

DRAFT

Concordia Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

May 10, 2016

Kennedy School Community Room, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

MINUTES

(Prepared by Susan Millhauser)

Roll Call, Establish Quorum

Vice Chair Chris Lopez called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Board members introduced themselves.

Public Comment - None

Announcements

1. Concordia News Update

Chris shared that the CNews has primarily been an all-volunteer produced newspaper and that the Board had been considering moving to a paid contract staff model. Daniel Greenstadt, a Board member and member of the Media Team, provided some background and noted that the Board had just approved the proposal to pay contract staff to run the paper to ensure a quality, regularly produced paper. He added that there would be a call out in the CNews, webpage, and elsewhere, for people to apply for the contract positions.

2. CNA Spring Clean Up

Chris announced that the annual clean up event would be held on Saturday, May 14, from 8:30 to noon, and that more volunteers were needed. He directed people to the CNews for event details, such as materials being collected, etc. A volunteer sign up sheet was passed around.

3. Treasurer's Report

Chris provided a brief report as Robert, the Treasurer, had to leave. He noted the finances were doing well and that money raised is used to help fund community-oriented events, such as the spring egg hunt and Concerts in the Park. He noted that Robert's term ends in June and that he was stepping down as Treasurer after many years. Chris added that a new Treasurer and a Finance committee to support the Treasure are needed.

4. New CNA Facebook Page (Media Team)

Susan Trabucco shared that a new volunteer Media Team member has agreed to manage a CNA Facebook page. She asked people to follow it to get timely updates and information.

5. Meek School

Chris shared that Meek School, which used to be an elementary school and now houses an alternative Portland Public Schools high school, has a Good Neighborhood Agreement with CNA that does not allow use of the building after 5pm. He added that a few months back the principal from Meek had come to the Board to ask for a one-time exemption to the 5pm rule to allow the school to hold a prom on May 21, something they had trouble finding an affordable location for in the past. The Board agreed to give this permission. He then introduced Queenie Samuels, a long-time neighbor to the school. Queenie shared that she has some concerns about things going on around the school and some potential changes coming, and would be coming to the June Board meeting to discuss further. Chris encouraged any interested community members to attend the Board meeting as well. Daniel provided a brief overview of what a Good Neighbor Agreement typically includes.

CNA Committee Reports

1. Media Team

Steve Elder gave an overview of what the Media Team does, including publish the newspaper and manage the website, which was recently revamped to include a blog function and more dynamic content. He added they were excited about the new Facebook page. Susan noted they always need people to write articles for the newspaper, which is a great way to meet people and learn about businesses in the neighborhood. She added that contact information could be found in the CNews.

2. Social Committee

Chris shared that the Social Committee is responsible for putting together community events, such as the egg hunt, concerts in the park, holiday party, and community clean up. He suggested people could contact the Chair, Katie, by email to get more involved (contact information is in the CNews and on the website).

3. Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC)

Ben Earle shared that the LUTC meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm at the Kennedy School in the Community Room. He noted there are nine members of the LUTC that have been authorized by the Board and that everyone is welcome to come and participate. He shared that the CNews now has a regular LUTC column as well as a facing opinion piece each month. He stated the committee has developed a letter that is sent out to developers when a notification of development or demolition is received from the City; the letter introduces the neighborhood association and explains City standards and neighborhood expectations. He added that the LUTC also serves as resource for neighbors. He encouraged people with safety concerns regarding the crossing of Portland Hwy at NE 33rd Ave. to contact Oregon Department of Transportation, noting there were details in the newspaper. Lastly, he shared the committee is working to update the Good Neighbor Agreement with Concordia University.

Earthquake Preparedness Presentation

Guest speakers included Don Francis, of EcoTech and a neighborhood resident, and Jeremy Van Keuren, of City of Portland, Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM), Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) lead.

Don provided an overview of what to expect after a major earthquake and things to do in advance to prepare. He reviewed types of earthquakes and provided some details about the anticipated Cascadia subduction zone earthquake. He noted that likely all utilities (water, sewer, power, gas) and communications infrastructure will be down for an extended period of time after a quake, as will roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure. He spoke about types of damage we might see to buildings, such as unreinforced masonry buildings and older homes. He shared typical types of damage to older homes (pre-1980), including homes that weren't attached to their foundation, which was the leading cause of damage in a similar quake in Christchurch, New Zealand. He added that fires from broken natural gas lines could also be a concern, and that it might be from three to twelve months until utilities and infrastructure are fully functioning again.

Don noted that in terms of preparation, people should plan to camp for at least a month (if their home is damaged). He shared the following priority list for becoming more resilient beforehand:

1. Retrofit your house to reduce damage (and to qualify for earthquake insurance in some cases).

2. Gather at least a two-week supply of emergency food and water (one month is better).
3. Have a plan for where to meet, who picks up kids (if applicable), who to contact out of the area (as it may be easier to make long distance vs. local phone calls), etc.

Don then went into detail about various types of home safety retrofits, including strapping the foundation, building bracing walls, attaching your hot water heater, and more. He also reviewed the essential elements of a preparedness kit and provided an informative handout. He reminded people not to forget medicines, pets, and things to entertain and comfort kids. He added that the garage is likely a better place to store your supplies, including your camping gear, than a basement. He noted some creative solutions for people without basements or garages, such as a small shed or a spot near your front door. He reminded people to also keep a stash of supplies in your car, if you drive, and recommended five-gallon buckets with lids as a great way to store things as the buckets could serve other purposes after an event, such as hauling water or being converted to a two-bucket toilet system. He noted he always keeps a half-a-tank of fuel in his car. Another suggestion was to scan all of one's important personal documents and save them in the cloud or on a thumb drive (suggested by an audience member). Lastly, he encouraged homeowner's to purchase earthquake insurance as a measure to protect your equity.

Jeremy gave an overview of what PBEM does and described the NET program. He shared that one goal of NET is to train people and provide skills so people can help themselves and then help their neighbors safely. Main elements of the NET training include: search and rescue, disaster triage, communications, and disaster psychology. He shared the NET training is 30 hours, with the goal of having active NETs in every neighborhood. He added that the Concordia neighborhood has an active one led by Amy Gaard. He noted that participants are expected to provide in return at least 12 hours of volunteer time every year. Additionally, while the training is free, participants are asked to buy their own response gear, which can run about \$100.

Questions and answers followed. When asked when the next training is, Jeremy responded one was starting up this month but that it was full and there are more people interested right now than training opportunities. He noted that he is adding more training dates and making them larger groups so more people can participate. He noted that the first step is to register on the NET webpage, and that if you are with a group that wants to train together and in an area with an active NET he can prioritize these types of groups via the NET team leader. In response to another question, he added that there is no age limit but there is a 14-year old minimum, and they are currently doing a teen pilot through Portland Public Schools.

Meeting Adjourned

Vice Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm