

DRAFT
Neighborhood Association Presidents' Meeting
April 14, 2011

Attendees (10):

Dean Suhr, Alex Kachirisky, David Rittenhouse, Scott Howard, Bill Relyea, Sally McClarty, Troy Bowers, Jef Treece, Beth Kieres, Steve Garner

Staff (1):

Kirsten Wyatt

Council (0):

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Meeting called to order at 6:03.

Stipend Discussion

- The Proposed 2012-2013 Biennial Budget included reduced funding for Neighborhood Association (NA) stipends.
- Staff encouraged the NA Presidents (NAP) to contact the Citizens' Budget Committee with concerns or questions.
- Discussion ensued, including:
 - Suggestion that Neighbors Helping Neighbors program be reduced to maintain the current NA stipend amount.
 - There is a disparity in the funds available, relative to the size of NAs and the costs of mailings.
 - The stipends' overall budget impact is not significant relative to the size of the City budget.
 - A non-rollover policy can result in end-of-fiscal-year spending.
 - Fund use needs to be clarified.
 - Prorating the stipend based on number of households is one approach.
 - A base allocation and then an allocation based on population is another approach.
- Staff clarified that the future of potential changes to the NA stipend amount was dependent on 1) the budget approval process; and 2) the budget adoption process. Future NAP meetings will include this item on the agenda, if needed.

UPDATE:

- The Citizens' Budget Committee received comments from Mr. Suhr.
- The Approved Biennial Budget increases the available NA stipend funding to \$10,000 and delegates the stipend allocation decision to the NAP group, with a suggestion offered to the City Council at the budget adoption meeting on June 13, 2011.

Map Your Neighborhood

- A short discussion about the "Map Your Neighborhood" program took place.
- NAPs were encouraged to contact Bridget Saladino directly to schedule a "Map Your Neighborhood" presentation or joint meeting. Contact information: BSaladino@WestLinnOregon.gov or 503-657-0331.

Goals & Priorities

- Staff indicated the Council's interest in taking up the issues that were important to NAs.
- Discussion ensued, including:
 - The need for a final work product or conclusion to NAP meetings.
 - A perceived lack of clarity; who NA's are; and what the Council wants.

- Perceived misconceptions about how NA's see themselves and what the Council expects of NAs.
- A need to learn about the citizens' viewpoint of NAs and the potential for marketing to help explain what an NA does, what the benefit is.
- Inquiry about the utility billing database and if it could be cross-referenced to NA's.
- Interest in NA-specific information on utility bills and in newsletters to share information.
- Staff explained that current limitations with the utility billing software limited the ability to filter by NA, but that planned software changes would make this feasible.
- The NAP group then focused discussion on the potential work plan for the year, and narrowed the discussion to two areas:
 - Marketing, outreach and visioning
 - Bylaws and standardized elections

Meeting adjourned at 6:50