

## **Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood District Association Minutes**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:33pm – 7:51pm

### **Attendees:**

Matthew Rinker, Sargent Bryan Johnson Milwaukie Police Department, Keira MacMillan, Elvis Clark, Rodney King, Lisa Gunion-Rinker, Steve Smith, Teleri, Lane Rollins, Bernie, Rita Lynn

### **Police Report:**

Officer Johnson was present and delivered the police report. He stated that the Milwaukie Police Department has hired someone, Trista, to help Glen as a Behavioral Specialist, so there are now two people that can be reached if concerns arise. There will be a shred and drug take back event on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Public Safety Building from 10am – 2pm. Officer Johnson said there was a bike and vehicle collision at 224 and Lake Road and when the mother came to help the bicyclist became unstable and jumped in front of a moving vehicle. Attendees asked if there was a GoFundMe site for the needs of the family.

### **Public Comment:**

No public comments were made.

### **Grant Request:**

Chair Matt Rinker stated that the NDA had received a grant request for a block party – Pursuit for PURA. They requested \$500 for PURA, a non-profit wanting to engage community and hold the event at Harris and King. They stated that the funds would be used for food, beverages, crafts, permits, barricades, and that any funding left would be given to another non-profit organization. Attendees asked if the NDA was limited to one block party per year, and if so, the Filbert Festival group had already made a request for this year. Matt said he would follow up with Jason to answer this question. Attendees also asked if it was legal for city funds to be given to an organization, and then excess gifted to another non-profit organization. Matt said he would follow-up on that question as well, but he believes this practice is not allowed. Another attendee asked if it would be possible for this grant request to be presented by the requestor to the NDA for more clarity in May or June.

Matt then brought forward the Milwaukie High School/Milwaukie Arts Academy grant request that was presented last month. There was discussion that even though similar grant requests had been funded in the past from MHS/MAA, this grant request does not meet the new NDA requirements of: 1) the event must be open to the public, and 2) not

charge an admittance fee. Rita Lynn motioned to decline the request and Lane Rollins seconded that motion. The vote was unanimous to decline this grant request, and Matt Rinker said he would explain why funding was declined to the requestor.

### **Pollinator Pathways:**

Colleen Rockwell was not available to attend the meeting but sent information about the program and Lisa Gunion-Rinker presented. Lisa explained a little bit about pollinator pathways and why they are needed. She stated that “A pollinator pathway is a public and private pesticide-free corridor of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds. Even the smallest green spaces, like flower boxes and curb strips, can be part of a pathway”.

She further discussed the importance of pollinators “Pollinators are essential for our ecosystem health and food security. Native pollinators pollinate over 75% of flowering plants and 35% of global crops. They promote plant biodiversity, improve water quality, and foster carbon sequestration. Native pollinators are in decline due to habitat loss and pesticide use. Native plants provide habitat and nutrition for native pollinators. These plants have adapted and require less water and are naturally pest resistant.

“Pollinator pathways are vital because they reunite our fragmented environment. Our landscape has been chopped up through urbanization creating habitat loss and disconnectivity. This project proposes to connect the concrete spaces between our natural areas of Kellogg Creek, Johnson Creek, and Minthorn Springs”.

“To date, the downtown Milwaukie area along Main Street and 21<sup>st</sup> Street have pollinator pathways established by many organizations led by the Historic Milwaukie NDA. The Island Station NDA has 2 pollinator pathways in city ROWs and the Lake Road NDA started a garden at Century Park. The Linwood and Lewelling NDA are in the planning stages and the pollinator pathway project is moving east through Milwaukie”.

Lisa explained that the AJCNDA established a native plant area in the Johnson Creek Blvd terraces years ago, but they could use some care. There is a lot of shiny leaf geranium that is taking over the terraces since we have successfully removed most of the other invasive plants. We could add pollinator plants to the shrubbier terraces and revitalize some of the overgrown native shrubs in the terraces. The pollinator pathway program has a habitat kit that we can apply for to receive free native plants to be planted this fall. The AJCNDA voted to approve \$100 towards coffee and snacks for an April 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm shiny leaf geranium removal event and Lisa stated that she will apply for a habitat kit for fall planting. After the shiny leaf geranium is removed and the shrubs are pruned, mulch will be added to suppress new weeds and be ready fall planting of native pollinator plants.

## **Committee Reports:**

Chair: Matt Rinker said that May elections will be coming up soon and let attendees know that he will not be seeking re-election. He asked others to get the word out or consider taking on this role.

Webmaster: Steve Smith asked for ideas for the April newsletter.

Treasurer: Brian Alexander stated that the current AJCND balance was ~\$17,000.

Land Use Chair: Lisa Gunion-Rinker reported that the Mason House group that came to the NDA and asked to have the historical interior home requirements waved for business use now appears to be wanting to remodel the last barn in Ardenwald and use it for business as well. This barn was used historically by Jelmer Mason and Florence Jennings Mason (Florence Jennings uncle founded Jennings Lodge.) for apple and flower bulb storage until the late 1950's. They shipped plants, bulbs, filberts, apples, cut flowers, and holly wreaths to the East Coast and California. Their property was 10 acres in size. Both Jelmer and Florence were active in the neighborhood, and in Milwaukie. Jelmer was a former mayor.

While not wanting to interfere with a business, Lisa did state that Andrew presented that the house would be used for the business but did not mention his plans for the barn at that time. The paperwork that was submitted for the barn centered around not knowing the age of the barn and if it was even historical. Bernie said he would look up the information through the County taxes and send the information to Lisa.

Transportation & PSAC Chair: Elvis Clark reported on the current Harvey Street construction process. He said there would be a temporary speed bump placed by Harvey on 32<sup>nd</sup> and the second phase of this proposal will be approved. It will be part of a six-year project in South Ardenwald as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. speed bumps do not meet current code. He also discussed the SPOT program and stated that Lisa GR had submitted a SPOT project for better visibility accessing the Minthorn Springs Natural Area from the North side of 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue that is on the agenda for the next PSAC meeting. Elvis also relayed that part of land will be removed on Kind Road and 34<sup>th</sup> Street with a planter added. He said this will slow traffic going down the hill.

Lisa asked Elvis about the Johnson Creek Blvd discussions and concerns about building a round-about at the current 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave intersection when the actual problem on JCB is caused by the stoplight at 45<sup>th</sup> & JCB on the Portland side of the NDA. She asked if Elvis would reach out to Portland to see if this issue could be reviewed by them. It might be that traffic timing could be changed to alleviate the traffic back-up

issues on JCB. The round-about as proposed for 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave will not alleviate traffic issues for the NDA.

Arts/Ardenwald Summer Concert Series: Lane Rollins reported that he will pre-pay for the PA system and Parks permits to prepare for this August. To date he has raised \$2,000.00 from Clackamas Cultural Committee, \$1,000.00 from Celebrate Milwaukie Inc., and \$500.00 from the Milwaukie Rotary for the concerts. He said that the bands he has lined up are:

Curtis Salgado & his band: blues

JC Proof: funk/soul/jazz

Soul Suspect: soul 4-piece

He is finalizing a jazz or country band for the 4<sup>th</sup> concert.

Attending neighbors discussed upcoming events such as The Tideman-Johnson Land Tending event from 9:00am – 12pm on April 4<sup>th</sup>, The Minthorn Springs Land Tending event on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-12pm, the Erroll Heights Land Tending event on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12pm, The Ardenwald Park Crop Swap starting in May, and the Shiny Leaf Geranium Removal on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12pm as a neighborhood Earth Day event.

The vote on Jan. minutes was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm, motioned by Matt, and seconded by Kiera.