



LEWELLING NDA *Draft* MINUTES

March 13, 2024

Hybrid Meeting at Kairos Church of Christ and via Zoom

Attending: Chair Camden McKone; Secretary Lisa Lashbrook; Treasurer Howie Oakes; Dave Stratton; Virginia Seitz; Maitri Dirmeyer; Philip Stose; Nick D'Alonzo; Michelle Houghton; Sarah Wilkinson; Mary Barteaux

Guests: Police Captain Tony Cereghino

Camden opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were completed. Nick moved, Virginia seconded, to accept the February minutes without correction. Motion passed without dissent.

Lisa reported that on March 9th there was a groundbreaking ceremony at Balfour Park for the three parks currently on their way to construction. Fencing is now around the grounds of Bowman-Brae, Scott and Balfour parks. All three parks will be finished by the end of October.

Given Stephan's absence, Lisa said that the primary topic at the next PSAC meeting would be the status of SE 29th Ave. as a greenway. Lisa explained that some residents were concerned that if stop signs are installed at all cross streets, speeding will increase on 29th. Maitri said that is misguided, and gave 17th Ave in Sellwood as an example. She reminded everyone that SE Stanley is also designated as a "greenway," but the City has not taken any steps to make it safer for bicyclists or pedestrians. It was noted that the proper traffic calming measures for Milwaukie's greenways have never been clarified.

Howie reported that the NDA checking account now contains \$6,565, and will be adding the \$1,000 grant received from the Oregon Cultural Coalition. Lisa said that New Seasons has agreed to donate \$1,500 to support our concert program, with a matching amount going to Ardenwald. She pointed out that "thank you" cards should go to everyone who has provided funding.



Michelle and Sarah expressed their concerns about the unsafe conditions for school children on SE Logus, near Lewelling Elementary. Because cars line up along the north side of the street to drop off or pick up children, they effectively block one lane of traffic. When cars pass the stopped vehicles it creates a dangerous situation of any kids cross the street (or even just enter the street past the stopped cars) they could be hit by oncoming traffic. Sarah said that what makes the situation even worse is the fact those oncoming cars are often speeding. Nick talked briefly about the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant application that is now being prepared and the fact that those safety concerns will be addressed if the grant application is successful.

Camden then opened a conversation about the proposed letter of support for the SRTS grant application,. He read aloud the draft version prepared by Stephan. After some discussion, Maitri said that the reference to “accidents” should be changed to “collisions.” Nick suggested that the specific reference to a toddler killed be changed to reflect the fact that numerous collisions have occurred in recent years. He suggested the following language, “citing the high incidence of auto collisions injuries of cyclists and pedestrians, including three fatalities between 2016 and 2023, members of the NDA have worked over the last three years to identify ways to improve safety near the school.”

Lisa moved, Howie seconded, to approve the letter as amended. Motion passed without further discussion.

Captain Cereghino spoke about the pending retirement of Chief Strait and the fact that Captain Burdick (who has attended our NDA meetings at times) will be the new Chief. He added that Brian Johnson had been selected by his peers as Officer of the Year. He described Officer Johnson as a “big teddy bear” and talked about some of his accomplishments. The Captain also talked about the Engineering Department’s maps of “traffic hot spots” where serious accidents have happened. Those maps are now available to the public.

Captain Cereghino talked about the recent conviction of a criminal named Gatto who had robbed and murdered a person on SE 42nd Ave. some time



ago. He added that Milwaukie will again be providing an officer to TriMet's Transit Police and TriMet will be paying all costs for that officer.

Mary asked why the Department no longer uses a van with a radar gun for traffic enforcement. The Captain gave reasons, including the fact that such vans still require an officer to be on duty in the van. Captain Cereghino said that the City's new traffic officer has been busy writing tickets and giving warnings. He asked for suggestions about where the traffic officer should spend time and some people offered their driveways.

Camden and Lisa gave a report on the last NDA leadership meeting hosted by the City. While most of what was discussed is still in draft stages, it appears likely that the \$4,000/year amount provided to each NDA will not be increasing any time soon. A ceiling will be set on the amount of money that NDAs can carry over from year to year, and NDAs will be required to identify what the money is being saved for. The City is likely to set a limit on the amount that third parties can request as grants from NDAs. The NDA's can, however, offer more grant money. If a grant is given, recipients will be required to report on the results after the event, either in person or by email. Carefree Sunday is not likely to return because of a lack of funding, but events such as Juneteenth are expected to be funded by the City because of its DEI focus.

The focus then shifted to the Wichita Center. Lisa talked about the services that the Wichita Center provides to the community and the recent tour that a lot of NDA members took part in. Nick talked about the recent article in the Milwaukie Review and Sara said she continues to be upset about how the County is handling the situation with no public conversation. Camden said that people can testify before the County Commissioners, follow Friends of the Wichita Center on Facebook. He also said that he would write a letter of support for the center,



with a copy to the N. Clackamas School Board. Nick said that local businesses should mobilize to support the center. Sara urged everyone to get involved, and suggested a partnership with people involved with the Friends of Wichita Center Facebook.

Returning to pending grant applications:

Howie moved, Philip seconded to award a grant of \$250 to the high school grad party fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Nick moved, Howie seconded to award a grant of \$100 to the Police Department Officer of the Year dinner. Motion passed unanimously.

Lisa said that if the NDA use a postcard mailer to advertise the summer concerts it would cost almost \$900 to target members of Lewelling NDA. Mailing by postal carrier routes is cheaper.

Maitri reminded everyone that the City will be hosting an open house on the goals and policies proposed in the next Transportation System Plan (TSP) and that meeting will be the following Thursday evening at City Hall.

Howie moved, Philip seconded to adjourn the meeting. Camden adjourned it at 8:05 p.m..

The next regular NDA meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2024, at Kairos United Church of Christ.