

**SWNI Public Safety Committee**  
**Draft Minutes for August 3, 2017**

Committee Members: Chair Carol Porto, Vice Chair Vicki McNamara, Marcia Leslie (Far SW), Keturah Pennington (Hillsdale), Michelle Mahon (Maplewood), Phil Ford (Markham), Sam Pearson (South Burlingame), Kim Silverman (SWHRL), Bill Dant (West Portland Park).

Visitors: Karen Elliott, Justin D.

Staff: Sylvia Bogert

**Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Carol Porto brought the meeting to order and introduced Vice Chair Vicki McNamara from West Portland Park NA. Everyone in the room introduced themselves and pitched in to help assemble water-purifying kits for our Emergency Preparedness Fair scheduled for spring. Carol offered cool drinks and cookies for everyone to enjoy.

**Approval of Agenda:** Sam Pearson moved to approve the agenda. Vicki McNamara seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.

**Approval of July Minutes:** Sam Pearson moved the July 6, 2017 minutes be approved with the following correction from Kim, the site of the transient camp is located at SW 10<sup>th</sup> and SW Clifton Street. Marcia Leslie seconded the motion. July minutes were approved.

**Update from Chair Carol Porto** – Carol reported she had put in a request to the FBI for a future speaker to address federal crimes such as ID fraud, bank robbery, terrorism, etc. ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator Jenni Pullen confirmed she has arranged for a speaker in September about crimes associated with Cannabis shops in Portland. This may help us prepare for the discussion on October 5th at the Public Safety Action Committee meeting with Portland Police Command staff and the District Attorney. Other topics being tracked for that meeting include gang/graffiti, traffic safety, and crime/livability issues related to transient camps. Jenni Pullen shared with Carol that there is a new Sergeant at Central Precinct, Jeff Niiya.

**Action Plan Update:** Carol also reported that she had heard from some NET members that they want to take part in an Emergency Safety Fair event in the spring. Folks are sending her their ideas for displays (NET), presentations (Red Cross), demonstrations (cooking, water and food storage, Arnold Creek NET tent), children activities (child backpack, maybe as a give away) etc. A discussion was held regarding the best time to hold the event. Sylvia was told to look for available time in the auditorium late February to early March, but to avoid both weekends of spring break. Saturday was the preferred day of the week from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will also need at least an hour to set-up and cleanup. Carol announced a community meeting was being held on August 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm in Room 30 of the Multnomah Arts Center to discuss a new cannabis shop opening at SW Taylors Ferry Rd and SW Spring Garden Rd. For further details call 503-823-WEED. Carol said that the Ashcreek and Crestwood NAs had worked with the owner of Green Goddess in their neighborhood and signed a Good Neighbor Agreement that was working out very well.

It was announced that the Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland Department of Transportation planned to close Boones Ferry Road next spring for up to seven months to remove the undersized and aging culvert and replace it with a restored streambed and a new bridge. The Arnold Creek NA has stated its support for the project but has sent in a letter regarding concerns that traffic will be detoured onto SW Stephenson and SW 35<sup>th</sup>. Traffic calming measures are being asked to mitigate the dangers of pedestrians, bicyclists and children walking to Stephenson Elementary and Jackson Middle School. Sylvia will bring the ACNA letter next month to share with people.

The committee brainstormed a few ideas for the Community Policing Reception in October. Marcia Leslie had researched the idea of collecting care-bears for children traumatized by accidents, domestic violence or other serious life events. The teddy bear acts as a comfort to the affected child and builds rapport between the officer

and child. Another idea was to hold a Bingo night and have people bring bears as the entrance fee. Marcia will look into this idea further to see if Portland Police feel the bears are a needed item. Other ideas discussed included root beer floats or light finger foods (similar to the Celebrate our Success Event). Sylvia said if we are going to host an October event we need a subcommittee. The following people volunteered or were suggested as committee members: Bill Dant, Sam Pearson, Michelle Mahon (publicity), Kathleen Elliot, and Carol Porto. Carol and Phil Ford volunteered to be on the Emergency Preparedness Fair subcommittee.

### **Neighborhood Reports:**

SWHRL – Kim reported she helped organize a Neighborhood Watch in the Gander Ridge area, where they have been having car prowls and thefts. Jacob Brostoff with the ONI Crime Prevention Program gave neighbors some very helpful advice on when to call 911 and instructed folks to be sure to state clearly when activity is occurring and tell the operator that “a crime is in progress” and then describe what is happening (prostitution, fights, car prowls, suspicious behavior around a neighbors house, etc.) The transient camp near I-405/SW 10<sup>th</sup> and SW Clifton Street has had numerous crime reports filed at or near that location. ODOT owns the Right-of-Way and neighbors need to work directly with ODOT for cleanup assistance. Kim said it is very important neighbors to get to know each other and to know (and report) when suspicious cars or people are on or in neighbor’s yard/homes.

West Portland Park/Markham NA: Karen Elliot and Justin we heard from neighbors that had a number of concerns regarding occupants of a home that were hosting loud, after-hour, parties; parking numerous cars, vans, campers and other vehicles on the property; lighting fireworks; and scattering unsafe debris on the lot. Committee members shared contact information for Crime Prevention Coordinator Jenni Pullen who will be able to organize a problem solving meeting. Committee members also shared links to City ordinances regarding: grass, garbage, etc. [portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/25079](http://portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/25079) and the PortlandMaps website ([portlandmaps.com](http://portlandmaps.com)), which lists property owner information as well as current permits.

### **Announcements:**

Carol reminded everyone to pick up the flyer regarding “safe” Eclipse Glasses and stated that Multnomah Vision was distributing glasses for free, while they last.

**Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.**

*Minutes submitted by SWNI Executive Director Sylvia Bogert*