

# VPNA BOARD MEETING | MINUTES

April 20, 2015 | 6:00-7:30 pm | First Congregational United Church of Christ

Meeting called by Matt Ciranni

Attendees Board Members: Matt C, Patricia H, Sam C, Kathleen C, Deb H, Erin S, Melvin B, Jennifer K, Laura L; Speakers: Jason LaBrado from Neighborhood Housing Services, Wendy Larimore and Kathleen Lacey from the City of Boise, Jay Story from Story Commercial. General public

## AGENDA TOPICS

### I. NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES

Jason LaBrado from Neighborhood Housing Services invited attendees to the NHS Spring Fling at Davis Park Apartments on Thursday, April 23 from 6-8. There will be a potluck, and the Boise Bicycle Project will be giving away 30 bikes to resident kids. Also, residents could use spring cleaning supplies, detergents, and toiletries, so please bring something along if you plan to attend.

### II. ESTHER SIMPLOT PARK UPDATE

Wendy Larimore from the City of Boise Parks & Recreation provided an update on park construction. Construction has officially begun, and Idaho Power is putting its lines below ground. The edge of Quinn's Pond will be filled in to build beaches and a dock; the city will fill on the edge of Veteran's Pond to support future Greenbelt alignment.

Currently, there's additional parking at Bob Rice Ford for taking your boat down. Veteran's Pond is still open, minus a small portion.

Projected completion date is Dec 31, 2016, at which time work will start on the canal intake/culverts; this is scheduled for completion April 15, 2017. Date does depend on whether the city will be hydro-seeding or laying sod.

### III. ELECTIONS

Matt led elections for vacant board seats and neighborhood representatives. The following individuals are now on the board:

Tyler Victorino, Vice-President  
Brian Knight, Rep for Veteran's Point  
Brian Chojnacky, Rep for Veteran's Point  
Mary Cole, Rep for Heron Hollow  
Rae Brooks, Rep for Pleasanton

### IV. NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT GRANTS (ART)

Kathleen Lacey from the City of Boise Art and History outlined current art projects in the neighborhood:

- Roundabout Art on Whitewater Park Boulevard may be installed in May.
- The Whittier Art Boundary artists have worked with the students of Whittier over 3 days and are scheduled to do a kick-off in the fall.

### V. WEST END UPDATE

Jay Story, who was hired by the Boise Urban Renewal District to revitalize portions of the West End, outlined possible developments.

- There are for-sales signs in the West End on commercial parcels that the city is hoping to develop.
- Progress is going slowly near Bob Rice Ford, as some environmental issues have come to light. DEQ and its brownfields program is involved for site remediation.
- Question: Any multifamily projects in the works? Jay: We've received one letter of interest.
- Question: Next phase of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street? Jay: Nothing on the books.



- Question: Are there plans to turn Main Street/Fairview into a 2-way? Jay: Not now. There *is* talk of removing a lane of traffic and adding a lane of parking that may help retailers be more user-friendly. This might be something that ACHD and VPNA could work on. Currently in talks about this.
- Question: Any buffered bike lanes on Main/Fairview? Jay: It's a challenge with the ingress and egress on Main and Fairview—limits visibility.
- A community center is high on the priority list on Whitewater Park Blvd near 32<sup>nd</sup>/Moore where the housing authority is—or at Whittier. Have it in draft 2017 budget. This will be a 4,000-square-foot building, fully staffed and operated by the City of Boise.
- Urban Renewal District reached out and asked Jay if any area businesses need bike racks. Let Jay know.
- Food truck rally – May 15 at the site of the former West End Food Truck Park.

## VI. HERON HOLLOW

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Mary expressed that she feels that the Heron Hollow sub-neighborhood does not get adequate representation via the VPNA and that her group actually conducts social events with the Collister neighborhood. Kathleen Lacey said that it's an easy action to separate Heron Hollow; the VPNA board must initiate it, and then the city can take care of it.

### Next Meeting

- Monday, May 18
- Speaker: Idaho Smart Growth