

**Minutes of the July 13, 2016 Meeting of the  
Steering Committee of the  
Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association of Renton, Washington**  
*These minutes were approved on October 12, 2016*

The meeting was held at the home of President Marina Higgins and was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Marina.

Attending were Dave Beedon (secretary), Sue Dahlberg, Kirsten Games, Marina Higgins, Bill Roenicke (treasurer), and Donna Thorkildson (vice president).  
Absent were Pam Carino, Larry Gorg, David Phillips, and Laura Silbernagel (see MEMBERSHIP below).

#### ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

##### 1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The secretary noted that meeting minutes had to be approved for the following meetings:

- Steering Committee meeting of September 2015 (minor revision to the original minutes)
- Steering Committee meetings of March 2016 (include a minor edit) and May 2016
- general membership meeting of June 2016.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on all the minutes. Members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

##### 2. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held at 7 p.m. on August 10, 2016 (Wednesday) at the Beedon home. Normally we would meet again in two months, but an August meeting is required to deal with planning for a possible ice cream social (see PICNIC below).

##### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill reported on the state of the Association's finances. Details are available from Bill. There are 39 paid members currently, 25 of which have been added since the start of the general membership meeting (some people signed up at the meeting). Sign-up after this year's general membership meeting was better than after the 2015 meeting and Bill wondered why. Possible reason: better communication in general.

#### OTHER BUSINESS (listed alphabetically)

## 1. GRANTS

During the discussion of the picnic (see PICNIC below), the subject of grants came up. In the City's new process for supporting neighborhood activities, it will issue block party grants and possibly something called "co-ordinated area" grants. The latter grant is not understood so Donna will investigate it.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP

Marina confirmed that long-time Committee member Laura Silbernagel has resigned, effective July 13, 2016. By virtue of her resigning she must give up her kiosk key, the safety vests, and the supply of doggie bags. Marina will collect them from Laura.

The Committee formally recognized that Renate Beedon has resigned, effective at the Steering Committee meeting of May 11, 2016, which she did not attend.

Dave mentioned that we never documented that Ed Eixenberger resigned from the Committee. He attended only three meetings, all in 2014: Steering Committee in June (guest), general membership in June (voted in as a member), and Steering Committee in July (member). Dave proposed that we document his retirement as being effective on the first meeting he missed, which was the Steering Committee meeting of September 17, 2014. Committee agreed.

## 3. MOWING OF GRASS

Dave brought up the fact that our present grass-mowing arrangement is about to expire. Erik Thorkildson cuts the grass in Ginger Creek Park and in the homeowners park ("common area") on Pierce Avenue. Donna said Erik will continue through September. We must plan for a new arrangement. Should we continue with volunteers or hire professionals? No one came up with a solution involving volunteers. Kirsten agreed to get bids from commercial entities for mowing both areas.

## 4. PICNIC

This was the major topic of the meeting. The Committee voted to not have a picnic this year. The reasons are: unpleasant changes to the City's support process for picnics, the loss of our picnic manager (Laura Silbernagel, who just resigned), and the lack of time to start from scratch in picnic planning.

Donna reported that she and Laura met recently with Casey Stanley---the Neighborhoods, Resources, and Events Manger for the City---to learn about changes the City is making to its way of supporting picnics. The City will no longer support neighborhood-level picnics because it lacks the staff to do it. There are too many neighborhoods for the City to support in the manner of the past and past support placed too much stress on the City employees who volunteered their free time to bring and cook food. The City *will* support gatherings called "block parties," which in essence are much larger picnics that combine several neighborhoods at one event. When applying for a block party grant, we would have to estimate the number of attendees, a difficult task. Grants would be at the rate of \$1.50 per proposed attendee. Unlike in the past, we would have to reserve tables and chairs. There might be a

requirement for liability insurance for the entities staging an event. Normally we stage a picnic in July but that is impossible this year. August is a bad month because of school-related activities. In addition, Laura Silbernagel's resignation from the Committee means we have lost our picnic expert and we don't know who would take over. Circumstances simply prevent our staging a picnic this year.

Donna bemoaned the fact that by not staging a picnic we are breaking with a nice tradition and suggested we look into staging a simpler and less costly event in September, after school-planning activities have finished. Ideas mentioned: a cook-off or an ice cream social. Sue suggested we simplify by having attendees bring their own chairs. The ice cream social sounded promising, so Donna will look into it and report on her findings at the Steering Committee meeting in August.

#### 5. VOTING

Dave asked a question about publishing detailed results of voting at the general membership meeting. The Committee's response was that details need not be published unless someone requests them.

#### 6. WEBSITE

Dave suggested that the webpage concerning traffic issues be deleted because the Committee is no longer soliciting neighbors to use it. We believe that only two persons filled out the survey. The Committee voted to delete the link to the page. Dave agreed to do it.

Dave presented an argument for saving money by renewing our website subscription with Weebly for a period of two years instead of six months. By doing that we would save \$77 over a two-year period. Our current subscription is paid through September 3, 2016. The Committee approved using a two-year renewal. Dave said he would extend for two years (cost: \$159), which would run through September 2018.

### ADJOURNMENT

Marina adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

### SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS

- A. Donna will investigate the City's "co-ordinated area" grants.**
- B. Marina will collect items from Laura.**
- C. Kirsten will get bids from commercial entities for lawn-mowing.**
- D. Donna will look into staging an ice cream social and report on it at the August meeting.**
- E. Dave will "delete" the web page concerning the traffic survey.**
- F. Dave will extend the Weebly website subscription for two years.**

Minutes were recorded and submitted by Dave Beedon, secretary.