

PNA meeting, Thursday January 23, 2020
The Stafford, 7:00 PM

Board members present:

Dave Thatcher
Elise Klein
John Surrett
Gail Parrick
Harold Rust
Mary Palm

Agenda

- Update on Mayor's Meeting with Neighborhood Chairs
 - Citizen Involvement Guidelines
 - Parks Initiative
- Changes to PNA By-Laws
- Pool & Rec Center

Dave opened the meeting and began by discussing the recent meeting of the neighborhood association chairs and the mayor on January 18. The primary topic of that meeting was the proposed updating of the Citizen Involvement Guidelines. At the meeting Erik Olsen noted that the process to update the guidelines has been going on for 2 years. The first public draft is due to be published on 2/3/2020, followed by a public comment period and a public hearing on 3/9/2020. Dave said there were several objections from neighborhood association representatives. Among them were that input from neighborhoods had been ignored, and some felt that the proposed changes might reduce the options for neighborhood associations to influence city decisions. There will be a meeting at the Adult Community Center on January 25 for neighborhood association representatives to discuss the proposed guidelines. There was a request to delay the public hearing to allow more input from citizens.

The parks initiative sponsored by Scott Handley was also a topic at the mayor's meeting. Some speakers expressed concern about amending the charter, rather than continuing to use the management plans that have been developed for each park. The blanket charter amendment might prevent changes which might be desirable, for example, paved pathways for disabled access.

The board next discussed the proposed changes to our PNA by-laws. There was a motion to request Homestreet Bank to allow two additional board members to sign checks in the event Gail Parrick (Treasurer) was unable to do so. All members agreed to include Dave Thatcher and Mary Palm as board members authorized to sign PNA checks.

It was decided that the association should allow the election of area reps at the fall general meeting as well as the April general meeting, in the event an area rep resigned or if an area currently had no representative. The mailing for the fall meeting should indicate that elections would be held and list the areas that had no representative. We discussed whether the signs notifying of the meeting should also indicate there would be elections. No final decision was made regarding format of signs. Candidates would still need to provide the association with signatures of 5 residents of their area endorsing their candidacy.

In the event that the chair resigns, the executive board would need to meet within 2 weeks. The vice chair would become chair, and the board would select a new vice chair. There could be a new chair elected at the fall meeting if the board chooses.

There was a discussion about changing the rules for proxy votes. John suggested that proxies should only be allowed for a certain percentage of votes for any candidate or elections. That proposal seems difficult to encode. Harold suggested that proxies should be defined as needing to be handwritten, specifying name of voter, address, issue or candidate and vote (yes, no or candidate name). Proxies must be delivered to recording secretary prior to the vote. It was suggested to change by-law language referring to "proxy/ballot" since a proxy would be defined as a handwritten document. This section of the by-laws needs further discussion before finalizing.

The last area of discussion was the proposed Pool/Rec Center at the golf course. Dave has been contacted by a group of neighbors of the golf course who are opposed to the changes to the golf course that would be required to put in a pool and rec center. Board members had varying opinions on the proposal. John feels that the city does not need a public pool (there is one at LOHS) and other cities in the area have public pools. He also does not want a new rec center. He says the cost is too high for both. He feels that the parks department receives too high a percentage of the city budget (third after police and fire). He will attend the city budget committee and bring financial figures to next meeting. Gail indicated support for a new rec center. Harold and Mary are in favor of a new pool, although both felt that the golf course was not the best place to put it. Aside from concerns about cost, other concerns expressed by board members were traffic, parking, and whether the downsizing of the golf course would further reduce its attraction for users. Dave will be attending a meeting of neighborhood association chairs to discuss the opinions and concerns of neighborhood residents about this proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:50 PM.