

# VPNA BOARD MEETING | MINUTES

August 17, 2015 | 6:30-8:00 pm | Davis Park Apartments

Meeting called by Matt Ciranni

Attendees Board Members: Matt, Patricia, Laura, Tyler, Kathleen C, Rae B, Ron, Erin  
Guests: Jason LaBrado, NeighborWorks; Kathleen Lacey, City of Boise Arts & History; Susan Riggs, City of Boise Planning and Development; Kevin, resident.

## AGENDA TOPICS

### I. NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OUT

The board is happy with the turnout for last month's National Neighborhood Night Out.

### II. ESTHER SIMPLOT PARK

Park completion will be delayed an additional few months for industrial waste removal.

### III. WHITEWATER PARK BOULEVARD ROUNDABOUT ART

Kathleen Lacey reported that this project is still experiencing delays. Dirk has completed sculpting all of the parts, but has not yet assembled it. He must first engage a structural engineer before the city and ACHD will grant the permits for installation.

Tyler provided Kathleen with his business card, as his employer, CTA, has structural engineers on staff. Erin Sorensen may also know engineers and asked for the project specs.

#### Action Items:

**Kathleen/Erin/Tyler:** Kathleen to send project specs to Erin. Erin and Tyler to send Kathleen names of engineers based on the specs.

### IV. JEFFERSON STREET GARDEN PARTY

August 20 @ 6 – 8 pm

Jason from NeighborWorks invited our neighborhood to its Garden Party @ 20<sup>th</sup>/Jefferson, in the community garden near the Salvation Army. This is a celebration of the work people have put into the garden. A master gardener workshop is at 6 pm. Potluck style, so bring something to share.

#### Action Item:

**Kathleen C:** Post online.

### V. COLLISTER & STATE RE-ALIGNMENT

Erin raised concerns about safety re: the planned alignment. She's heard several of these concerns from business owners in the shopping center and in the cycling community. Specifically, just east of the intersection is still dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

Kathleen Lacy said that this work is being done in preparation for developing State Street to 7 lanes, 2 of which will be for transit. She said that there will now be crosswalks on both sides of the intersection on State Street, which will provide more Greenbelt access. Additionally, this will lessen pedestrian conflicts around the On the Fly service station; currently, there are 3 access areas to On the Fly, which was making the area confusing and dangerous.

Ron made several suggestions about possible alignments that would funnel many of the side streets in the area to street lights, instead of so many driveways and access points releasing to State Street. This could help alleviate vehicle/cyclist/pedestrian conflicts. Also, he said, it could raise property values and, in turn, the city's tax income.

Kathleen would like to present ACHD with Ron's ideas, and suggested a possible roundtable discussion at the next VPNA meeting with ACHD project manager Joe Tate and his boss Dyan Bevins.

**Action Items:**

- **Matt or Erin:** Invite Joe Tate/Dyan Bevins to next VPNA meeting.

## **VI. CWI CAMPUS**

Erin said that a CWI contact is looking for ways to send out community surveys to ensure the campus is desired and will be utilized. On a personal level, the VPNA board members seem excited about the prospect of a campus.

Kathleen Lacey suggested that we stay involved and have input into the design of the campus, so that we can ensure the campus design allows for Greenbelt access and includes a plaza and open space.

Tyler said that his firm, CTA, is designing the campus and he will be happy to share the design renderings when they are available.

## **VII. NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT GRANTS**

Matt reiterated Mary's request to focus some activities in the Heron Hollow area of the neighborhood, and asked for ideas re: how to put Neighborhood Reinvestment Grants to work in that area.

Mary had mentioned sidewalks. Kathleen Lacey said we can expect a multi-year process for sidewalks that would include:

- Find out if the residents are interested. Many won't be.
- Meet w/ ACHD to initiate a study.
- How would sidewalks affect stormwater drainage? Right now, it's just perfect.

Ron said another option is to widen the road and put in curbing—this allows for pedestrian traffic but it's not permanent. Also allows drainage of stormwater as it currently is.

Ron also suggested creating a neighborhood survey to find out what the residents would like. We can do press releases directing residents to a free online Survey Monkey survey to find out what improvements they would like.

Erin suggested creating more connectivity to the rest of the neighborhood, and Kathleen said she would bring access/connectivity of this area to the attention to the city for its Energize our Neighborhoods effort. Erin also asked if we could use the Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant to do a connectivity study.

A pop-up park was suggested, but Kathleen said the city is not currently creating pop-up parks due to maintenance expense. There is a stretch of ACHD right-of way in the area, but says a community garden is unlikely on this land.

**Action Items:**

**Kathleen:**

- Approach Energize our Neighborhoods with idea of connectivity in the Heron Hollow area.
- Determine if we can use Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant for a connectivity study.
- Get demographics for the area so that we can determine if the focus should be on kids or other.

**Matt:** Add this agenda item to September board agenda so that we can continue the grants discussion and the resident survey.

## VIII. NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

Neighborhood resident Kevin spoke about how the Torch's expansion is affecting his part of the neighborhood. The Torch installed a smoking patio, and is now allowed to have music out there, which is affecting the quality of life for the neighborhood residents. He said that his area is mostly renters and that he could not garner much support to oppose the expansion; he was the only resident to speak to the City of Boise's Planning and Development Services (PDS) about the expansion. Kathleen Lacey mentioned that she can work with PDS, the police department, and the Energize our Neighborhoods initiative to help find some solutions to this issue.

Kevin also mentioned that cars fly through his area of the neighborhood, upwards of 45 MPH, even though there is a calming speed bump. He's concerned about the safety of his children and other kids in the area. This area is a thru-way for traffic just north of Idaho Street.

Erin raised concerns about this corridor (Main/Fairview/Idaho) as well as the activity at the State Street Motel.

### Action Items:

#### Kathleen:

- Discuss the Torch issue with PDS, the police department, and the Energize our Neighborhoods initiative.
- Speak to Office Schiffler about the speeding and State Street Motel.

## IX. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOUNDARIES

Kathleen Lacey said there's potential for the West Downtown Neighborhood Association (WDNA) to expand its boundaries. The association noticed that the Main/Fairview corridor between Main and Idaho is unattached and would be interested in providing the residents with representation. If the WDNA secures this area, it would like to apply for Neighborhood Reinvestment Grants for it, so the VPNA would need to decide quickly if we are interested in representing all or part of this area.

Erin feels very strongly that we have spent years helping with plans to develop this area and would like to see it officially become part of VPNA. Kathleen suggested that we think about what we would do with the area, and that it may make sense to possibly split the area with WDNA. She wants VPNA to come up with a board position and draw up a few maps that present our ideal scenario, and meet with WDNA President Scott Tagg and herself to discuss possibilities—but this has to happen in the next few weeks.

### Action Items:

**Erin:** Work with Scott Tagg and Kathleen to set up meeting.

## X. BUSES

Kathleen C. said that ValleyRide has extended services on Routes #7 (Fairview) and #9 (State Street), specifically providing service every half hour into the evenings. She encouraged board members to ride the buses so that we can show need for these services. She referred members to valleyride.org for schedules.