

OLD TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Old Town Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Thursday, November 14, 2024

The meeting called to order by the Chair, Betsy Wosko, at 7:06 PM via Zoom. Participating in the meeting were Chair Betsy Wosko, Vice Chair Corina Laws, Secretary Craig Stephens, Director Derrith Schmidt and Director Bruce Glabau.

A motion to bring the meeting to order and a motion to approve acceptance of the minutes as written from the previous board meeting was moved by Craig and seconded and unanimously approved. The report from the Treasurer was tabled until our next meeting but was unchanged from that reported in the General Meeting.

Chair Betsy reported that the 6th Annual Urban Forest Summit held Nov. 2 at the Methodist Church on Southshore to “share opportunities to maintain and support the health of our environment” was well attended and the speakers were excellent. Speakers addressed issues related to, but not limited to, urban forestry and landscaping for pollinators. A complete description of the presentations can be found on our neighborhood website oldtownlakeoswego.org. Doug Thomas is the web administrator. Thanks go to Chair Betsy and to Doug for posting this and other information of interest to our neighborhood.

Chair Betsy also mentioned the upcoming Neighborhood Chairs meeting. Betsy mentioned that she will attend and provide a report back to our neighborhood. The meeting is to be held at Rivergrove Elementary School in the Rosemont neighborhood. Topics to be covered will be as follows:

- 1) Meals on Wheels will request volunteers to fill positions (about 130 for a short time each) handing out cards for donation at checkout at the Mt. Park and Palisades locations. More information can be obtained at lakeoswegomealsonwheels.org and from Malcomb Mathes. The dates needed are Nov. 20, Sat. Nov. 23 through and including Nov. 27. This is the Lake Oswego Meals on Wheels for the Lake Oswego area only. There are a surprising number of people in Lake Oswego needing meals brought to their location where they have limited mobility.
- 2) The on-going limitations and age related problems of the South Shore Fire Station are being addressed by a citizen committee for recommendations for repair and/or replace. Chris Durkee from Palisades NA heads this citizen committee.
- 3) Insurance for NA activities involving a public building require requesting insurance coverage in advance by contacting Iris McCaleb. Bob Brown from Blue Heron to present on this.
- 4) Eric Olsen with the City will discuss state-mandated parking regulations designed to reduce gasoline consumption by vehicles by limiting or eliminating parking spaces to encourage other means of transportation than using a private vehicle.
- 5) Mark Puhlman will present on landscaping electrification and the dangers of gas powered leaf blowers.

- 6) Mary Kay Larson, Communications Director for the Lake Oswego School District, will report on the bond update for two additional schools scheduled for replacement.
- 7) Steve Unger with the the 50 Plus Citizen Advisory Board will present.

A discussion was held on goal setting for the Neighborhood Association. Betsy reviewed the events held this year (National Night Out and the General Meeting) and the feeling was by all that those went well. It was noted that the Pickleball Uprising brought neighbors together which led to success in preventing further trauma. Corina asked if goal setting was required and Betsy said that it was being discussed on a brainstorm basis only. The possibility of a picnic in September in addition to a National Night Out held earlier in the year could be considered and that could be tied to an emergency preparedness effort to approach neighbors face to face and provide them with contact information in the event of an emergency with communications options such as directly approaching a neighbor with information and help, especially in an evacuation situation. A flyer with emergency contact numbers and addresses of neighbors nearby who agree to being a contact point would be given to neighbors at their door and invited to the picnic at the same time. Recently all the doors in Old Town were knocked to provide election information and half of the neighborhood can be done in one day easily with the other half the next. Having a table at the entrance to the Festival of the Arts craft area in GRP was considered. Bruce said that Jon and Michael would be selling a lot of their stuff prior to their move in the next couple of weeks. Betsy reminded that we had put together an email list of neighbors in the past with Dick Reamer coordinating. That list also contained special skills that some neighbors have such as a ham radio operator Phil Rossi. Discussion of blocking a street or of separate get-togethers on separate streets for just those living on that street was held but a recurring theme was to have a "Friendraising" that would include everyone and especially allow reaching out to new residents to welcome them and recognize that they are welcome to neighborhood events and need as much warning in emergencies as anyone else even though they do not know the neighborhood well yet. Posting on the neighborhood website was mentioned and in real time using text messaging and Nextdoor. Having a "dry run" has been mentioned by more than one neighbor who would like to participate. And for any and all of this fund raising and/or getting an NEP to cover costs was integral to the discussion.

Comments and Announcements

- Lake Access: A ruling that the signs on the Lake at the center of Lake Oswego (near Millenium Park) that restrict access must be removed. The public has the right of access although restrictions on what kind of boats or floats that are put into the Lake and requirements for inspection to prevent contamination may be enforced. The right to access may be appealed by the Lake Corporation. At the present time the participants in the Lake Corporation allowed by their deed require a hefty fee for upkeep and maintenance of the lake in good order and condition.
- New restaurant next to Lake Theater. Good review for Mann's On The Lake by Craig. Wide ranging menu.
- Bruce asked why the water line manhole covers now have a sand-filed trench encircling them. No one knew but will check.

- Betsy said she would attend the Neighborhood Chairs meeting and send a report to all as to proceedings.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Craig Stephens, Secretary