



Minutes for Portsmouth Neighborhood Association Community Forum
August 26, 2008 from 7:00-7:45 PM at the Columbia Cottage

Board Members present: Greg Wilhelm, Erin McGovney, Betty Johnson, Renee Jensen Reinhardt, Jeanne Knepper, Susan Landauer, Matthew Denton. Absent: Stephen Leiker. Sixteen people were in attendance.

The meeting started at 7:05 PM with Greg Wilhelm presiding.

Special Announcement

Deb Frasier announced there would be a neighborhood meeting August 27, 2008 to discuss the John Ball school site. She said Richard Ellmyer would be present to give a status report and suggestions on how to stop the proposed Hope Meadows building project. She handed out a flyer with the details.

Move to Suspend Article VIII of the PNA Bylaws to define a Quorum (2/3 vote)

Greg explained to the Forum that PNA, like some neighborhood associations, does not properly define a quorum in its bylaws. He said that the PNA bylaws need to be amended and under the current structure of a quorum, it will be difficult to determine a quorum to amend the bylaws. He said that ONI advised PNA to suspend Article VIII of the bylaws in order to move forward with defining a quorum and amend the bylaws. Greg also added that the present process to amend the bylaws includes proposing the amendment in one meeting and then voting on it at the next meeting. He indicated that the way around this was to suspend Article VIII of the bylaws so that we could amend the bylaws this meeting.

Motion: Jeanne made a motion to suspend Article VIII of the bylaws so that we can define a quorum. Erin seconded the motion. Greg called for discussion and there was none. Jeanne confirmed that the Forum is eligible to vote. The vote was unanimous with ten votes. The motion passed.

Move to Amend the PNA Bylaws Article IV, Section 4 to Define a Quorum (2/3 vote)

Greg led the members through the proposed amendment to define a quorum.

Motion: Erin made a motion to amend the PNA Bylaws Article IV, Section 4 to define a quorum as "A quorum for any regular community forum or special/emergency forum meeting shall be the number of filled Board positions plus one member. A majority of the Board of Directors must be present." Sam seconded the motion. Greg called for discussion. A question was asked if there was something in place to get people to the meeting if not enough for a quorum. Greg indicated that the Voice Committee would outreach to the neighborhood. The vote was unanimous with ten votes. The motion passed. Greg announced that the meeting is now a quorum.

Approve the June 10, 2008 PNA Forum Minutes (does not need a vote; only significant amendments need a majority vote)

Greg asked that the June 10, 2008 Forum meeting minutes be approved. He mentioned that a few corrections submitted by Richard Ellmyer were incorporated. He asked for any additional corrections and there were none. The minutes were approved.

Move to Accept the Grievance Committee's Report and Recommendations Pertaining to Richard Ellmyer's 22 Allegations (majority vote)

Greg presented Richard Ellmyer's Grievance that was filed July 14, 2008 with a 22 allegations including that the elections of the June 10 were invalid and that the voting, quorum and ballot procedures were not valid. Greg said that a Grievance Committee was made up of four neighborhood association chairs and one PNA member. Greg said that he testified before the committee and that Richard was asked twice to come to the meeting and he declined. Greg said that Renee Jensen Reinhardt looked at the membership list and the votes and did throw out 2 ballots noting that those individuals had not signed the membership log. He added that even with those ballots excluded, the results did not change.

Greg noted that there were a few articles in the PNA bylaws that are in conflict with changes made in ONI rules in 2006. Therefore, the bylaws are being amended. Greg read the last paragraph of the Grievance Committee's Report and Recommendations: "Neighborhood associations are groups of volunteers – although controversy sometimes brings greater meeting attendance, it can be harmful more than helpful. PNA made a commendable effort to respond to the issues presented and went beyond the scope of The Grievance to improve itself. It is hoped there can be a positive outcome to this process, which includes a cooperative spirit between membership and the PNA Board of Directors."

Greg said that the Forum needs to accept or not accept the Grievance Committee's report. He said that if it is accepted, Richard Ellmyer has the right to make an appeal to ONI.

Motion: Erin made a motion to accept the Accept the Grievance Committee's Report and Recommendations with no modification pertaining to Richard Ellmyer's 22 allegations. Sam seconded the motion. Susan commended Greg for his hard work on this matter. Greg asked for discussion. Erin thanked the Grievance Committee for taking a very measured approach to this matter. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

Review the Proposed Bylaw Changes at General Level

Greg led the members through the proposed bylaw amendments. Jeanne clarified that today's meeting is for receiving the proposed amendments and then they will be voted on at the next Forum meeting. Greg said that the draft copy of the proposed bylaws will be posted on the website prior to next meeting when the voting will take place. At this time, the members reviewed and provided feedback on the proposed amendments to the bylaws.

Greg finished by saying that the next PNA Forum meeting will be held on September 23. That meeting will be used to adopt the amendments. He said that it will be advertised in The Sentinel. He added that any additional feedback to the bylaws be emailed and presented to the Board.

New business

There was no New Business.

Adjourn

Erin moved to adjourn the meeting. Sam seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM and followed by a PNA Board meeting.

Minutes prepared by Renee Jensen Reinhardt, Secretary