

**Northeast Village PDX
Governing Council**

**February 16, 2017
Minutes**

Members Present: Margaret Baldwin, Vonnie Condon, Anne Lindsay, Jane Braunger, Todd Coward; guest - Pat Vivian (newsletter editor)

Minutes of the January 25th meeting were approved.

Members were reminded of the March 8th general membership meeting and potluck.

Membership – Vonnie: Total memberships – 62, with total members at 88, 26 of which are full service and 62 of which are associate. Memberships have increased 4-5 per month from December, 2016. An additional charter member, not included in today's numbers, is completing the interview/application process. Six pending memberships are in process.

A Charter member party was held at Mcmenamins Kennedy School on Feb. 6, 2017. Twenty-eight of the forty charter members attended.

An orientation meeting for new members will be held on March 1 from 2:00 to 3:30 in the Northeast Village Office conference room. Twenty to twenty-two of the thirty new members are expected to attend. Agenda will include services and how to access them, use of the website, programs on offer; some social interaction is also planned.

Volunteers – Margaret: Margaret will e-mail new people who have expressed an interest in volunteering, letting them know that we do not have enough need for direct service volunteers at the moment, so people with that interest will be put on a waiting list. However, we do need additional volunteers to work with existing committees, e.g. development, programs, and marketing/outreach. Anne recommended that we offer to put interested people in touch with other community groups, e.g. neighborhood associations, where their services might be needed in the meantime.

Budget: Todd moved that GovCo accept the budget submitted by Neil on Feb. 12, 2017. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Todd recommended putting an abbreviated version in the Members Only section of the website. Pat was advised that the newsletter can say that GovCo adopted an operating budget for the village, which includes funding to hire a part time office manager in the spring.

Future Meetings of the Village – Margaret: General meetings are scheduled 4 times a year, on the 2nd Wednesday (March 8, June 14, September 13, and December 13). GovCo members agreed that these meetings should include members and volunteers, largely to build community. The exception will be the June 14th meeting, open only to members, when voting for GovCo officers will be held.

Communications Committee Proposal – Margaret: After discussion, GovCo members decided that a new, dedicated communications committee might not be what's needed at present. Instead, we need to analyze our communication needs and practices among various committees of our village. To this end, Susan will set up a meeting with representatives from relevant committees to determine our needs and also to work out a policy on sending messages to our members from other organizations. A pressing communications need at the moment is for someone to join Pat and Todd in working on the newsletter.

Proposals for Program Committee:

- A. Rachel Mohlere of Villages NW Board proposed a “Myth Busters Meeting – the Low-Down on Senior Communities, Reverse Mortgage, Real Estate Selling/Buying Today, and Asset Management Options.” GovCo agreed that rather than having Rachel organize and staff such a presentation, we might invite her to present, with other presenters we invite, on the financial and real estate topics noted. Our program committee needs to develop a plan for any such offering. In the meantime, we will respectfully decline Rachel's offer.
- B. “Civic Action Group” – an anonymous member suggested organizing a group to meet weekly to work on “civic action,” e.g. writing postcards to Oregon legislators, making phone calls to senators, etc. The group may decide to engage in actions beyond the weekly meeting. Some members may continue to work on group goals during the week, e.g., writing postcards, making calls, attending demonstrations, etc. A goal would be to make engaging in action as easy and user friendly as possible.

Our MOA with Villages NW states that “neither Villages NW nor any Village its network shall publicly lobby or advocate on behalf of voting for any specific legislation, or participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office.” GovCo members agreed that rather than have the program committee organize such a group, it's better to recommend to the member suggesting the civic action group that she announce her interest in convening such a group at her home and invite people to join her, perhaps making the announcement at a general member meeting. A more appropriate role for the program committee would be to develop an issues forum, with various viewpoints on a topic represented.

NE Village Action Plan for 2017 – Susan: Susan shared her write up and clarifications of our brainstorm on plans/priorities from the January 25th meeting. She identified special initiatives, 3 with specific relevance to membership and member services, and 1 relevant to finance. She will write up a 5th special initiative identified in the meeting that speaks to strengthening committee participation and sustaining the village organizationally. GovCo members identified relevant committees and GovCo officers responsible for primary functions identified in the January 25th meeting. Susan will update the action plan document to include those additions.

Volunteers – Margaret: Helen Richardson is working with Margaret on this, and the plan is to find a co-chair to work with Helen eventually. The focus of the work is volunteer support at the moment. Meetings for volunteers are planned.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.
Submitted by Jane Braunger, Secretary