

Minutes  
Northgate Park Neighborhood Association Board  
August 20, 2020  
7 pm

Online meeting due to national emergency from Covid 19

Board Members: Keith Cochran, President, Tom Melby, VP, Bernie Page, Secretary, Ian Pond, Treasurer, Alice Kolacinski, Alice Langrell, Dwayne Taylor, Eli Meyerhoff, Marty Jorgensen, Sue Gilbertson, Taylor Rutledge, Tiffany Frye,  
Members: Dan Singer, Deb Hawkins, Farrah Shapiro, Nancy Kneepkens,

Minutes from July 2020 approved without change

Treasurer's report July 2020 approved without change

Report period: July 1st 2020-July 31st 2020

Fiscal period: April 1st 2020 - March 31st 2021

Memberships: 51Current, since April 1<sup>st</sup> 0 Pre-paid for 2021

Total Operating fund:	Contingency fund	Total
Beginning balance1807.59	Beginning balance4218.43	6026.02
Income93	Income1	94
Expenses161.53	Expenses0	161.53
Transfers0	Transfers0	
Ending balance1739.06	Ending balance4219.43	5958.49

Ian will do a financial reforecast for the year assuming that there will be no income from advertising, food trucks, no expenses re picnic, NNO, luminaires, Elgin St Halloween, yard sale.

New business:

Sue reported on crosswalk at southern end of Northgate Park, near Club Elementary. Rebecca Brown Cultural and Public Art Program Manager at the City of Durham has recently received funding to paint an artistic crosswalk at the southern end of Northgate Park, near Club Elementary. Alan, Sue and Tom will help in in the selection of the artist and the design process. Don Becerra will be a part also.

Ian spoke regarding creation of a new logo for Northgate Park. **Motion passed: Ian be allowed to invite resident artists to apply to design a Northgate Park logo.** The community can then vote on the new logo.

Ian: On the NPNA website under Meetings and Policies is a document "NPNA Policies". Ian is working on updating that document and will present it to the board when it is completed.

Ian: 29 beautiful ash trees in the park have been cut down due to Emerald Ash Borer. Ian has spoken with Alex Johnson of Durham Forestry Department who has offered to help choose appropriate trees, source them, and pick planting spots. Tom and Ian will formulate a plan to work on this, using the list serve, to see if there is a way to encourage membership in NPNA while also encouraging donations to help plant trees.

Northgate Mall committee Eli and Taylor sent out a survey and to date have received 64 responses. They will return the survey results to the Walltown Community Association.

Bernie brought up possibly getting involved in getting out the vote, monitoring the voting sites. Consensus is we should do it as individuals, using the listserv to encourage people to vote.

Deb: reported that the city is working on no Trucks on Washington and safety fence that was partially knocked down on Ruby St by I 85 exit ramp.

Farrah: Food truck rodeo still cancelled. Original application said 300 participants, so it will not be allowed.

Ian: Concern that we are currently all on line and therefore not reaching many folks, especially elderly and Hispanic speaking neighbors. How to reach out to a broader group of residents. Some ideas: RE Spanish speaking: Mutual aid has connected with around 15 Spanish speaking families and could possibly get the word out to Hispanics through those families. Another possibility is a covered plastic "newspaper stand" in the park. Consensus is that we need to converse on board list serve and come up with solutions.

#### Community suggestions submitted for future consideration as Board policies

"Though not found in a review of current bylaws, it's been regular practice to circulate well and through several channels awareness of all board meetings, which are meant to be open to all residents/members/the public, especially where key business is conducted that members may seek to give input...

It's been often the case (and in 2019-20 a regular practice) for president or an officer to invite the community to send in or attend to communicate issues of importance/concern for the meeting agenda, and to publish an agenda ahead of the meeting for reference as often as feasible. As this hasn't been the case so far in the new year cycle, as a resident and paid member I'd like to suggest and encourage:

A) These practices be resumed and applied regularly where possible -- imho, residents more than ever need to feel included and engaged, and for there to be transparency with their association(s) and community leadership/groups.

B) Some language (potentially simple) about transparency and community participation/invitation for meetings, as well as standards for amount, announcement and conduction of meetings be considered for a bylaws inclusion. Particularly that meetings not be held where no public/member access/opportunity to monitor be undertaken. In the past with a physical location this was always the case; this should be preserved in the pandemic/online meeting era. Access and agency are ever more vital in our collective circumstances and national conversation/experience.

Encourage the board to consider access and informative-ness to include our residents/members not fortunate to have the means or facility for online/digital access to association activity, to the greatest extent possible – many due to the pandemic no longer have the ability to access Northgate Park Association information via public computing resources. I suggest as one of possible facilitations that:

A) A hard copy of any quarterly newsletters be posted to the community notice board for physical viewing, checked on/replaced if needed

B) A hard copy of each approved/finalized meeting minutes be similarly posted

C) If at all possible, for a Spanish translation of both A) & B) to be included.

Now that we have upgraded the notice board, imho such information is important and takes priority over general notices/flyers and still allows for good space for the latter. As kiosk is read at close range, a half page format in bold face might substitute for 8x11 page size for minutes to optimize space use. A dedicated area (upper back of the board) could be designated for this content."