

# VPNA BOARD MEETING | MINUTES

January 19, 2015 | 6:30-8 pm | Park Davis Apartments

Meeting called by Matt Ciranni

Attendees Matt C, Deb H, Blair S, Patricia H, Kathleen C, Laura L, Emily Pohlman (Community Outreach Coordinator for Neighborhood Housing Services)

## AGENDA TOPICS

### I. GREENBELT CLOSURE

Matt noted that the City of Boise is closing a portion of the Greenbelt through December 2015. This section, from Veterans Pond to Ann Morrison Park, has been closed several times over the past few years. This particular closure will prevent—once again—bicycle commuters and recreationists from our neighborhood (and further west) from using the Greenbelt to get to downtown, BSU, and Ann Morrison Park.

The Greenbelt is one of the neighborhood's best assets, and the group discussed possible ways to minimize the impact of the closure. Kathleen C. suggested asking the City if it can leave parts of the trail open when they are not under construction. Matt agreed that we should request at least one lane remain open for commuters and minimize closures/impact, for as long as possible, or even that the city fence off work areas and keep the trail open.

#### Action Items:

**Matt** will write a letter on behalf of VPNA to Wendy Larimore with the city of Boise asking that the city consider the least impactful options for closure.

### II. POST OFFICE FEES

The group approved a motion to pay VPNA's post office fees.

### III. NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES PROGRAMS

Emily Pohlman spoke to the group about the Idaho nonprofit organization Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS). NHS is reaching out to neighborhood groups to let them know about its services, which include offering owner-occupied rehab loans. These low-interest loans can be made to homeowners who may need help fixing up their houses. The group discussed several distressed properties that could benefit from the program, including Riley's Mobile Home Park on State Street and Taft Manor.

Kathleen C. offered to post NHS news and events on VPNA's Facebook page and website.

The group also discussed the refugee children who live in the Davis Park Apartments and surrounding neighborhood. Emily said that NHS has installed a basketball hoop for them in the complex. Blair suggested creating a free soccer league. Emily has gotten Idaho Rush to donate equipment to these complex, and thinks Madison Elementary may have space to practice. She also noted that the VISTA volunteer who lives in Park Davis apartments has experience with refugee soccer leagues.

#### Action Items

**Everyone:** Take note of homes that are in disrepair, and bring the addresses to the next meeting for forwarding to Emily.

**Blair:** Email Emily re: the soccer league.

### IV. NEW NEIGHBORHOOD BREWERY

Kathleen C. mentioned that a new brewery, Clairvoyant Brewing Company, is being planned for the former Greg's Auto House building at 2800 W Idaho Street. Boise Planning & Development held a public hearing on January 5.

## **V. 2015 ANNUAL MEETING**

Matt mentioned our annual meeting is coming up in April. Deb suggested holding it at the Dutch Goose again. The date will be April 20. The group agreed we should send out a mailer in March, using funds from a 2014 Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant.

Matt would love to see more people show an interest in a leadership role (including the President or VP positions).

### **Next Meeting**

- Monday, February 23