

# Wilkes Community Group

## Minutes of Board Meeting on

February 5, 2019

6:30 – 7:43 p.m. - St. George Church

**Board Directors Present:** Richard Mohle, Carrie Goble, Jill Erickson, Kathi Holmes, Shirley Larson

**Other Members Present:** Diane Terhune, Misty Wright, Bill Herbert, Henry Owen, April Robinson, and Cheryl Mosely

**Non-Members Present:** Sam Diaz, *Portland For Everyone Coalition* Coordinator, Nan Steinbach and Eydie Dee

**Directors Excused Absent:** Richard Anderson, Brenda Jackson, Alice Blatt

6:32 p.m. Meeting Called to Order by Richard Mohle – All people in attendance at the meeting introduced themselves and identified their general residence location. A quorum was *determined by Jill Erickson.*

6:39 p.m. Treasurer’s Report: Carrie Goble, Treasurer, Carrie distributed copies of the report to all present for review.

6:41p.m. Approval of Prior Minutes: Richard Mohle, Chair - Copies of the meeting minutes from the previous three meetings (Board on October 2, 2018, Annual on November 6, 2018 and Board on January 8, 2019) were distributed for all to review. Changes were made to the bylaws at the annual meeting on November 6, 2018) and are so noted on the minutes.

**Motion to Approve the Minutes of all 3 Meetings: Kathi Holms,**

**Motion Seconded: Shirley Larson**

**Meeting Minutes Approved: Unanimous Declaration of the Board**

6:42 p.m. Electronic Publicity Plan: Richard, Chair - Per the suggestion made by neighborhood resident Bob Lemon, an Electronic Publicity Plan was introduced. The plan would aim to increase the visibility of Board meetings and times as well as expand marketing of the annual neighborhood clean-up. Someone would need to volunteer to execute the plan. No one volunteered.

6:43 p.m. Portland For Everyone Coalition: Sam Diaz

- Coalition Coordinator, Sam Diaz, shared a printed PowerPoint presentation regarding growth plans for the city of Portland. The coalition’s primary goal is to ensure the city has “something for everyone” (biking, walking, transit, etc.) and is affordable. He noted that the city has been undertaking an in-depth review of zoning in the city since 2015, and Mayor Wheeler is seeking input on the proposals developed with the guidance of the Coalition’s recommendations. Policy makers are currently considering changes to the zoning code that would allow multi-unit dwellings to be developed, within certain parameters, on city lots that were previously occupied by single family homes averaging 1500 sq. feet. The new policy would allow units

totaling approximately 2500 sq. feet to exist on that same lot size. Other restrictions also apply but were not discussed in great detail; said restrictions require explanation by someone from the zoning office because of the depth and nuances.

- Neighborhood residents asked questions and voiced concerns regarding the public notices posted (or lack thereof), the size, location, and roof line of new dwellings, and the lack of adequate city officials to efficiently and effectively regulate these new codes. Residents are concerned about the pressure higher density housing will put on parking and the property values of neighboring residences who will lose privacy as 2-story dwellings are developed near fence lines. Residents are further concerned that if property tax increases remain tied to property values and are unrestrained, that senior citizens will be disproportionately impacted by the way in which the demand for housing will exacerbate these expenses, rendering seniors, middle income homeowners, and rental property owners unable to keep their properties. Such increases may force the city's most vulnerable residents and homeowners to relocate to more affordable areas. While resistance to the zoning changes was expressed in the meeting, many acknowledged that rising home prices in the Portland area due to the inadequate supply of housing in the region does require increasing housing density.

- Mr. Diaz gracefully responded to as many questions as he could and alerted those in attendance to other meetings at which they could participate to learn more and/or voice their opinions, including an upcoming Portland for Parking Reform meeting. He also explained that the city's Planning and Sustainability Committee will convene next week to deliver a briefing to attendees, but public comments will not yet be accepted. Public comments will be accepted via email and future meetings.

7:42p.m. Treasury Report Approval: Richard Mohle, Chair

**Motion to Approve Treasury Report: Kathi Holmes**

**Motion Seconded: Jill Erickson**

**Motion Approved: Unanimous Approval by BOD**

7:43p.m. Meeting Adjourned: Richard Mohle, Chair

\* Minutes recorded and delivered to Richard Mohle by April Robinson, Wilkes Neighborhood Resident

(minutes last revised 2019-02-07)