



Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association

BWNA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2023
ZOOM MEETING

*Meeting notes prepared by Patti Koehler, Revised by Patty Nelson
reflecting revisions adopted by board at 3-13-2023 meeting*

Welcome & Introductions: Patty Nelson, BWNA President

Attendees:

- **Board Members:** Sam Balto, Gary Hancock, Al Ellis, Karla Lenox, Tim Gillespie, Angela Frome, Patti Koehler, Laurel Marshall, Colin O'Neill, Patty Nelson, John Sandie, Susan Trabucco, Aaron Breakstone
- **Neighbors:** Dancy and Peter Gearin, Nancy and Peter Mogielnicki, Pamela Plimpton, Josh and Gordy, Adam Ballard, Diane Charlton, Chris O'Neill, Josh G, Bill Markwart, Mary Roney, Peter Beiran, Jim, Jonathan Maus, Clay Dudley, Julie Bernstein, and Orin
- **Guests:** Jonathan Cruz, Community Partnerships Coordinator at Multnomah Community Health Department and Scott Cohen, Program Coordinator Portland Bureau of Transportation

Meeting and Association Governance:

- **Meeting Agenda:** Motion to approve Meeting Agenda proposed, seconded and approved with unanimous vote.
- **January 9th Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve January 9th meeting minutes proposed, seconded and approved with unanimous vote.
- **Treasurers Report:** Treasurer Karla Lenox reported as of 1/31/23 BWNA had the following account balances:
 - Cash in the checking account: \$16,947.93
 - Cash in the Venmo account: \$941.21
 - Accounts receivable: \$3577

MEETING DISCUSSION

Guest Speaker:

Jonathan Cruz: Outreach coordinator Wood Smoke Curtailment Program at the Multnomah County Health Department spoke regarding the hazards of wood smoke. Jonathan sent a survey to the neighborhood out of which he had 18 responses.

- 4% felt air pollution was much better
- 8% felt air pollution was better
- 68% felt air pollution was about the same

- 20% felt it was worse
- When asked do you burn wood at home, 17% reported they did.

Air pollution is a silent killer. In 2020 a PSU study found 1/3rd of people in the Portland region worry about the health effects of air pollution. Particulate matter can enter the body through the respiratory system contributing to symptoms such as headaches and sore throats. 30 smoked cigarettes are equivalent to 10 pounds of burned wood (approximately 1-3 hours of burning).

Annual cost for cord of firewood in Multnomah County is more than the average in the rest of the country. Increased income households are buying wood more often than lower income households. Exposure to particulate matter increases cancer risk. Sources of particulate matter: 19.1% from roads and 11% from wood. Life expectancy in BW neighborhood is high but decreased in S and E Portland.

Burning is a behavioral choice. Check burn status before burning. Ordinance is year round. Burn restriction days are not common occurring 6-7 times a year on average.

Can sign up for alerts by text or email: www.multco.us/woodsmokestatus Call 503-988-0035 Complaints: 503-823-3333.

Guest Speaker:

Scott Cohen Portland Bureau of Transportation. scott.cohen@portlandoregon.gov 503-823-5345

Discussing PBOT's traffic calming features which prioritize people walking and biking. Tonight's topic was the Skidmore connection NE 33rd to 37th Corridor safety proposal.

Current concerns: High speeds of 27-28mph and High volume of cars (1070/day) most traveling eastbound from 33rd onto Skidmore with greater than 100 cars an hour during peak times.

PBOT originally considered putting in diverter farther east at the intersection of NE Skidmore and 36th or 37th but decided not to pursue that idea based on neighbors' feedback.

Goal of reducing conflict with southbound cyclists. Key goal, a two-way bike track on the north side of the park between 33rd and 37th that would move parking from the curb, create a two way bike lane next to the curb and create a parking lane next to the bike lane. While parking will be retained, 20-25 parking spaces will be removed at T intersections on the south side of Skidmore to provide crossings for pedestrians.

There will be associated biking improvements between NE Mason and Skidmore including upgrades to the signaled crossing at NE Mason and Wilshire Park and a new two-way bike lane on 33rd Ave between NE Mason and Skidmore streets. The project is tentatively scheduled for summer 2023 though Scott explained it is considered a small job and getting contractors to do the work will be the determining factor.

Comments received at the meeting on the proposed project included:

- Speed bumps requested to address speed. Scott explained narrowing of travel lane should have a positive impact on speed and speed bumps are an expensive alternative.
- Pedestrian Safety: Concerns raised regarding people getting out of vehicles into bike lane instead of into park. Scott explained there is a 2-foot buffer between parked cars and bike lane.

- Access for Physically Impaired: Request for improved ADA access at park entrance and parking. Scott indicated he may be able to add a designated disabled parking spot next to the park entrance.
- Bike Lane Width: Request to widen the bike lanes from 10 feet to 12 feet, eliminating parking on one side of road.

MOVIE IN THE PARK

Karla Lenox reported the application for the movie in the park has been submitted and we will know 2/17/23 if we have been chosen. She requested one of the following dates, 8/10, 8/11 or 8/12. She noted the choice of a food vendor is not under our control.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP EVENT

Tim Gillespie reported that he, Karla Lenox, and Patti Koehler attended a zoom session presented by Rhonda Johnson of the Central Northeast Neighborhood Coalition. She reported the city of Portland used to subsidize clean-up events up to \$5,000, but those funds are no longer available unless you are in a lower income neighborhood. She recommended a six-month period of time to plan such an event. Tim reported that we had intended the event to be a dual fundraiser for the Association and the Beaumont Middle School PTA, with funds earmarked for the Family Resiliency Fund, but that the Resiliency Fund is being ended and the remaining funds are being distributed. It was proposed that those still interested in some form of event continue to meet to discuss possible alternatives such as a shredding event and/or supporting the Cully Neighborhood Association in any event they may put on.

NORTHEAST FREMONT STREET PAINTING

John Sandie discussed possible crosswalk artwork on 44th and 46th Avenue bump-outs. The Beaumont Middle School Art class has shown an interest in designing one, though they may not be able to do the painting themselves. Dennis Phillips (who's wife died on Fremont Ave in Dec. 2022) will commission an artist to do the other. John reported he will have costs dialed in by the next meeting with a goal of late June/early July time to start the project.

BYLAWS

Tim Gillespie, Al Ellis, and Patty Nelson mocked-up a first draft and will bring a formal plan to the next meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

No updates presented

NEXT BOARD MEETING

March 13, 2023

Agenda Item: Beaumont Wilshire Art and Garden Tour proposal