

VPNA Board Meeting | Minutes

May 18, 2015 | 6:30pm - 8pm | Davis Park Apartments

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Ciranni is the VPNA president. He lives in the Taft Manor sub-neighborhood, near the edge of the VPNA boundary. He has been a VPNA member since 2008.

Brian Chojnacky lives in the Pleasanton sub-neighborhood. This is his first VPNA meeting.

Brian Knight lives in Pleasanton. Previously he lived in the East End.

Ron and Vicky Birkinbine have lived in the Veterans Park East sub-neighborhood for 35 years.

Kathleen Coskey has lived in Pleasanton for 3 years and has attended some VPNA meetings during most of that time. She and Sam Coskey have been the VPNA webmasters (and facebook-masters) for about 6 months.

Tyler Victorino lives in the Veterans Point sub-neighborhood.

Rae Brooks lives in Pleasanton.

Deanna Smith from Idaho Smart Growth is a guest speaker at this meeting.

Patricia Booth (and daughter Brooke) live in Pleasanton. She has been on the board for 3 years.

Erin Sorensen lives in the Park Davis sub-neighborhood.

II. ART PROJECTS

Kathleen Lacey, the VPNA liason at the City of Boise, emailed information about ongoing neighborhood art projects. There is no date yet for the roundabout sculpture installation because of engineering delays. Blackrock Forge sent some concept designs for the Whittier art wall.

III. MOVIE NIGHT

The city will show Maleficent at Veterans Park on June 27.

Matt reminded us to try to get raffle items to raise funds for the VPNA at the movie night. Past movie nights have had varied success. Last year we had low turnout. We would like to post signs and/or distribute flyers to advertise the event.

Will the mobile rec van be there? Could we get a food truck?

Action Items:

Tyler to distribute flyers.

Kathleen to contact schools to get the event in the kids Friday folders and ask Jerrys for a donation for the raffle.

Erin to do press release to media and Whittier Elementary, and ask BeeWise and Boardroom for donations.

Patricia to send out the donation form again, and ask Giraffe Laugh for a donation.

Matt to ask Idaho River Sports and Stewarts Gem Shop for donations.

Brian C to ask Westside Drive-In for a donation.

Ron and Vicky to ask Bikes 2 Boards for a donation.

Everyone to try to get at least one donated item for the raffle.

IV. ST. LUKE'S PLAN

Matt brought our attention St. Luke's request to close part of Jefferson street to expand the regional medical center in downtown Boise. The Central Foothills Neighborhood Association asked if we wanted to take a position on the issue.

Erin asked if it would set a precedent. What if a company wants to do something similar in our neighborhood? St. Luke's owns land in our area near Main/Fairview and Shoreline, across from Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Rae asked about St. Luke's assertion that they would eventually move the regional medical center to Meridian if they are not allowed to close these block(s).

Ron is not concerned about closing part of Jefferson street. The ACHD needs to make/plan an East/West corridor in this area.

Deanna said that Idaho Smart Growth is not taking a position. She is also an East End NA representative. They are opposed to closing the connection from downtown to their neighborhood. This is the first time they are opposing St. Luke's. The North End Neighborhood Association is in favor. The Central Foothills NA is opposed. The health system is proposing a comprehensive plan amendment. It is not a development application which means we don't know exactly what they'll do. The city should do it's own master plan for the area, rather than St. Luke's. Boise's planning and zoning commission denied a related request from St. Luke's. Jefferson street is slated to become a two-way road in the future. The closure of part of Jefferson street would make the Broadway and Main intersection one of the city's busiest. St. Luke's wants this closure because it is easier than other alternatives. They want to create a suburban campus and already own 5 blocks of public right-of-way. St. Luke's is a hospital and regional medical center, the latter serves a 350-mile radius. There is an open worksession tomorrow (5/19) evening where the public can ask questions.

V. GUEST SPEAKER - DEANNA SMITH OF IDAHO SMART GROWTH

Request by Deanna Smith of Idaho Smart Growth to identify a representative from each Boise neighborhood association to serve as a liaison with Ada County Highway District. Goal of the community input: to encourage ACHD to funnel 1 to 2 percent of its annual budget into Valley Regional Transit to help increase use of public transportation in Ada County.

Erin S. and Tyler V. expressed interest in serving as representatives for the VPNA.

Background: Uniquely, all Ada County roads are the responsibility of the Ada County Highway District. No other similar entity exists in the country. By law, all transportation funds from local sales taxes, property taxes and the federal government must go to ACHD, which is not accountable to Boise or the other entities whose transportation policies and funding it controls. The goal of Idaho Smart Growth, a state-wide non-profit, non-partisan organization, is "to help communities create great places to live," Deanna said. Generally, "smart growth" is considered the opposite of urban sprawl. Transportation policies of past decades have led to unintended consequences, including producing urban sprawl, she said. The Healthy Communities program, one focus of Deanna's work with Idaho Smart Growth, encourages alternative forms of transportation, including walking, biking and increased use of public transportation. An opportunity exists for neighborhood associations through liaison representatives to encourage ACHD to allocate a small percentage of its budget to public transportation in Ada County.