Karla Lenox, Treasurer; Tim Gillespie, Immediate Past President. **At-Large Board Members:** Sam Balto, Aaron Breakstone, Angela Frome, Gary Hancock, Jonathan Hays, Rob Lee, Colin O'Neill, John Sandie, Susan Trabucco.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Patty Nelson, BWNA President. Patty informed the Board that Amy O'Brien has resigned.

### **Attendees**

**Board Members:** Patty Nelson, Al Ellis, Patti Koehler, Karla Lenox, Tim Gillespie, Sam Balto, Aaron Breakstone, Angela Frome, Gary Hancock, Jonathan Hays, Rob Lee, Colin O'Neill, John Sandie, Susan Trabucco

**Neighbors:** Josh Petri, Karen Siegle, Nick Parish, Robert Walter, David Knowles, Diane Charlton, Patrick Slabe, John Middleton

**Guests:** Scott Cohen PBOT

### **Meeting and Association Governance**

**Adoption of Meeting Agenda:** A motion to adopt meeting agenda was made by Patti seconded by John and passed unanimously

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Colin asked that the previous minutes reflect that the Transportation Committee reported that Scott Cohen will present at the General meeting on 12/13/23 and will include an update on the Skidmore transportation project at that time. The previous minutes were unanimously approved with that edit.

**Treasurers Report:** As of Nov 30th

Cash in checking account: \$19,356.23

Cash in Venmo account: \$496.62

On 12/4 Karla received the Communication funds from CNN for the 23/24 fiscal year in the amount of \$2900. This amount is from the city, how much they have to divide up between the neighborhood associations. That will be in the Dec. report.

Outstanding Bills: \$191.94 to Jane Feinberg for newsletter software and payment for email due every 6 months. \$85.42 to Angela Frome for food provided at the retreat. \$22.00 to Patti Koehler for coffee provided at the retreat. \$13.20 to Karla Lenox for stamps.

Patty reported we did give a check to the Beaumont Middle School Resiliency Funds and received a thank you.

## Meeting Discussion

### 1. **City Transportation Updates:** Scott Cohen PBOT

Alameda/Fremont Diverter Pilot Project Update:

Current Evolution: Intersection has changed a lot over the past 15 yrs with a lot of competing needs. Spring 2020 The Slow Streets program launched with orange barrels in intersection. In Fall 2021 PBOT announced plans to replace Slow streets installation and make them more permanent. Winter 2022 PBOT redesigned to what is currently present. Spring 2022 PBOT presented to BWNA, Board requested delay for alternative design. Developed a new design which was rejected, and went back to previous design. Summer 2022 data was collected. Winter 2022 installed solar speed reader boards and installed pilot project. Fall 2023 post project data collection.

Patty noted that BWNA had gone to PBOT with concerns of speed and accidents. The Board did vote on the proposal PBOT presented, she would like it noted that the board did deliberate and voted to not support the PBOT proposal.

Scott then described what a Neighborhood Greenway is, the key is similar to other streets but they are traffic calmed along the route. Usually have speed bumps, have way finding signs to help people navigate and raise awareness to drivers along the route to expect other users and leads users to a place where it is easier to cross a street. Outcome is to improve walking, biking, rolling and to have safe walks to school.

Issues for NE Alameda and Fremont: Crash history, key route to school, neighborhood Greenway Crossing, Slow Street intersection, slated for upgraded materials led to opportunity to create a safer intersection by removing turn conflicts and removing angle crash potential (t-boning) and reduce traffic volume on the Alameda Greenway. Project Goals: Reduce crashes/crash potentials create more crossing opportunities for walking, biking, rolling, reduce auto volumes on Alameda. Noted pilot project commitments and outcomes including mailed postcard and emails to solicit feedback. Reached out to TriMet, BMS and Alameda K-5 directly, met with BWNA committee to discuss concepts and alternatives. Collected data in 22 locations before project and 15 after. Installed project with temporary materials, installed advance warning signs, collected data 10 months after construction and currently providing post project results via tonights meeting and email. Commitment: Local streets will operate as well or better than the Neighborhood Greenway. Outcome is that all the local streets have less traffic and similar speeds to NE Alameda and NE Klickitat Neighborhood Greenways.

The initial project needs were identified by residents and communicated by Board members. Took committee feedback and met with city engineers to come up with alternative solutions.

What data showed:

-significant reduction on NE Alameda Neighborhood Greenway

-no significant impacts to nearby local neighborhood streets (i.e. not seeing >1000 cars/day or

elevated speeds).

-no significant increase impact in volume or speed on NE Fremont St.

Colin pointed out that neighboring streets have increased numbers. Scott said ideal numbers for neighborhood streets are less than a 1000 a day (as well or better than the Neighborhood Greenway). Higher traffic was expected but all streets are meeting goals. Scott reports street street width has nothing to do with how streets are meant to operate.

Next Steps: Project team will continue to monitor several streets:

-NE Klickitat Neighborhood Greenway west of NE Alameda volume is now approximately 1000 a day. Analysis complicated because pre and post collection data locations were not the same, will collect additional data.

-NE 38th south of Fremont saw increase in N bound traffic though still far below guidelines. Will continue to take data and consider other traffic calming measures.

-No issues were noted regarding peak hour traffic other than on NE Chavez north of Fremont. but not seeing a large chunk of traffic in one hour.

-Check in on visibility issues for NE Fremont at NE 38th, NE Cesar Chaves and NE 40th Ave.

There is a work order in the cue for parking setbacks on Fremont, not sure why they have not been installed yet.

Erin asked about 36th ave and 35th Place, both unpaved where no data was collected.

Scott answered that counts were done on places they thought traffic would be diverted to and it is challenging to get counts on gravel streets. Sam asked about the goal of having non-greenway streets not have more or better than Greenway streets, wondered if the goal should be flipped.

Scott responded that we are asking other streets to expect changes to their street but making a commitment to them that they will operate as well or better than the Neighborhood Greenway.

Sam noted other soon to be Greenway streets have up to 1600 cars and wonder if there can be diverters on those streets. Scott replied that maybe that is possible and we will do these fun

meetings to talk about it. Angela asked if the hardware on Fremont will stay the same or will it be more permanent. Scott responded for now it will be the same. Funding may need to be

provided to update the corners to meet the disabilities act. Will need to discuss more in the

future if that happens. David Knowles stated he is at Klickitat and 36th and there were not data points west of 37th and they have been observing a lot of traffic with a destination of going down 37th turning left on 36th and then left again on 37th to get on Fremont. Encouraged to do

data collection. Scott said they do need new counts on Klickitat and will need to do new numbers. Gary asked if there were any attempts to lower the numbers from 1000/day and ? what

is Sandy between 35th and 36th running? Scott reported Sandy Blvd in the Hollywood is running something like 20-25,000 per day, not exactly sure. Always talk about how to make safer steets

but nothing on the horizon about changing the 1000/day. Colin stated he does not see a count on Cesar Chavez above 50th and asks what would be the mitigation. Scott said it is operating about the same level as it had so mitigation may not happen.

SKIDMORE project between NE 33 and 34th is complete right now. Changed the design of the project to align more closely with the goals to help people cycling west bound to access the two way bike lane on 33rd and continue west bound on to Mason and points west. The project is done now. No additional plans at this time. Patty asked if putting speed bumps on Skidmore was a possibility and Scott responded probably but it was not a goal of his project on Skidmore. Possible to add traffic calming with other projects. Suggested talking to other project managers or the people doing the Mason/Skidmore Greenway about ways to improve that section. That project may break ground in 2025, elements in the design are more expensive than anticipated so they are working on ways to find the funds or change the design to bring it into budget. Alan noted that on Skidmore between 33rd to 42nd there is consistent speeding and running stop signs, asks PBOT to monitor it. Scott said he will get counts for Skidmore. Patrick Slabe noted that there are limited stop signs on Skidmore between 33rd and 42nd and it has been ignored for 50 yrs. Scott reported there will be stop signs coming when the Skidmore/Mason Greenway is installed.

## 2. **Small Grants through CNN: Grant amount between \$500-\$3000**

Patty reported she did not see anyone submit anything so she put together some options.

- Beaumont Family Resiliency Fund is how we used the money in the past.
- Purchase OWL for Wifi Hybrid board meetings to provide visual and audio support (about \$1100)
- Community Events in Wilshire Park
- Alder commons gift card from Beaumont Hardware

Following discussion a motion was made by Susan to submit for a purchase of the OWL technology, Alan seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. Patty recruited Jonathan to assist Patty in putting the application together.

## 3. **Committee Framework & Documentation**

Patty would like a Better job on documenting our processes such as our committees.

Events committee has put together a proposal that was sent out. Patty proposed John present it and then the Board can ask questions and our next meeting if we can all come back with some formal documentation we can review. Karla stated the application for Movie in the Park is Jan 15th and she was hoping the Events Committee would support that application. John stated the Events Committee would work on it prior to our next meeting. John presented the committee purpose/scope/authority and screen shared it with the Board. Alan moved

the board approve the events committee purpose statement. Susan seconded. Patti asked that the sentence addressing the events committee chair and "his" designee be changed from "his" to "their" designee. The motion unanimously passed with the pronoun edit as suggested.

Questions & issues arose as a result of the conversation: Are Committee's required to have open meetings and secondly we do not have an adequate place to hold meetings. Patty will ask CNN if committee meetings need to be public and a meeting location will need to be a later discussion. Gary mentioned that Friends of Wilshire Park meetings are no longer posted due to unfriendly Zoom bombing in the past.

## **Committee Updates**

**Central Northeast Neighbors:** No update

**Crime Prevention & Safety:** No update

**Friends of Wilshire Park:** No update

**Land Use:** Tim Root submitted a letter for the city council Jan 16th meeting regarding building waivers. Updates: The Planning commission took the bird glazing waver and the eco roof off of the proposal. They are also clarifying the permitting of the security and lighting, reducing the permitting of those to protect businesses so he removed those from the letter. Patty moved, Gary seconded a motion to approve the letter to the City Council regarding the Regulatory Relief Project Proposal. Aaron reported he would vote no as a number of the points will not impact or neighborhood due to the zone designations in the proposal. Tim tried to get clarification from planners and the area of Fremont has multiple overlays which could affect some of our commercial districts and into 42nd. Following discussion Rob also voted no but the remainder of the board voted to approve the motion.

**New Neighbor Welcoming Project:** No report

**Newsletter:** No report

**Transportation:** No report

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:38

**Next Board Meeting:** Monday Jan 8th, hope it will be at BMS (Jonathan has not heard back to clarify).