

Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council

Meeting Minutes – July 1, 2010

Attending: Janice Bourque, Srdjan Nedeljkovic, Barbara Darnell, Groot Gregory, Peter Meyer, Mildred Hutchinson

Janice called the meeting to order at 8:15pm

- Village day review:
 - Net proceeds will be roughly \$2,000 for the day.
 - We will take a loss again on the t-shirts. Janice suggested that next year we look into getting another item to give away such as water bottles or similar novelty. Groot suggested that if we continue printing shirts, we find someone to subsidize them in exchange for a company logo on the shirt.
 - Peter suggested that we create a fundraising menu for all events that we want underwriting for during the year. This menu can be distributed to Modell's, Village Bank, etc. The group agreed that we should pursue additional underwriting for various activities throughout the year.
 - Group discussed how to maximize funds from the amusement rides at Village Day.
 - There were fewer booths this year than in previous years. The group brainstormed on how to increase the number of booths in the future.
 - Ideas for more food booths, wine tasting, etc were discussed.
 - Groot suggested that we bring back the Village Day checklist in order to better organize the event next year and to help get volunteers at the annual meeting.
- Website review – We noticed that the service area map is missing from the site. We can post minutes from our meeting. (Peter will send all minutes from previous months to Groot). Map may have been moved to a different part of the site.
- Noreen Silton needs to be contacted regarding posting meeting nsilton@newtonma.gov
- Barbara suggested we get Janet's merchant list to thank them for contributing for Village Day and to post all merchants on the new website. We will also resurrect the "welcome to new vendors" corner.
- Groot mentioned that the current Council website has many old photos and old info. Group came up with ideas on what could be included on the site (Promenade, skating rink, haunted house, etc).

- Walnut Street update: Several people have noticed that some kind of work planning is taking place. Srdjan got an update from the project manager, Jerry Friedman via a request to Tom Daley, Commissioner of Public Works. The update was sent June 30, 2010.
 - Environmental: Coordination letters sent to Newton Historical Commission and Mass Historical Commission (no responses yet)
 - Traffic: Traffic counts and crash data collection have been completed. Draft of Functional Design Report expected in next week or two.
 - Design Exception Report: In progress. Was waiting until survey was complete.
 - Survey: Field work complete, and draft survey completed. Awaiting some utility and right-of-way info. HDR to conduct field-walk next week to field check the survey and make sure everything was picked up correctly.
- Mr. Friedman's e-mail is Jerry.Friedman@hdrinc.com and the office phone for HDR One Company is 617 357-7731. The company is located at 695 Atlantic Avenue, Boston MA 02111. Janice suggested that we could either invite the design firm to the Council for a presentation or perhaps we can attend one of their upcoming meetings. Srdjan said he will follow up with the engineer to perhaps attend a meeting of our when the time is right.
- Haunted House – John said he can't be responsible for it this year. Scott and Paul are interested in coordinating the house this year, however. We know we need more volunteers this year. Need to be in contact with local high school to try to get group of volunteers. Groot suggested regular meetings between Labor Day and Halloween to plan and organize.
- Whole Foods has agreed to do a 5% day to raise \$\$\$ for the skating rink. Arrangements to schedule a date for this need to be made.
- Crystal Lake update: Janice described the recent testing and fact-finding which is currently going on. Studies are being conducted to determine what feeds the lake and how best to address it. League of women voters has also gotten involved in this cause via testing.
- Need to decide on date for annual meeting. Who will be the "keynote" speaker (person to draw interest from the community).
- Groot volunteered to attend the Cold Spring farmers market to spread the word about the Area Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm