

Minutes of the July 9, 2014 Meeting of the
Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA)

Meeting was held at the home of Donna Thorkildson and called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Donna, who is the new president of the Association.

Attending were these steering committee members: Dave Beedon (secretary), Renate Beedon (late arrival), Pam Carino, Ed Eixenberger (new member), Marina Higgins, Bill Roenicke (treasurer), Laura Silbernagel (new vice president; late arrival).
Absent were Doug Fawcett and Dave Phillips.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting:

Dave explained that Pam was the only person to comment on the preliminary minutes he had distributed last month. She suggested replacing the phrase “de facto” with something more understandable. Dave recited an approximation of the revised wording, which satisfied everyone.

The Committee approved the minutes with that change.

2. Minutes of the June 19, 2014 annual meeting:

Dave said that Renate was the only person to suggest any changes to the minutes he had distributed. She suggested several changes that added details or clarification but did not change the meaning of the minutes. Dave distributed those changes to committee members a couple of hours before the meeting and read them aloud during the meeting.

The Committee approved the minutes with those changes.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed to have the next meeting at 7 p.m. on September 10 at Bill's house. There will be no meeting in August.

GUESTS

Bill mentioned that he had intended to bring two guests to the meeting, but one had not returned his calls and the other (Larry Gorg) was unable to attend. Bill said Larry is very interested in helping out.

TREASURER'S REPORT/MEMBERSHIP

Bill reported on the association's finances and membership level. Checking account has \$304.54. Savings account has \$1296.89. There are 42 paid members now, which is an impressive number for so early in the year (which started at the annual meeting in June). Pam paid her Association membership dues at the meeting. Bill committed to send to all Committee members a list of the current Association members.

ERIK THORKILDSON'S WORK

Donna brought up the issue of her son's mowing of grass for the Association. She did so to ensure that there was no misunderstanding about his work. Erik is volunteering his time to satisfy a requirement at his school. He does not get paid. Donna and her husband believe Erik should *not* be paid because of the school requirement. However, Erik's work does become part of the neighborhood work hours reported to the City.

The Committee agreed that the current situation was satisfactory and voted to show its appreciation for Erik's work by exempting the Thorkildson family from having to pay Association dues for the current year.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. ANNUAL MEETING.

Donna asked for comments about the meeting. Three ideas were voiced: the meeting dragged at times; there was too much negativity expressed; a very positive thing was the handling of the story of the injured dog in the woods of the Tiffany Park playground area (the person reporting it has already volunteered for a work party).

2. GARAGE SALE:

Laura reported on the upcoming garage sale. Thirty-three families have signed up so far. This year it seems that people have been more proactive than in the past about paying to participate in the sale. This year we will probably break even. Signs will be printed tomorrow. She needs volunteers to help staple signs to folding sign boards and set up the boards. There are 98 signs. Volunteers should be at her house tomorrow at 11 a.m. Laura will finish building the neighborhood map tonight and get it printed tomorrow.

3. GINGER CREEK PARK:

Bill mentioned that invasive wild roses have been pulled out and that the bushes need thinning for visibility's sake (security). Who will operate the newly-purchased walking sprinkler? Bill said he would ask Dale Blair, who lives next to the park, if he would be willing to do it. The next work party will be in early August; date to be determined. Deer feces have been spotted in the park. This year wood chips are not in as great supply as in past years.

4. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE TIFFANY PARK WOODS:

Renate mentioned that the project is still on hold, as evidenced by the recent letter sent by the City to some households. That letter was distributed according to the "300-foot" rule. More people need to be included in the City's notices. Renate left a message for Robin Jones, asking him to name the lawyer he has often referred to in conversation. So far he has not responded. Bill mentioned that Larry Gorg told him about finding a metal group mailbox, broken into, on the path in the woods near the end of SE 18th Street. It was strongly suggested that the police be notified thereof.

5. ANNUAL PICNIC:

Renate said she had gotten a person (Simonne Gilliam) to volunteer to play with kids at the picnic. Renate has bought 150 drinking cups. She asked about tablecloths and found out she needs to get five of them. She asked about bottled water and was told to get two or three cases (24 bottles per case). Next week Renate will again call the Fire department and the King County Library about attending. Laura mentioned that she

needs volunteers to distribute picnic flyers. Donna said she is having trouble getting in touch with the Salvation Army about providing food bins. There was a brief review of action items. Tables need to be set up no later than 5 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. VEGETATION NEAR THE TIFFANY PARK PLAYGROUND:

Donna talked to the City's Parks Department about getting the vegetation (site of a dog injury) cut back. City told her it is too short-staffed to handle it and referred her to a department that deals with volunteer groups. None of the three possible groups was interested in doing it. The Committee believes the City has a responsibility to maintain the area for safety's sake. Renate volunteered to write to the mayor to get something done. She will do so as a member of the Committee, not as a private citizen.

2. CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH RENTON YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTER (RYAC):

Donna proposed that the Committee agree to continuing the co-operative agreement we have with RYAC. Per that agreement, RYAC lets the Association use the RYAC building at Tiffany Park for certain events and the Association lets RYAC advertise in the Association's newsletter at no cost.

3. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS:

Donna asked about the process for amending the Association's bylaws to change the term limit of the Association's treasurer, (This is something that must be done as a result of a vote taken at the annual meeting in June 2014.) The process was explained. A brief discussion ensued about finding a person to write the amended text. It was agreed that Richard Thorkildson, who helped draft the bylaws, would be the best person to do so.

4. DANGEROUS INTERSECTION:

Renate expressed a concern about restricted vision for motorists at an intersection in the area. It is the junction of 129th Place SE (the continuation of Pierce Avenue SE), SE 159th Street, and SE 160th Street (a street that crosses a water pipeline right-of-way). A new STOP sign was installed there this year that gives priority to traffic heading from Pierce Avenue to Fairwood. Motorists approaching the intersection on SE 160th Street must stop. When they do so, their view to the right (down the hill of SE 159th Street) is blocked by bushes in someone's yard. That limited visibility is the issue. A brief discussion was held, but because that intersection is outside the boundary of the Association, the Committee agreed that it would be inappropriate for the Association to take any action.

5. ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE:

Dave volunteered to help Laura get the backlog of meeting minutes posted on the website. He will follow up with her in a week and a half, after the garage sale is over.

6. MEETING PROCESS:

The Committee made a decision that will affect the way future Steering Committee meetings are handled.

A. During a discussion of one of the above subjects someone brought up the fact that it might be a good idea to omit from the meeting minutes certain information

mentioned during that discussion. The reasoning was that including such information at this time might allow another party to use the information in a way that could harm or invalidate something the neighborhood or part of the neighborhood is planning to do. Different opinions were expressed.

- B. Eventually the Committee acted on the matter. After a motion was made and seconded, a majority of the Committee voted to withhold the sensitive information from these minutes. Two members abstained from the vote. The Committee also agreed that in future Steering Committee meetings, any time someone speaks off the record, that discussion will not be documented in the minutes of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Donna adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.