

Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2011 – 7PM
Thorkildson's Home

The steering committee was called to order by President Laura Silbernagel at 7:05pm.

Those attending were Laura Silbernagel, Pam Carino, Doug Fawcett, Bill Roenicke, Donna Thorkildson, and Amy Thomas. Those unable to attend were Marina Higgins, Clint Maurer, Bob Garlough, and Lisa Brines.

Discussion Points

1. Discussion and approval of minutes from July meeting. Those members present acknowledged receipt of meeting minutes. Pam moved to approve them as written, Donna seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report
Bill reported an account balance of \$1,317.01 consisting of \$1,016.95 in savings and \$300.06 in checking. He noted this is after a large reimbursement to Laura for expenses relating to the garage sale, newsletter, website, and picnic.
3. Picnic
 - a. Numbers
Donna noted there were less people attending this year and that the number of people seems to continue to lessen over the years. Norma McQuiller said fewer numbers were par for the course this year for all neighborhood picnics. Laura thought perhaps people were not coming to big events due to the fear of gang related activity. Perhaps people are on vacation. Bill noted our membership is also down this year. Please refer to section 4. "Membership" for further discussion on this issue.
 - b. Volunteers
There were three TPNA committee members and three other volunteers that helped with the setup and execution of the picnic. More volunteers are needed for next year. Laura and one other volunteer were at the sign-in table. It would be helpful to have at least one more person there. It was difficult to get all the information down for each family and the tickets handled correctly. It was agreed that the most important information to take down at check-in is the number of adults and kids attending.
 - c. Food Drive
88 pounds of food was donated for the food drive.
 - d. Prizes
There were over 50 prizes for kids however there were less than 50 kids. A couple of them got additional prizes. It was difficult for kids to hear their names being called so it was suggested that next time do the drawing at a specified time and perhaps do it at the play area where most of the kids were playing. It would also be helpful to have different colored tickets for kids versus adults since there are two different drawings. It was also noted that the dollar store was a good place to get prizes for kids.
 - e. Guests
It was agreed that having the library and waste management as guests was a good idea.
4. Membership

There was much discussion about the low numbers of people attending events and becoming members of TPNA. It was suggested that a big article be put into the newsletter about becoming a member. It was also suggested to do a membership drive where TPNA committee members go door to door and sign neighbors up for the Egroup. Then emails could be sent about becoming a member. The low attendance to events could be that people aren't aware of the events or that the timing is bad (weeknights can be hard for some). It would also be helpful to be able to hold events at the Tiffany Park building. Laura will contact Norma about using this building for the annual meeting. It was also suggested that information boards be installed at all three parks in the neighborhood to announce events and communicate to neighbors. Donna had looked into this earlier and noted they were about \$350. Pam noted that it would be beneficial to have a box-like mechanism that had a Plexiglas cover. It would be nice to have one at Ginger Creek Park, Tiffany Park, and the Little Park. These information boards would help to communicate to neighbors and get their involvement in the community. Laura will be checking in to installing these boards.

5. Garage Sale

There were 30 homes and 41 families. \$215 was collected, there was \$297 in expense, leaving \$82 that had to be taken from the treasury. We collected more than the expense in all years since 2007 except for this one. The majority of the expense was for advertising. It was agreed not to advertise in the Seattle Times and to limit the advertisements to Craigslist, Little Nickel, and Renton Reporter for just one week.

6. Neglected Neighborhood Houses

All the neglected neighborhood houses that were noted at previous meetings appear to be on their way to being cleaned up. The code compliance number wasn't passed out at the picnic, but having just a couple people calling on these houses seemed to have helped.

7. Miscellaneous Neighborhood Observations

- a. The graffiti on the fence across from the pipeline has been cleaned.
- b. There was a fire in a container near Pam's house that was put out by the fire department. The concern of these fires is pollution. The fine is \$500 and if the fires are continuous over time the fine can be as much as \$10,000.
- c. There is one house that is preventing a major through way between Tiffany Park and Cascade Park. Donna noted that this house is for sale and perhaps it now can be made into the through way.
- d. There was graffiti at the Little Park. Steven Thorkildson had just painted the benches and that night it was tagged. He then painted over them within the week to clean up the graffiti.
- e. There were many police cars noted in the area on the first day of school. Cascade was said to be in lockdown. Nobody knew why.
- f. There is graffiti on the fence on the path leading down to Tiffany Park.
- g. Bill noted that the sidewalk repairs by the school are on the list of to-do items for the city.

8. Newsletter

The newsletter date was pushed to November, as it will be detailing the holiday neighborhood activities.

9. Holiday Events

a. House Decorating

Donna will be lead on this event. Prizes will be given to the best decorator. Donna moved to spend up to \$40 on prizes. Pam seconded the motion and it was passed

unanimously. Laura will help get the prizes with the hopes we can get some donations from businesses.

b. Holiday Cocoa and Cookies

Donna will also be lead on this event. First she will contact Norma to see if we can use the Tiffany Park building. If we cannot then we will postpone this event. If we can, then it will be held on December 16th from 7pm to 9pm. Everyone agreed this event is a good idea. Donna suggested a cookie exchange.

10. Calls from Homeowners

Laura has been receiving numerous calls from Title agents needing proof that we do not require dues. These calls are for home sales to close the sale. It was agreed that Laura will write up an article to put on the website stating that we are not a homeowners association and we do not legally demand any dues from homeowners. That way she can direct all callers to the website.

11. Trash Walk

The trash walk is this Sunday, September 4th. Donna suggested having the walk at 4pm instead of 3pm to eliminate conflicts with football games.

12. Ginger Creek Park

a. Wood Chips

Bill has left several messages with the person at PSE responsible for wood chips and has not yet received a response. He noted a tree trimming company trimming trees nearby and asked if he could have the wood chips from the chipper. They agreed and 3 to 4 yards was given to us for the park. Bill looked into getting wood chips from Carpinito Brothers however it proved too expensive. The best route currently is to ask for wood chips from anyone who is chipping wood.

b. Weeds

Bill needed to get the county's approval to use weed killer at the park. Bill put on 8 gallons and noted that it is necessary to include soap in the solution so that the weed killer sticks to the leaves. Otherwise the weeds do not die. Bill has asked Norma if we could purchase 150 gallons of vinegar to kill the weeds in the beds. He has not yet heard back. He noted that salt has been used to kill weeds and has done a test patch to see it will work here.

c. Clover

Bill suggested planting clover where the grass is currently so that it stays green. Donna noted that this attracts bees and it was decided not to use clover.

d. Trimming

The trimming has been complete for now. Everything is trimmed as discussed in previous meetings and we will wait until further growth for more trimming.

e. Waste Management

With all the trimming there was a lot of brush to be disposed of. An employee of Waste Management spent 20 minutes loading the brush into his truck. The bundles need to be the size of a garbage can so that the employees can load them into the cans and the truck can dump them. Bill suggested a thank you gift for the nice employee who spent the time to dispose of the brush. It was agreed to do this.

f. Tables

Bill found out that the concrete tables actually come in pieces and are assembled on site. He has ordered them and they will arrive in 3 weeks. It was noted that the concrete needs to be sealed every year.

g. Doggy Sign and Container

The doggy sign and container to have people pick up after their pets will be here soon. A discussion ensued as to where to put the sign/container and it was agreed that Bill could use his best judgment and make the decision.

h. Rocks

Bill would like to raise the rocks by the road up by filling in underneath them. Steven Thorkildson agreed to help Bill in doing this.

i. Tool Truck

The tool truck is run by the city but provided by McLendon's. It will not be at the work party this year but perhaps we could use it for a pressure washer and weed eaters in future instances where we need these items.

j. Work Party 9/10/11

The city will be assisting in a work party at Ginger Creek on Saturday, 9/10/11 at 9am until around 1pm.

k. Miscellaneous

i. There are a few bushes planted very close together. The bushes were removed in these instances so that just one bush remains.

ii. The dirt along the fence needs to be smoothed down.

iii. There is rock/dirt that can be used as fill in the beds.

iv. In time the logs will decompose.

v. Bill was commended for his work at the park.

13. Small Grants

There are still small grants available. It was agreed we would apply for one to put up the information signs discussed earlier.

14. Gas Reimbursement

Carol Knudson asked if TPNA could reimburse for gas used in power tools at Ginger Creek Park for volunteer work. Donna motioned to allow for reimbursement, Laura seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. Volunteers just need to submit something in writing with the amount, date, and signature.

The meeting was adjourned by President Laura Silbernagel at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Thomas, Secretary

The next steering committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3rd at 7pm at Laura's home.