

VPNA Notes June 16 2014

Attendees: Matt Ciranni, Erin Sorensen, Melvin Brown, Patricia Booth, Blair Stewart, Katherine Coskey, Kathelln Lacy (City of Boise) Officers Shiffler and Farmer (Boise Police)

Announcements: the landscaping for the roundabout has begun, thanks to additional funding from the Simplots. We need to track down the check for the artist construction which was sent to the PO box.

-We are trying to nail down a permanent location place for our board meetings. Two sites were proposed, the classroom at the Davis Park Apartments which is administered by Parks and Recreation, and the Salvation Army building on 19th street. The Davis Park Apartments classroom is preferable due to its central location, we just need to figure out how to set it up.

-Kathleen Lacey mentioned that the city has around 1.9 million dollars budgeted for a neighborhood center, and that the parcel near Moore and 30th might be possible for such a development, but we might need to work something out with Doug Holloway and Jay Storey, and possibly Parks And Recreation may be interested.

-We also very briefly discussed the need for a permanent board secretary and obligations of new board members, and mentioned the Huddle site as a resource for document storage..

Ester Simplot Park Trash/Parking issues: Boise Police Officers Shiffler and Farmer attended and listened to concerns from the board and local residents about cars being parked illegally on the open land designated for the Ester Simplot Park. There have also been ongoing troubles with trash and illegal campsites. Deb Hickson was not present at the meeting but she had voiced concerns about littering along the canal. She has been pro-active in leaving trash bags and note card signs in the area. Officer Shiffler mentioned that Parks and Recreation has already taken action by barricading the entrance to the park property with large boulders and "no parking" signage. He has recommended to call non-emergency dispatch if illegal campsites are spotted. The idea was proposed to co-ordinate and possibly form a task force with Tom Governale at Parks and Recreation, the police, and the neighborhood if the problem continues. Erin and Blair also mentioned issues with throngs of unruly and possibly intoxicated people blocking the paved Pleasanton Spur greenbelt path near the pond.

Summer Events: We still need to follow through with Devin about which movie we want to pick, or which day. There was equal concern about it being too light in August to start the movie early, while in September the evenings may be too cool or it may run too late. We plan to discuss this further. Kathleen Coskey mentioned the possibility of a couple smaller scale meetups, for instance, to meet up at the Food Truck launch or other event, and post this on the website. Again, the possibility was mentioned to have VPNA-themed T-shirts available for members to wear, and/or sell.

Tuesday, August 5th is National Night Out. We discussed the possibility of holding an Ice Cream Social on that night at Fairview Park, with the idea of keeping it simple, but having a way for neighbors to come out and "meet and greet." We would borrow or rent a metal cooler for the frozen ice cream, and have a couple flavors, and would possibly serve root beer floats as well. We would want to contact Carrie Demarelli with BPD to provide a fire truck and/or police cars for the kids to interact with. (and probably

soon, so there would be one available.) We might also try to have some kind of music, even if it's just an I-pad with speakers, and see about reservations for the park.

Open Discussion: We discussed the problem of unkempt and abandoned properties in the area, specifically in the Clithero/Clover street area, and in the Independence Park/Taft Manor area. Property owners are supposed to maintain these parcels but often fail to do so, particularly if it is a repossessed property in the hands of a bank or mortgage company. Kathleen Lacey mentioned that she would do a "Ride along" with a code enforcement person to take a look at some of the specific areas mentioned. Meanwhile Erin was concerned about code enforcement ticketing owners of antique autos parked on a property that are being restored, but the owners do not have a better means of storing them.