

CHNA Board Meeting - Monday, July 13th, 2015
Home of Sean and Sarah Suits
868 25th Ave. N.
Refreshments at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm

In attendance: Kris Noakes-Fry, Sarah & Sean Suits, Thomas Paterek, Greg Fallon, Karri Morrison, Louise Barrett, Nancy Warner, Susan O'Gara, John Sullivan, Amy Kelso, Jen Wright

Kris Noakes-Fry called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with a quorum. Kris reported that Louise Barrett is transitioning as Treasurer, but Genine is still on the account. Louise was confirmed & approved as interim treasurer and full member of the board.

Jen Wright worked to obtain a grant from the city. She reported that CHNA was awarded a \$500 grant for our upcoming Halloween Block Party. We had to register as a "City Supplier." Conditions for the grant include submission of receipts for expenses as well as submission of photos & statements from the board on the impact of the event on the community.

Louise Barrett then explained requirements for presenting our new certificate of tax exemption to vendors when shopping for CHNA activities. We need a check or debit card from the organization to get the exemption. Louise will investigate how to obtain our tax free purchases at various vendors.

Sarah Suits will set up a google drive which will hold folders and CHNA documents accessible to Board members.

John Sullivan, chair of the Halloween Committee, handed out copies of the CHNA Halloween Party, 2015 Proposed Budget, totaling \$1,290. Last year fifteen local businesses donated prizes for contests. Cash donations can be used to purchase gift certificates. As well as contest prizes there are drawings for prizes. Sarah Suits will be in charge this year of getting donations. We also discussed ways to recognize donors like listing them in the Newsletter.

Kris Noakes-Fry thanked Jen Wright for obtaining the grant so we can really do a top notch party.

Louise Barrett moved to approve the amended budget of \$1,290 as proposed. Sean Suits seconded. Proposed budget was approved.

Karri Morrison introduced the Traffic topic and the update on the crosswalk. Amy Kelso, who is just moving into the neighborhood and has already joined CHNA, is working on the proposed crosswalk. She has been in contact with the city and visited businesses between 26th & 27th Avenues on both sides of 4th St. N. to get their input on the proposed crosswalk. Some businesses need a median for their truck deliveries. DOT has approved the crosswalk concept and is already moving forward with sketch of crosswalk and median. Peter, owner of Blind & Shutter, is concerned about the negative impact of a median on his delivery trucks access to his shop. It does not impact Evos. The city knows the neighborhood is keeping up interest in the crosswalk.

Other traffic committee issues: Problem with last meeting was that CHNA did not have a committee to handle issues like the one Robert Lehner brought to the organization regarding a stop sign reversal at the last General Meeting on May 4th, 2015. We need a process before presenting requests to the city. We need a traffic committee to study traffic flow and revise our old traffic plan, which was drawn up before Fresh Market or Trader Joe's.

Greg Fallon said he would join with Amy & Karri making a committee of 3 to review our existing plan. The first official meeting will be in the fall. They will ask Steve Hamsness, our Web Editor, to send a notice of date and time of new Traffic Committee Meeting to everyone on Steve's distribution list.

Sarah Suits volunteered to form a nomination committee to identify list of candidates for election in November.

Susan O'Gara reported on the Focus Group regarding cooperative ventures with Church of the Beatitudes. It has been named *Crescent Heights Outreach*, though we should reference the group as a Church-Community Partnership. Our first project is taking place today and tomorrow collecting food & clothing for Daystar. It was also agreed that we would participate in the St. Petersburg CareFest 2015 program on September 26th either in conjunction with other neighborhood associations or on our own if we identify a project in time. We will seek to identify projects in the neighborhood, and mobilize neighborhood residents and

Beatitudes church members to work on these projects. Peter Armacost, representing Church of the Beatitudes, and Susan O’Gara agreed to work together to develop a survey instrument in two parts: (1) a checklist of projects, activities, interests and needs and (2) a survey of concerns, needs and other matters for the benefit of the neighborhood. The group will present the concept of “Block Captains” to CHNA who would listen to concerns and suggestions from their neighbors. Members of Crescent Heights Outreach who are not Beatitudes members were invited to participate in a church retreat on August 15th which will focus on how to be good listeners bringing people together. They also agreed that it would be a good idea to encourage small groups involved in neighborhood activities (eg. Book club) to meet on occasion at the Beatitudes, and to encourage more general usage of the Beatitudes as a meeting place for community activities. It was suggested that we conduct an Activities Fair at the Beatitudes to highlight and encourage involvement in the various projects and activities that are suggested in response to the survey. It was agreed that this might be combined with a Cultural Fair (involving ethnic foods). Susan further suggested having a table at the Halloween Party for people to indicate their needs and interests.

Kris Noakes-Fry suggested a meeting August 24th devoted to revision of the bylaws. This will be three weeks before our General Membership meeting on Sept. 14th. A number of board members committed to attending including Louise Barrett (who volunteered to chair the committee), Sean Suits, Nancy Warner and Susan O’Gara.

Membership cards need to be ready at the Halloween Party. The board decided to list businesses in the Newsletter rather than on the back of the membership card to accommodate new businesses.

Maureen Camphire arrived at the end of the meeting after helping at Church of the Beatitudes with the *Crescent Heights Outreach* collection for Daystar. She announced an excellent response to the clothing and food drive the first day.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Susan O’Gara, CHNA Secretary