

OLD TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Old Town Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Thursday, May 9, 2024

Upon motion duly seconded and approved unanimously, the meeting was called to order by Chair Betsy Wosko, at 7:02 PM. Attending this Zoom meeting were Treasurer Laurie Carlson, Director Carrie Kaufman, Director Derrith Lambka, Director Bruce Glabeau, Doug Thomas, and Chair Betsy Wosko.

A motion to approve acceptance of the minutes of the April 11, 2024 meeting and duly seconded was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's Report was reported by Laurie as a balance in the checking account of \$339.00.

The Old Town NA website was then discussed:

a. Analytics report from Wix: from April 7 to May 6, 2024, we had 54 visits, called "site sessions," of whom 36 were "unique visitors" (which means distinct individuals, and not counting one person visiting the site multiple times). Of the 54 visits, 33 were from direct contact, i.e., typing in "oldtownlakeoswego.org,"; 6 from Facebook; 5 from Google; 3 from Wix email marketing; and 2 from Bing. . .54% used a desktop; 41% used a mobile phone; and 6% used a tablet (to you eagle eyes, yes, the math is off by 1%). . .52 of the site sessions originated in the United States, 1 from India, and 1 from Pakistan.. .Of the 42 unique visitors, 36 were new, and 6 were returning. Conclusion: we are up a little in traffic, which is good.

b. Costs for website, which we pay to Wix, are domain name \$24.85/year; business email for \$60.00/year; calendar app for \$77.88/year; and a "premium plan combo" once every three years for \$396.00. The premium plan was paid on Sept 24, 2022, so will be due again late Sept 2025. Each bill, which may be found on the website for administrators, rolls in late September. So the costs thus far were \$162.73 late Sept 2023 plus the aforementioned once-every three-years \$396 = \$558.73. Including the \$396, divided by 36 (months), that averages in total to only \$24.56/mo. - which I think is a very good deal for this necessary service. I am more than happy to have paid this. Moving forward, however, we should fund this directly from OTNA; as that is the better practice. Please note funding may well come from an amendment to the NEP grant process where a separate pool of money will be available for things including website costs. This will likely be how we will fund our website and may be put in place as soon as July 2024. A grant will be more than enough to cover these costs.

c. Doug suggested a short "URL" so people don't have to type in the laborious oldtownlakeoswego.org.

d. We discussed article and blog contributions, including essays and profiles of residents. Individuals - preferably from a broad base of contributors - could offer biographies, autobiographies, musings, opinions, creative writing, educational pieces, and interviews.

e. Doug has done a great job with search engine optimization such that our website often appears in the top two of searches for “old town neighborhood association.” Thank you, Doug!

Bylaws: amend to include electronic notice. Betsy suggested amending the Old Town bylaws to include electronic notice, including email and posting on our website. Betsy will provide draft language at the time of the June meeting. Amending bylaws takes time, as the amendments need to be read at a general meeting and then voted upon at the next general meeting. Doug suggested also amending the bylaws to allow for a more expeditious process for amending bylaws.

National Night Out will be August 6, 2024 from 5 to 8 pm at new picnic shelter. The planning subcommittee for this wonderful event celebrating first responders will be Carrie, Derrith, Corina, Bruce, and Callene. Thanks to this subcommittee! Also, Derrith kindly volunteered her husband, Michael, to help design the postcard. Doug kindly offered to help with this. Thanks to Michael and Doug! Betsy will send the City’s postcard template to Derrith and Doug and will let them know of the deadline to provide the city with the final draft mailer. Perhaps we can mail it by, say, July 15; which would mean Iris McCaleb at the City would need it by a certain number of days before July 15th.

Ivan Anderholm, Parks & Rec chief, met with residents April 29, 2024 at the new picnic shelter to go over what Parks is doing. Ivan gave an overview of what Parks is doing throughout the city and locally. In Old Town, the iron furnace was cleaned, the Geo Rogers picnic shelter was completed, the path project connecting Geo Rogers along the river to Foothills Park is moving along, the damaged white art structure across the street from the new picnic shelter will be fixed, and the damaged and rotting trellis will be replaced. Our Parks department has been accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (“CAPRA”). Being CAPRA-accredited is an honor and means the City meets certain minimum standards of “best practices.” LO Parks is one of only 205 parks departments nationwide to have this accreditation and the 6th in Oregon. . . The City has funded 4 community service officers, up from one.

Bruce noted the ospreys are back in the nest atop the light pole at Geo Rogers.

Upon motion duly seconded and unanimously approved, the board will buy Jeannie flowers to congratulate her on her lifetime achievement award for historic preservation. Kudos to Jeannie; and thanks to Carrie for making this happen!

Derrith noted we should convey our appreciation to Curt for his excellent work maintaining Geo Rogers Park. This can and will be done by letting the City (i.e., Ivan) know he is doing a great job and also by simply introducing ourselves when we have the opportunity and personally thanking him.

Derrith noted we need to be sure the community service officers and other patrols pay close attention to Old Town due to the many activities and events at the park and especially when the path connecting Foothills Park is complete.

Street parking continues to be an issue.

There is a bicycle pump at the lower Geo Rogers area near the bridge. Discussion was held as to whether it would be a good idea to have a raft-inflating device there, too. Carrie noted the bicycle pump was a Scouts project and Doug added the raft inflation devices are compact and most people with inflatables have them already.

LO for Love will have Pride Day on June 2, 2024 from 12 to 4 pm at Millennium Park. Thanks to Doug who is a board member of this organization dedicated to promoting the noble cause of diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Farmers Market starts this weekend.

Upon motion duly seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Minutes respectively submitted by Betsy Wosko, Acting Secretary