

OLD TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Old Town Neighborhood Association General Meeting Thursday, October 6, 2022

The meeting was held in the meeting room in the Lakewood Center with a call to order by Old Town Neighborhood Association (OTNA) Chair Betsy Wosko at 7:06 PM. A motion to call the meeting to order was made by Carrie Kaufman and a second with unanimous approval by voice vote.

Attendees from the OTNA Board were as follows: Chair Betsy Wosko, Vice Chair Corina Laws, Treasurer Laurie Carlson, Secretary Craig Stephens, Directors Carrie Kaufman, Ali Afghan, and Derrith Lambka.

Approximately 30 neighbors and guests were attending the meeting including Deputy Fire Marshall David Smith, Phil Rossi, Old Town resident and long-time volunteer emergency radio communications team member, and candidates for Mayor Ali Afghan, Trudy Corrigan, Jeff Gudman and Katherine Lupton.

The Minutes from the previous (October, 2021) General Meeting were read with no objection. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Craig Stephens, seconded and unanimously agreed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Laurie Carlson reported that the treasury balance is \$449.00.

Chair Betsy Wosko introduced our guest speaker, David Smith, Deputy Fire Marshall for the City of Lake Oswego and the point person on emergency communications. The introduction included the history of radio transmissions and the importance of emergency communication in Lake Oswego for our neighborhood.

Deputy Smith outlined the levels of power and capability of 2-way radio and how it can provide a way to stay in contact with external services when cell phones are not working after an event causing outage. Family Radio Service (FRS) units are useful and more powerful (5 Watts instead of 2) GM units can overcome the requirement to be "line-of-sight" so are more useful with terrain that requires them. However, a family license is required for these units. Deputy Smith said that training and info videos have been put on the city website and provide an in-depth discussion.

Deputy Smith mentioned that neighborhoods have requested a grant (as part of the annual NEP grant program) and using his advice had obtained a locker with emergency communication equipment that can be stored in an appropriate building with recharging capability with access by emergency personnel and neighborhood block leaders. Chair Betsy presented David with a book about Lake Oswego's early days written by Marylou Colver, an Old Town resident.

The Candidate Forum phase of the meeting was then started with candidates taking three minutes to introduce themselves and indicate why they were running for City Council followed by questions that were answered sequentially.

Jeff Gudman was on Council previously and said that he would bring institutional memory with part of a team and group decisions. He emphasized “Infrastructure”, Preservation of the Stafford Triangle and Development in Foothills. He would like to replace the trolley with a bike path.

Kathrine Lupton is an Oregonian from birth, grew up in Salem as the daughter of two teachers and has an advanced degree from Johns Hopkins. She teaches Spanish and has two children in Lake Oswego schools. She became actively involved with the City when advancing the idea of having a safe pathway to schools and supports action on the Climate and maintaining the tree canopy in Lake Oswego. She is going to neighborhood meetings and listening and wants to have a more responsive City Council.

Trudy Corrigan said she also got involved with the City to get a safe pathway for her kindergartener and help make this happen with \$235K allocated. She said her kindergartener is now graduated college so she was encouraged to participate in city government using her experience gained working with such things as developing “Clear and Objective Standards”, working on making the Boones Ferry project a success and bringing a business and finance background to the budget and Council. She emphasized maintaining and improving an excellent Quality of Life in LO, advancing diversity and protecting the environment.

Ali Afghan has lived in LO since 1990 and is on the OTNA Board and serves as liaison on quality of life issues with the City via task force participation. He outlined his specific concerns and opportunities for improvement for the City as follows: Safety. Sustainability. Small Businesses. And Equity. He spoke to the necessity for more cooperation with citizens and actively listening. He believes that he would foster greater cooperation solutions to issues that have not reached adequate resolution satisfactory to citizens, such as the Tree Cutting Code and enjoyment of our parks and natural areas with a greater degree of sustainability and enhancing quality of life without degrading it for neighbors.

Chair Betsy Wosco asked the candidates whether they would work to help ban gas power leaf blower use in Lake Oswego, if elected. All responded yes but some candidates had reservations.

Betsy also asked the candidates how they think the tension should be addressed that is monthly being felt between developers and those concerned about trees being cut down as density and economic factors in LO benefit cutting large number of healthy mature trees even though it enfeebles our tree canopy and trees regarded as “heritage trees” by concerned neighbors and citizens. Jeff said that there needed to be a 3-way balance of competing interests with individual decisions based on such an analysis. Kathrine said we need to do a better job to preserve trees and she would be strongly on that side of the “tension”. Trudy mentioned that the ordinance was recently proven to be completely unclear (following a battle over trees and development that was a nearly even split decision as to preserving or cutting) and that it should be written to be more clear and objective. Ali said that there should be a balance and both sides listened to in order to reach a suitable compromise.

Phil Sterling asked about how citizens could be allowed to be heard and responded to with some degree of respect for the presentation of their concerns, especially when addressing an issue profoundly and negatively impacting their quality of life. In some cases, acknowledgement has been lacking or completely misrepresentative of subsequent actions and decisions with no explanation. Jeff said that some of the avenues for communication had been lost during Covid although he could not speak to that directly, not having been on Council recently. He said that citizens should expect immediate acknowledgement in all cases and said that was his practice when serving. Katherine mentioned that she was running specifically because she felt that advocating for sidewalks was not being addressed or even acknowledged to the extent required. She said that she was making a point of attending neighborhood meetings and listening. Trudy said that she appreciated the frustration expressed on this issue and said that improvement was needed and could and would be done. Ali mentioned that the reason the Pickleball Task Force was created that he serves on was that he would listen in a proactive way to respect and respond to advice from professionals, neighbors, and the citizen's advisory boards and commissions.

The candidates and others mentioned instances where Parks had arbitrarily made decisions about use and activities and design without and actively against the quality of life expectations of the neighbors. Examples of the frustration and sometimes painful dissatisfaction this has caused were given by a candidate and a couple of neighbors regarding Iron Mountain Park and George Rogers Park.

The candidates were given one minute to briefly summarize their point of view. Ali said, to summarize his approach, "Of the people, by the people", Trudy said failure to listen should not happen, Katherine said that all comments should be honored with a reasonable and valid response, Jeff reiterated the points that he opened with including "infrastructure".

The Election of Officers and Directors for the Old Town Association for the coming year starting at the next Board meeting was held. Nominations from the floor were requested. Hearing none a motion was heard by Corina Laws to approve the slate of officers and directors consisting of the present officers and directors who have all agreed to serve again for 2022-2023. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote of those eligible to vote. A drawing for door prizes was held subsequently. Callene Glabau, who also brought the delicious banana bread and drinks, oversaw the drawing. Thank you Callene!!

The elected slate of officers and directors remains the same as before, namely as follows:
Chair Betsy Wosko, Vice Chair Corina Laws, Treasurer Laurie Carlson, Secretary Craig Stephens,
Directors Carrie Kaufman, Ali Afghan, Derrith Lambka and Jeannie McGuire.

Announcements

Derrith Lambka read a letter addressed to her from Parks and Recreation Director Ivan Anderholm, who said he could not attend in person. Ivan made several points to inform. But there was not an opportunity to ask questions, the letter was simply read. The responses to the neighbors were off the

mark, unacceptable as stated and insufficient in scope according to Derrith. The recommendations of the pickleball task force are to go to Council Nov. 14th. Derrith also made the point that those of us living in Old Town and Lake Oswego feel extremely fortunate to be in such a wonderful place, the on-going “unnecessarily disturbing” and “unlawful” noise (words used in the LO noise ordinance) from the pickleball play and the loss of the tennis amenity in George Rogers Park notwithstanding.

Chair Betsy said that the OTNA website, “oldtownlakeoswego.org” was up and running and it was done by Tricklecreek Design based on WIX for \$3900 which is to be reimbursed by the City as an approved Neighborhood Enhancement Grant. All are encouraged to take a look at the site, it is, in the opinion of viewers, the best one for any neighborhood in the City at this time. Sponsors are welcome and these would be in the “sponsors” section and not interfere as a “wall” or “popup”. Betsy, Corina and Allie have done a great job! Lessons may be available for a select few who wishes to commit to being a co-master. See Betsy for details if you wish to contribute to the site.

Jon Gustafson, an Old Town resident directly across from the Pickleball courts, thanked all for their support in the effort to stop the maddening noise and return the sense of tranquility to the neighborhood as before.

A motion was made by Laurie Carlson to adjourn and was seconded and unanimously voted at 8:27.

Respectfully submitted

Craig Stephens, Secretary