

**Minutes of the March 11, 2015 Meeting of the
Steering Committee of the
Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association of Renton, Washington**
Approved on September 9, 2015

The meeting was held at the Beedons's home and was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Donna Thorkildson, president.

Attending were Dave Beedon (secretary), Pam Carino, Marina Higgins, Dave Phillips, Bill Roenicke (treasurer), Laura Silbernagel (vice president), and Donna Thorkildson (president).

Absent were Renate Beedon, Ed Eixenberger, and Doug Fawcett

Guests: Sue Dahlberg, Larry Gorg, and Helen Pacheco

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Donna introduced guests Sue Dahlberg, Helen Pacheco, and Larry Gorg. Sue was present to offer information. Larry and Helen were present as potential members of the Steering Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2015 was made and seconded. Members voted to approve.

3. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held at 7 p.m. on May 13, 2015 (Wednesday) at Donna's house.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill reported on the state of the Association's finances, including information about grants from the City and the signing up of a new dues-paying member of the Association (Finiko Maeshiro). As of March 13, there was \$1856.75 in savings and \$257.02 in checking.

OLD/ RECURRING/ NEW BUSINESS (listed alphabetically)

1. CRIME

Sue Dahlberg described a break-in at her house and urged the Association to be more forceful about informing neighbors about crime and methods of prevention. She admitted that she had neglected to leave lights on when her family was away. It is important to call 911 to report theft, vandalism, drug use, and suspicious behavior

(such as the presence of unusual vehicles). People need to bring their mail in promptly. Having locked mailboxes is helpful. More communication---such as info in the newsletter or on the website---is needed. About one third of the residents of Tiffany Park are renters, who have less interest in the neighborhood than owner-residents.

2. GARAGE SALE

As part of the discussion of a joint picnic, the idea of a joint garage sale was brought up, perhaps more of a question than a proposal. Laura mentioned that an easy way to address that issue is for both associations to stage their garage sales on the same day but do them separately (no mingling of residents, event supplies or sale items). How would the event be advertised? No decision was made about a joint garage sale.

Sue encouraged the group to make the garage sale a profit-making event. Others noted that such an arrangement might threaten our non-profit status.

Someone mentioned the idea of adding a “donation station” to the event. One problem with that is night-time dumping of junk in a donation container. Dave Beedon said that donations could be easily handled at a person’s garage sale with a “Free” sign.

TPNA has not yet set a date for its 2015 garage sale, but it typically takes place in July or August.

3. GINGER CREEK PARK

Bill reported that he has been using moth balls to control the moles. He is working with the City to get the landscaping rocks moved back to their proper position (they were moved during a motor vehicle accident). At least one rock is too heavy for moving by hand. Helen noted that the problem of dog poop in the park is pretty much solved. Talking to certain neighbors about the matter has helped reduce the problem significantly. Laura has been stocking the poop bag dispenser and emptying the poop container. The year’s first mowing of the grass had been scheduled for last week but has been postponed. The appearance of the isolated house and yard on the corner of SE16th Street and 116th Avenue SE has been greatly improved, which helps the appearance of the park.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Helen and Larry were nominated to be members of the Steering Committee. Both accepted the nomination and they were voted in unanimously by the attending members. Welcome aboard Helen and Larry!

Donna confirmed that Committee member Ed Eixenberger had resigned, having attended two meetings since joining.

5. MOVIE IN THE PARK

Donna brought up the subject of having a city-sponsored “movie in the park” event. It was noted that access to bathrooms or toilets is important. Another concern is moist ground at Tiffany Park park. If the joint picnic is a success, we might consider having a joint movie event next year. No action was proposed and no decisions were made.

6. NEWSLETTER

(Secretary's note: the most recent newsletter was published in October 2014.)

Laura summarized the newsletter process and the advertising rules and mentioned the names of advertisers. She is working on documenting this information. The next newsletter needs to have dates for the picnic, garage sale, and annual meeting. Dave Beedon mentioned that to simplify the process of producing a newsletter by a new editor, we could keep it very simple at the start (no graphics). Distributing the newsletter in person continues to be challenging because of the low number of volunteers. Last October, Laura delivered about 250 of the 500 newsletters herself, which is too much work for one person. The next one should be published and delivered by some time in April (date not specified). We need someone to produce newsletters, as Laura has resigned from that duty. Donna agreed to do the next newsletter but only that one.

7. PICNIC

Donna reported on the desire of the Cascade Neighborhood Association to work with TPNA to stage a joint picnic. This joint effort is promoted by the City because its staff cannot support picnics for all 73 neighborhood associations. Donna is in favor of trying a joint picnic, as is Renate, the planner of our picnic event.

Attendees expressed concerns about such an arrangement. (How do we combine our different activities? How will our small number of volunteers handle the effort? Will a larger group generate serious parking problems? Where would extra supplies and equipment (such as tables) come from? How do we conduct our own activities (example: raffle) with a much larger group? How should the joint effort be advertised?) It was noted that to participate in such a joint venture, our association must make it clear what we expect of the event and the other association. Regarding the potential parking problem, Donna said she would ask Tiffany Park Elementary School officials if they would leave their parking lot open during the event. Dave Beedon mentioned that these and other details would have to be worked out by a joint picnic committee comprised of people from both associations and that the idea of such a committee was agreed to by Cascade's board at its meeting the previous day. In spite of the concerns and the challenges, Donna would like to try a joint picnic at least once. She mentioned the joint picnic committee does not yet have a date for meeting.

8. SAFETY VESTS

Laura is taking over the vest project from Dave Phillips. She's working with a company in Connecticut to order twelve vests of various sizes with the name of the Association printed on the back. Rough cost will be about \$33 per vest. Sizes and quantities: seven L/XL, three 1X/2X, and two M. Helen explained that free vests can be borrowed from the King County Adopt-A-Highway program. Our desire for having the association's name printed on the vests make that approach unfeasible. The members agreed to spend the money for the vests, knowing that they will be paid for by a grant from the City.

Related to use of the vests is the process of recording hours worked by volunteers and

reporting those hours to the City. A standard form is used to record the hours. When a grant is applied for, a record of hours worked accompanied the application. Someone suggested putting that form on the web so everyone would be able to print it for their own use.

9. WEBSITE

Dave Beedon reported that the transition from the old website to the new one is complete. The new site needs work to be more attractive and requires additional helpful information. We still have to close down the old website hosted by AwardSpace.com. Dave is working on that issue and got approval from members to close it down and attempt to get a refund for an early termination of our subscription.

Related to the website is the discovery of old meeting minutes that never were posted to the website (example: Laura's audio recording of the meeting of January 2014). Members agreed on a process for approving those minutes: distribute them for review to persons who were present at that meeting and who are still members of the Committee. Then approve them as usual in a meeting.

10. WOODS DEVELOPMENT

Dave Beedon reported that we are nearing the end of the process of having public input to the project. To be done tomorrow is a submission to the City of an appeal of the Hearing Examiner's decisions concerning the project. At some point the matter will be handled by the City Council. The development cannot be stopped but some mitigation has been achieved that would not have been had residents not challenged the development.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Donna at about 9 p.m. The meeting lasted almost two hours.

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Dave Beedon, Secretary.