**Montlake Community Club Board Minutes**

**October 14, 2014**

**Neuhart Residence**

Board members present were Lionel Job, Bob DeLay, Lori Sabado, Nathalie Gehrke, Michele Layton, Bryan Haworth, Julee Neuhart, Jim Roe, Leonid Orlov and Kathy Laughman.

**Introduction of PTA liaison trustee:** Julee Neuhart began the meeting by introducing our new Montlake School liaison trustee, Leonid Orlov, who also serves on the Montlake PTA and has one child attending the school.

Leonid reported that the PTA supports the school by its activism and supplying funds for programs that the City does not fund. For example, he noted the PTA funds teaching positions for both art and gym, and that the Montlake School PTA is adding cameras to enhance the school’s security.

 Leonid commented that he was not previously aware of the Montlake Community Club and hopes that we can work together on neighborhood issues. For example, the school could be included in the overall concern for neighborhood safety. He also wants to make the PTA board more aware of the work that the MCC is doing for the neighborhood.

Julee encouraged Leonid to submit articles to the Montlake Flyer. Lionel suggested we could add a new page to the Montlake.Net website which would be dedicated to school news.

**Approval of minutes from last meeting:** The minutes from the September 9th meeting which had been sent to the board members prior to the meeting were approved by consensus of those present after Michele Layton made a motion for approval and Nathalie Gehrke seconded it.

**Treasurer’s report:** Jim Roe distributed copies of the treasurer’s report which shows a balance of $15,457.72.

 **Discussion of proposed budget for 2014-2015:** Nathalie Gehrke made a motion that the budget be adjusted to allow $100 for administration costs and Kathy Laughman seconded it. It was agreed to accept the proposed budget with this and other amendments that may be offered. Copies of the adjusted budget will be sent to the board members.

**Report on All Montlake Yard sale**: Kathy Laughman reported that the yard sale increased its neighborhood participation by 100 %. There were over 60 participants who registered and several participants who did not. Participants reported that they had customers shopping from before 9 am to the final closing hour, 3:00 pm. The use of social media, thanks to LeAna Alvarado-Smith, was very successful in bringing in customers. Kathy noted that there was a problem with the Big Blue Truck from the NW Center which left the site early on Saturday and refused some items because they were “too large.” The planning committee plans a wrap-up meeting and will be sharing the outcome with the other board members at the next meeting.

**Snow Brigade Update:** Kathy Laughman said that she has received 9 replies to her email sent to last year’s snow brigade volunteers. All but one has volunteered to serve as volunteers again. Julee will be contacting the volunteers to see if any of them are willing to assume some of the coordinating duties this year.

**Replacing Rainer Metzger on the Board:** Since Rainer was our webmaster, should we be looking for someone to replace him on the board with website management experience? Julee will continue this discussion at our next meeting

**Report on “Only in Seattle Initiative”:** Kathy Laughman reported that she had received a reply from Theresa Barreras who works for the agency. She has offered to meet with us after we submit an official application. The deadline is November 3.

**Interlaken Assault:** There was an attack recently on a woman who was walking on E. Interlaken Blvd, and safety concerns have been expressed by the neighborhood as a result. The MCC Board is also concerned and wants to address this incident and the larger issue of safety. Lionel Job commented that we should stage some action to bring attention to the fact that there are serious safety issues. Nathalie commented that there have been a number of incidents –door to door con-man –people in alleys checking out garages. There was a consensus that we should have a general community-wide meeting and invite the police from East Precinct to come to talk to us.---other suggestions included a-*take back the park* event where an organized group purposefully occupies the park. Michele Layton volunteered to work with Nathalie Gehrke in organizing a community-wide meeting for November, if possible.

**Fall Artists’ Studio Tour**: Nathalie proposed that we organize an artist studio tour of Montlake – perhaps for the last weekend in November or the first weekend in December. Local Montlake artists would be asked to show their work in their own studios and thus have the opportunity to sale their work, if they chose. Artists could also team up at one location if they preferred. Nathalie will send emails to all artists on her list from the Music & Arts event to see if there is interest, before moving forward with any planning.

**School News:** Leonid Orlov reported that there is a PTA meeting scheduled for the week following the MCC meeting and mentioned he was interested in developing a page on **Montlake.Net** to share news about the school. (See *Introduction of PTA liaison trustee* section also*.*)He also hopes to expand school news out to social media as well.

 **“Manure Fest”**: Jim Roe mentioned he wanted to reach out to the community to see if there was interest in obtaining free manure-rich soil for their gardens. It was recommended that he post at the Montlake Community Center and write an article for the Flyer to see if there is enough interest before MCC would commit to purchasing a large amount of the product that the community could share.

**Reaching out to the neighborhood:** Kathy Laughman suggested that one approach to recruiting more volunteers from the neighborhood would be for each board member to take on one or more long-term projects and then recruit a pool of volunteers for specific projects using the forum and/or the Flyer. Volunteers would be more likely to commit to short term projects in which they are interested. No action was taken by the board on this idea.

**Transportation Committee Report**: Lionel Job reported the following:

1. Crews are working on E. Boyer and 26 Avenue E. to install a stop sign and upgrade the street and sidewalk

 2. Construction to start either in December or January on 19th Avenue E. and E. Lynn three- way stop light.

3. The Central greenway is going to happen. It will go down from Stevens school to Interlaken Drive E.–pointing bikers to E. Howe. It would make the route to school much safer if the stairs are removed and a bike path installed on the path between E. Interlaken Blvd and Boyer Avenue E.

 4. Lionel explained the position of Club on the 520 expansion before the Transportation Council. On behalf of the Board, Julee wrote to Lyle Bicknell about the west side of Montlake Blvd E. The Board’s point of view is that there should be a safe, walker-friendly route through the NOAA property and the Yacht Club via E. Shelby to the Montlake Bridget for pedestrians and bikers.

 5. It is hoped the E. Interlaken Blvd and 24th Avenue E. stoplight (which will be pedestrian activated) will be funded in this year’s budget. Lionel suggested that each of us contact the individuals who make these budget decisions to make this happen.

**Update on Montlake Playfield Basketball Court**: Michele Layton reported that the parks department may soon put the black top on the new basketball court and paint the stripes. She also said that the money for this task had been put into the Parks Dept. last January.

**Donation to school green house:** Julee reported that the MCC has made contributions over several years to Montlake School’s greenhouse. The offer was also extended last year, but there was no response. Julee suggested that we offer again this year and make a donation of $300.00. Since we do not know what their financial needs are, Nathalie Gehrke proposed that we request they submit a one-page request to advise the board of their needs. Leonid Orlov will follow up with Cherie Bloom who runs the greenhouse and report back to the board at the next meeting

**Conversation with Joy Conrad Rice:** She lives in the neighborhood and contacted Julee to express her concern about litter and garbage on the edge of the parking lot behind Montlake Blvd Market. She said she had already spoken to Aaron, the manager of the store, about the problem but he advised his staff not to clean up due to drug paraphernalia. Bob DeLay agreed to monitor the situation there and will report back to Julee.

**Refreshments for next meeting:**  MCC officers are to bring the refreshments for November Meeting.

**Meeting Adjournment**: Jim Roe moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting ended at 9:15 pm. The next meeting will be on November 11, 2014, Veteran’s Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Laughman

MCC Board Secretary