

SOTS Community Club Meeting Minutes February 11

Call to Order- 7:07 PM – In attendance Angelica Spates, Jean Spohn, Patty Knudsen, Barrett Knudsen, Chestine Edgar, Bob Edgar, Kyle Lonzak, Rand Fullington, Gary Harris and Dana Wheelock

Welcome Guests – Cal Spates, Victor Estrada

Communications of the President – Angelica welcomed all. A short discussion followed regarding email responses. It was agreed that ‘Reply All’ would be used when information was needed by the whole board, but that other emails would be kept to the pertinent group in which the content directly affected. Chestine added that if an item needed considerable conversation, it could be included on the agenda of the next meeting. Unless, of course, it was of an urgent nature.

Minutes and report of Secretary – Minutes had been distributed in draft form shortly after the January 14th meeting. No corrections or additions were received. Barrett motioned to approve as written. Rand seconded the motion a vote approved the January SOTSCC Meeting Minutes as originally provided.

Added to the Secretary’s book was a document from the Washington Secretary of State dated December 22, 2015 certifying the nonprofit status of the SOTSCC. A lapse of the Washington State nonprofit status occurred due to issue with the wrong address for the SOTSCC Secretary. Apparently the State had an old home address as opposed to the Club’s PO Box address. Thanks to the efforts of Betsy Wheelock, this issue was corrected. Note: the SOTSCC nonprofit status was never in question with the IRS – the Treasurer had maintained that status.

Report of Treasurer – Gary provided a statement of the bank accounts showing Checking at \$3,566.33 and Savings at \$18,461.79 for a total of \$22,028.12.

Gary also provided a draft copy of the 2016 SOTSCC budget – much discussion followed.

Gary pointed out that there were no legal fees paid last year, but he left a \$250 placeholder.

Kyle asked for clarification on the Christmas Lights prizes – the four winners will be excused from paying dues in 2016. Dana suggested that the four winners have a note included in their 2016 Dues Notice/Survey indicating such.

Gary inquired about the cost of the Street of Garage Sales event. Chestine reminded that there was the cost of flyers, ads and balloons.

Gary mentioned the \$750 line item for the gate at the beach. That is for the repair and maintenance of the pedestrian gate. Both the pedestrian gate and the car gate are undergoing rebuild and painting as the elements have taken their toll over the years.

Gary pointed out that there was a \$2,000 placeholder for the Beach. There has not been much expense for the Beach over the past couple of years and this year may require some extra spending to bring things up to par.

Gary also pointed out the \$600 placeholder for the Directory – 2016 is a new Directory year.

There is a \$1,250 placeholder for the Salmon Bake. Last year the cost was only \$826 – that sounded low and there may have been some costs that were not presented for reimbursement from the Club. Angelica said that Jon Newton managed the Salmon Bake and would again this year. Patty said that some of the food and other items were purchased at Costco and there was probably some savings there.

Gary mentioned that the income from dues had been tracking around \$17K - \$19K in the recent past but our cash flow is close to \$22K since our expenses were less last year.

Patty noted that the \$30 budgeted for the Welcome Wagon would not be enough. There had been no expenses over the last two years as there had been a surplus of the items (i.e. baskets, mugs, etc.) that are given out. The stock has been depleted and she will need to replenish. She also noted that there is discounted price for some of the items such as the mugs when ordered in quantity. Gary said that he will bump it up and asked if \$200 would be enough.

Chestine requested that the \$464 for the Easter Egg Hunt be researched as she thought that was high. Dana reminded that around 75 to 80 kids along with their parents participated and that figure included candy eggs as well as prizes for all – the Easter Egg Hunt has gained popularity over the last few years as our community is getting younger.

Gary reminded that the whole purpose of the 'draft' budget is so that things can be vetted and if something needs to be researched then take it home and come back with a proposal for changes and suggested such for the Easter Egg Hunt line item.

Kyle reported that there were no expenses associated with the Christmas Decorations Contest unless the prize money - \$200 in forgiven dues – was to be included. Chestine suggested leaving the \$50 line item for contingency funding such as repair or replacement of the signs.

Gary questioned the blank entry for permits and asked if the permits for street use/closure during Summerfest were included in the Summerfest budget. Barret indicated that the street use permits were rolled into the Summerfest expenses.

Gary also inquired about the fees associated with banking – it was determined that there had been fees for checks in the past and that it was probably a good idea to leave the \$24 line item as is.

Chestine asked about the Board expense line item of \$200. It was explained that the money was used in the past to provide appreciation gifts for departing Board members and also for flowers or something to acknowledge when past Board members passed on.

Angelica inquired about the cost associated with the Annual Meeting. Gary thought there was a lot of left over refreshments and that it could be toned down a little, but others disagreed. She also asked about the cost for the venue – Shorewood Elementary School Cafeteria – Dana said that he would ask Betsy for that figure – around \$75.

Bob asked about the Recology line item. Rand reminded that that was for the trash, recycle and yard waste cans at the beach.

Angelica asked that the Board members review the draft budget and email Gary with any responses. Dana asked that this be one of the types of emails that would be 'Reply All'. All agreed with that approach.

Bob reminded that the official approval would need to be conducted at a Board meeting – all agreed.

Standing Committees & Events

Welcoming - Angelica will get Patty 2 addresses that recently changed hands.

Ecology / Path Maintenance – Jean reported that she has scheduled a work party for Shorewood Park and the Beach on April 9th – there is an article coming out in the Newsletter inviting the community to join in. She pointed out the some of the budgeted money will go for refreshments and water. She also indicated

that the City of Burien will supply some of the tools and supplies needed, but that most volunteers just bring their own. Gary referred to the underspent budget item of \$400 and asked if it shouldn't be reduced. Jean agreed that \$200 would be adequate and that the rest should be reallocated in the budget. Chestine asked about funds for the Boy Scouts. Jean said that if were needed that it would be alright.

Communications – The number of people on the Communications committee was discussed. Chestine thought that it was too many. It was asked if she would like to be removed from the committee – she indicated that she would stay on until Betsy was up to speed on the Newsletter. Dana reminded that a couple of the folks were added to the Communications committee last year to serve as proof readers as a number of typos had been sent out on some of the notices.

Newsletter – Betsy is just about ready to send out the Newsletter. A near-final copy was handed out to the Communications committee members for one last proof reading. Betsy and Dana will stuff the envelopes as part of family bonding experience. Thanks much to Rand for maintaining the mailing list and providing the formatted list used to make the labels.

Web Page – Angelica pointed out that Jesse has been doing a great job at keeping the Web Page updated. Kyle noted that his contact information was not on the website. Angelica said to just send it on to Jesse and she could include it her updates.

Chestine thought that the SOTSCC Board meetings could be listed on the front page of the SOTS web page in the right hand column titled upcoming events. Angelica agreed and thought it appropriate to list the dates and include some contact information so that anyone interested in attending meetings could find out the location.

Dana noted that the content and photos on the front page of the website are outdated. Jean added that the photos and article were either three or four years old.

Facebook Page – Kevin is still maintaining the Facebook page. It was noted that a specific event had occurred in the neighborhood a little while back and that entirely too much personal information was being published regarding that event. It was noted positively that the inappropriate content was quickly removed – thanks Kevin.

Shorewood Blog – The Crockett's maintain the Blog content and do so outside of the SOTSCC. However, their efforts are also recognized in a positive manner.

Kyle mentioned that there was yet another neighborhood site called Nextdoor.com that provides some content that might be pertinent to the SOTS community.

New Directory – 2016 is the year that an updated version of the Directory is scheduled. Angelica asked for clarification on who would be heading up the effort. It was noted that Steve Buchsbaum has shown interest in helping out on the Directory project. Rand indicated that he kept the names and addresses in a database and that Kevin had provided instructions for editing and compiling the Directory. Kyle indicated that he could help out if needed. Angelica reminded that earlier discussions had determined that in order to keep the costs down and simplify the process, advertisements were not going to be included this time around as well as the history that had been published in the past and that the history is included on the website.

Chestine reminded that the Directory was not to be published on the website in order to retain confidentiality – all agreed. Chestine also pointed out that the new Directory cannot be completed until results from the Due Notice / Survey are returned. She also noted that she had reached out to Betsy regarding the due date published in the notice and recommended March 31st as the due date.

Beach – Jean reported on the ivy problem at the beach – hopefully, some of it will get taken care of during the April 9th work party. Barrett reported that one of the members that goes to the Beach regularly pointed out that there was some erosion along the south end of the bulkhead and that it should be inspected more thoroughly. Dana said that he had been down there recently and it appeared that the hillside in the area of the culvert drain had sloughed off sometime this winter – however, the culvert seemed to be intact and functional. He also commented that the abandoned culvert south of the current functioning drain was quite rusty and may pose an attractive nuisance to some kids or something. Gary recommended leaving it alone as any disturbance around it may cause even more problems.

Gate Issue – Angelica stated that the gate was installed in 2005 and that there is considerable corrosion/rust and apparently some of the tubes had split from freezing with water in them. She read an email from Susan Givens who is part of the 30th Ave group regarding the repair effort and costs. It's around \$700 to \$750 for the repair of the pedestrian gate and around \$3K for the main gate. The pedestrian gate was put in for the SOTSCC to have controlled access to the Beach, therefore the cost of maintaining the pedestrian gate should be borne by the Club.

Jean asked if the expense had been approved. Angelica said that emails had been sent out to the Board explaining the expense and that it should be approved at this meeting. Barrett made a motion to approve the \$750 plus Washington State sales tax, Jean seconded the motion – the vote was to approve. Gary asked Angelica to contact the 30th Ave group and inform them of the approval. Further discussion indicated the access codes would be updated as part of the gate repair/upgrade.

Chestine said that the pedestrian gate does not serve the intended purpose as some people have been finding a way around the gates and suggested that the Club abandon the pedestrian gate. Angelica said that Susan had indicated that some additional reinforcement and some planting have been added to help prevent people from getting around the gate.

Barrett recalled sending a business card with the gate code along with the Directory for paying members in the past.

City Items – Bob talked about the article that he submitted for the upcoming Newsletter. He reported on the City's Strategic Plan, Branding and an upcoming open house at City Hall on February 24th and 25th where they will be discussing the Mobility Study. He also mentioned the Burien City magazine and that everyone should have received a couple of issues by now.

Chestine commented on how the ads in the Normandy Park magazine pay for their publication.

Events for 2016

Easter Egg Hunt – Scheduled for March 26th. There is an article in the Newsletter describing the activity, planning, volunteering, etc.

Streets of Garage Sales - There was discussion regarding the past efforts of Heather Ingersoll – the Streets of Garage Sales has always been a huge success. Dana suggested reaching out to her to see if she is still interested in coordinating the event and make sure that she knows that we will help as needed. Last year the date was Saturday the 13th of June. This year the second Saturday in June is the 11th and the third is the 18th.

Chestine suggested considering an appreciation gift to recognize her efforts – especially considering that she no longer lives in the neighborhood.

Summerfest – Barrett indicated that he is not sure that he can secure chairs and tents from his church like he has in the past and that his band will not be performing. He also said that last year’s turnout wasn’t as good as previous years. Kyle mentioned that last year the Summerfest was held on the same weekend as the West Seattle Street Fair. Dana said that previous year’s Summerfest had been held on the same weekend as the White Center Jubilee Days, but that Sundays were their parade and that the Saturday Summerfest had not seemed to be in conflict. Gary said that Jubilee Days were usually held on the third week in July. Angelica said that the third Saturday in July would be the 23rd this year.

Salmon Bake – Jon Newton and Tim Riley have headed up the Salmon Bake in the recent years with great success. They have graciously agreed to take it on again in 2016. Angelica will reach out to Jon and come up with a tentative date.

Christmas Lights – Kyle said that he enjoyed judging the event last year and will be glad to coordinate the contest this year. He will work with Jesse and Eli to see that the website has updated information and will submit an article for the Newsletter that precedes the Annual Meeting in November.

Any Unfinished or New Business – Guest Victor Estrada thanked the Board for its service. He went on to tell how he moved to the neighborhood from not too far away on 27th Ave SW near Shorewood Elementary School. He now lives on Goat Hill and not too far from a house that was recently burglarized. He told about being involved in the Block Watch program in his old neighborhood and inquired about such activities in the Shorewood neighborhood. He is interested in being involved. Barrett indicated that Joe Cail has an active Block Watch in the neighborhood. Angelica said that she would coordinate putting Victor in touch with Joe.

Jean told of an upcoming fund raising event at the Environmental Science Center on March 5th. She said that the Environmental Science Center is a very special organization that serves many kids. She will post the event on the Facebook page. Chestine recommended adding it to the Upcoming Events on the Shorewood website. Gary added that it would good to include a link their website.

Chestine announced that there is a Bird Fest this Saturday from 11 – 3 at Page Two Books in Burien.

Next Meeting – March 10 tentatively at Kyle Lonzak’s house.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM