

OLD TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Old Town Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2025

The meeting called to order by the Chair, Betsy Wosko, at 7:09 PM at 131 Wilbur St. Participating in the meeting were Chair Betsy Wosko, Treasurer Laurie Carlson, Secretary Craig Stephens, Director Jeannie McGuire, Director Derrith Schmidt, and Director Bruce Glabau. Present also were Jim Perris, Michael and Jordana Perman, Michael Schmidt, and Walter the dog.

A motion to bring the meeting to order was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve acceptance of the February 13, 2025 minutes as written from the previous board meeting was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved.

Laurie reported our treasury balance at \$363.91.

Neighborhood Enhancement Plan (“NEP”) grant ideas were then discussed. Craig proposed a plaque recognizing and honoring the First Peoples in this area to replace the map on Leonard St. Laurie proposed a “peace pole.” Upon motion, duly seconded, and unanimously approved, we will focus our NEP grant efforts on these two items for this year.

Corina, our wonderful Vice Chair, is stepping down because she is moving. The board is deeply grateful to Corina, who, among other things, made our National Nights Out a great success; helped with holiday decorations of the bus shelter; and provided beautiful photos for the Old Town website. Godspeed, Corina!

Corina’s departure means we need to fill Vice Chair. Chair Betsy felt this is therefore a propitious time to juggle the board around so that we have a new chair, as Betsy is opposed to term limits generally in civic involvement for positions, such as chair, that, among other things, determine agendas of meetings and may otherwise directly influence a group’s direction; new ideas and perspectives must be allowed to freely circulate. Betsy has been chair since November 2018. A motion, duly seconded, was then made and approved unanimously, to have the board constituted as follows: Derrith, Chair; Carrie, Vice Chair; Laurie, Treasurer; Betsy, Secretary; Craig, Director; Jeannie, Director; Bruce, Director; Jim, Director; and Ali, Director.

We discussed website costs, which are only about \$306 per year. It would be great to get a funding system for website costs. Discussion was held including reaching out to local businesses or the Lake Oswego Chamber of Commerce. We are fully paid through August 2025, so there is some time.

We then had extensive discussion in response to an inquiry from Carole Ockert, Chair of the Neighborhood Chairs Committee, for a response to the question, “should Oswego Lake be public?”

The board was a hung jury: two “no”, two “yes,” and three “abstain” because they could not answer yes or no. Discussion included acknowledgement of the complexity of the issue; that the question is a “trick question;” that we should abide by the judge’s decision; that public use, if not properly managed by time, place, and manner limitations, could result in vastly increased traffic to the area with associated parking, security, safety, management, and enforcement issues; that Oswego Lake is a lake, which should have always been public; that the Lake Corp. might be in a position to do a better job re public access; and that the huge amounts of money spent on litigation fees should come to a stop.

Announcements were as follows:

- The NCC Meeting will be Sat., March 15 at 10:00 am at the Timber Lounge (lower level) of the Willow Apartments, 5600 Meadows Rd (please do not park in underground garage or alongside building but instead in central area) - agenda includes Lake Oswego School District candidates, a Historic Resources Advisory Board presentation, annual code updates, South Shore Fire Station report, and Prep LO announcement of new leadership
- Friends of Springbrook Park Trail Maintenance work party will take place Saturday, March 15, from 9 to 11 am. to spread wood chips at the “Nature Play” area. Parking will be at Uplands Elementary School, 2055 Wembley Park Rd
- March is Disability Awareness Month. Please go to City’s website to see its 2024 progress report.
- March is also Women’s History month
- Backyard Habitat will have a class Tues., March 18 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Adult Community Center, 505 G Ave. It will be free.
- The City Council has made great, short video presentations on emergency preparedness, available on the city’s website
- A pre-app conference will be held March 20, 2025 at city hall re the path project along the river from Riverbend to Geo Rogers
- the “acorn” decorative knob was apparently pilfered from the door of the little library at the reader board.
- the city has agreed to develop an operation plan to ban gas lawn equipment after the City of Portland gas blower ban goes into effect.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Betsy Wosko, Acting Secretary