

**Minutes of the January 14, 2015 Meeting of the
Steering Committee of the
Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association of Renton, Washington**

(These minutes were approved by the
Committee on March 11, 2015)

The meeting was held at the Phillips's home and was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Donna Thorkildson, president.

Attending were Dave Beedon (secretary), Renate Beedon, Marina Higgins, Dave Phillips, Bill Roenicke (treasurer), and Donna Thorkildson (president).

Absent were Pam Carino, Ed Eixenberger, Doug Fawcett, and Laura Silbernagel (vice president).

Guest: Patty Phillips

MEETING PROCESS:

(Not an agenda item but discussed at the very start of the meeting.)

Dave Beedon suggested adding some time-keeping structure to the meeting to ensure we could cover all the items on the lengthy agenda. He also suggested time periods to allot for each subject. Marina agreed to be a time-keeper. Everyone agreed.

RECURRING BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER OF 2014

A motion to approve the minutes of both meetings was made by Renate Beedon and seconded by Dave Beedon. Members voted unanimously to approve both September and November minutes as distributed in advance of today's meeting. When the November minutes were distributed, they included corrections submitted by Bill Roenicke.

2. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held at 7 p.m. on March 11 (Wednesday) at the Beedon home.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Bill reported that as of January 14, 2015, the savings account has \$1297.51 and the checking account has \$168.90.

Bill recently spent \$30 for registering the TPNA with the office of the Secretary of State, a process that needs to be done annually. Being so registered gives those in leadership positions in the organization---but not the organization itself---legal

protection from lawsuits. Initial registration costs \$30 if done via mail with a two-week processing period. If done via e-mail with a three-day processing time, the registration fee is greater. Annual re-registration after that is \$10.

He also explained that we need to change the names of persons who can sign checks for the association. Traditionally the two persons with that authority have been the treasurer and the president. The account shows that our past president (Laura) is still listed as having signing authority. Changing the name of a person with signing authority requires all three persons involved to sign a form: the president, the person losing the signing authority, and the person gaining the signing authority.

4. GINGER CREEK PARK:

Bill and Donna reported that damage was done to the park by an automobile accident and the resulting action of a tow truck to remove the car: a boulder was displaced and landscaping disturbed. Members wondered whether we could bill the motorist or the towing company for damage to the property, but it was pointed out that the park is not our property and thus we have no right to collect damages from anyone. The park is on land owned by King County, occupied by the City of Seattle Water Department (water pipelines), and used by our association. However, our efforts (sweat equity and possibly the hiring of equipment) to fix the landscaping would qualify for a grant from the City of Renton.

The park needs more wood chips. Could this be worked into a mini-grant from the City? Donna will follow up with Bill on this in February.

OLD BUSINESS

1. SAFETY VESTS:

Dave Phillips reported that the situation with the vests has not changed. Recently the company moved to a new location. No new information has come from the company about vests. It was mentioned that our committee last year decided on getting ten vests. The quantity of sizes is undecided.

2. HOLIDAY DECORATIONS CONTEST:

Donna reported that the 2014 event was successful. Names of the winners: Nicole and Amy Hoffman, 1654 Kirkland Court SE
Randy Vaeller, 1608 Ferndale Avenue SE, and
Amee and Ivan Lazar, 1912 Lake Youngs Way SE.

3. COOKIE EXCHANGE:

Donna reported that the exchange disappointing due to the low turn-out and suggested not repeating it. Members agreed. Donna explained that shortly after the 9/11 tragedy in New York City, Tiffany Park neighbors held a "celebration of freedoms" event in Tiffany park that was very successful in spite of being staged with little advance notice. Renate suggested that we have a Christmas caroling event. No decision was made about Renate's suggestion.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE WOODS:

- A. Renate said that the next step in the process is to appeal the recent decision of the hearing examiner, which basically shot down what neighbors had been seeking but did place some requirements on the builder before the City can authorize construction to begin.
- B. Donna said that as far as she could tell, the hearing examiner's decision did not address the problems with the street intersection just below her house. Donna will send her concern in writing to Renate so it can be incorporated in the appeal of the hearing examiner's decision. The time allotted for this subject (four minutes) was used up long before discussion was finished, so Donna decided to allow five more minutes to finish.
- C. Bill said he is owed police reports on accidents on SE 16th Street and will share that information when it is available.
- D. Renate concluded with information about the incorrect placement of stakes that define the boundary of some of the wetlands in the woods.

NEW BUSINESS

1. TPNA WEBSITE:

Fixing the out-of-date website is a high priority item because its condition could cause TPNA to violate City and State regulations and prevent TPNA from receiving grant money from the City. The website must be fixed (brought up-to-date) or a new one established. Donna and Dave Phillips said they knew people with web skills that would be willing to design a new site for us as long as maintenance was handled by someone else. Another idea: talk to other neighborhood associations that have websites. Time is of the essence because of imminent deadlines for grant applications. Marina suggested somehow incorporating information about the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association covenants in the TPNA website (to keep Tiffany Park Homeowners Association members better informed). She said the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association would pay for the service.

Decisions made or action items taken on are:

- A. Committee members voted to find and appoint a new webmaster and an alternate to manage the site. The goal is to have people in those positions with enough time to do the work.
- B. Renate volunteered to do the site maintenance. Dave Beedon also volunteered.
- C. Dave Phillips and Donna will talk to the people they know about building a site.
- D. Dave Beedon will talk to a person Bill informed him about.
- E. Committee agreed with Marina's idea in principle but details remain to be worked out.

2. GRANTS FROM CITY OF RENTON:

Bill reported on grants in general, summarizing information that is available on the City of Renton's website. There are communications grants, project grants, and mini-grants; they serve different purposes. It was at a recent (January 7) grant workshop hosted by the City that Bill learned of the association's need to protect its members from being sued by registering with a State agency (see Treasurer's report above). On

February 7, a Saturday, the City is hosting a neighborhood grant meeting at the Senior Center. Registration in advance is probably required. Eight persons will attend for TPNA. Donna will register those eight persons. More information about grants is available at rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=2234.

3. COMMUNITY PICNIC:

Renate agreed to contact the City to get a date for the picnic. We should aim for a July date. The community project related to the picnic will probably be collecting school supplies for students. Last year's project, collecting food for the needy, was not very successful.

4. NEXT NEWSLETTER:

(The last one was published in October 2014.) The next one should be published and delivered by the end of March. Subjects for articles in the newsletter could be: the holiday decorations contest, the cookie exchange, crime (incidents and prevention), issues with the website, and maybe picnic data.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. COMMUNICATION:

Renate suggested that the association distribute a holiday greeting at Christmas time to promote neighborliness. The committee agreed that it sounded good. She agreed to work on it. She also suggested having an Easter egg hunt in the neighborhood. One possible site is the Tiffany Park Homeowners Association common area on Pierce Avenue. In response, Donna suggested that it might be more appropriate for the Homeowners Association to stage it there. Renate will report on the idea at the next Steering Committee meeting.

2. WEBSITE FILES:

Dave Beedon mentioned that one aspect of getting the website in better shape is to try to find missing files that might have been distributed to members via e-mail. He said that by auditing his old e-mail messages he found three from Laura Silbernagel that contained meeting minutes as attachments. He encouraged other members to do the same and agreed to send an e-mail message to clarify what to look for.

3. TRASH:

Bill brought up the issue of littering in the neighborhood, especially near Ginger Creek park. Most of the litter comes from fast-food restaurants and seems to appear shortly after meal times. In a brief discussion about ways to combat the problem, two ideas surfaced: asking restaurants to post anti-littering posters and monitoring the park and documenting violators. The restaurant poster idea was not deemed feasible and no decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned by Donna at 8:35 p.m. The meeting lasted 1 hour and 33 minutes.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Dave Beedon, Secretary.