

Ponderosa Neighborhood Association Meeting

Agenda

January 5, 2006

The value of life does not lie in the number of years but in the use you make of them.”

MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE

The meeting was convened at 7:30 pm at the home of Skip and Jeanette Ritner.

Introductions and networking activity

Adriane Borgias introduced the purpose of the meeting, which was to follow up on the action items and recommendations of the visioning workshop. Specifically, the purpose of the meeting was to debrief the workshop participants. One of the goals of the meeting was to find ways to grow and expand the organization. We did a networking activity and introductions. A ball of string was passed around the room with each person introducing his or herself and commenting on what gifts he or she brings to the organization. When we were finished a single string criss-crossed across the room, representing the way we are connected by a single thread but our paths cross and overlap, becoming a network. We then cut the string and everyone took home a piece of the string as a reminder of how we are interconnected.

De-brief the workshop, including a review of the goals

The Vision Statements and Action Items that were developed at the workshop that was held October 29, 2005 were passed around and the group read them as a reminder of what we did last time we met. It was explained that these were group statements that collectively represent what we think our neighborhood should be.

Background of the Ponderosa Neighborhood Association

Lyndall Cook provided a brief history of PNA and introduced the officers. Jeanette Ritner, one of the treasurers, provided an summary of the money received to date and the expenses. There is currently about \$2000 in the bank and PNA has an attorney's bill for almost \$3000 to pay. Fundraising was listed as an important need and action item.

Current and future projects

Lyndall Cook described the current and future projects and the opportunities for the PNA to be involved. Other projects were also mentioned by the group. The list of projects includes:

- City of Spokane Valley current and future projects
- Ridgeview Development
- Spokane Valley City portion of the Douglass project

- Comprehensive Plan and UGA extension
- Evacuation and Safety concerns
- Fundraising activities
- Renewal of temporary UR-1 zoning in the City of Spokane Valley

It was mentioned that evacuation and safety concerns are of top priority. It is important to realize that there is on-going planning in this arena. There are activities that can be done to address the situation and enhance the ability of agencies, etc. to respond to emergencies. Margaret Mortz is working on a group that is addressing this type of planning (pre-hazard mitigation), which is required to be in place in order to be eligible to receive FEMA money in the event of an emergency.

Neighborhood successes

Adriane Borgias led a discussion on neighborhood successes. The purpose of the discussion was to list these successes so that PNA can use them as building blocks for the organization. These strengths are (in no particular order):

- Incorporation of the organization as a nonprofit with a Board of Directors and by-laws.
- In the 1970s, Ponderosa convinced the county the sidewalks should not be put in in order to accommodate horses.
- The neighborhood and PNA have had increased attention by the media.
- Horses were prohibited in the neighborhood at one point and are now allowed again.
- PNA is an active, growing organization.
- The south end of Ponderosa neighborhood is reaching out to work with the north end.
- There is a greater sense of community.
- There is devotion and emotional attachment to the neighborhood due to the fact that many residents have lived here a long time (greater than 15 to 20 years, for example).
- Talent abounds here.
- There is an understanding and knowledge about the streams and wildlife that many people are not aware of.
- The county zoned the area UR 3.5-7 and the city zoned the areas UR-1 (temporarily).
- There are neighborhood picnics, like the one at Holman and Felts in July.

Introduction to FutureWise (Bart Haggin)

Bart Haggin provided information about Futurewise and the Growth Management Act. Mr. Haggin talked about land use decisions and planning in Washington and Spokane County. He provided some good advice (network!) and guidance regarding how to fund our legal process.

Action Items and Path Forward

A list of action items was created and it was suggested that some sort of committee structure would be good. People then volunteered to help out. The action items are folded into the following committee list:

Safety Planning (Margaret Mortz)

- Work on FEMA pre hazard mitigation and disaster planning
- Get involved with Fire Districts 8 and 1, and have them meet with the County Commissioners

Fundraising

- Pay the attorney bill

Comprehensive Plan/Zoning Changes (Judy Belous, Gail Stiltner)

- Track, communicate, facilitate comment on upcoming changes

Communications/Web Page/Phone Tree (Lyndall Cook, Brandan Borgias, Jim Pantaleo)

- Establish a website
- Do communications plan, taking into account the needs/ability of Ponderosa citizens to push/pull information over email and the web, and the ability to provide hard copy information
- Develop phone tree
- Have a mailing list and ability to print labels

Outreach (Adriane Borgias)

- Establish a newsletter
- Get Ponderosa Youth involved
- Organize neighborhood by geographic areas and establish block captains

Note: the names that have been listed above are those willing to help out and not necessarily “committee chairs.” It was discussed that some leadership structure and rotational of leadership be included into the committee so that the same people are not doing the same thing all the time.

Wrap-up and Meeting Adjourns

The next meeting will be held on February 2nd and will be organized by Judy Belous, time and place to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Attendees:

Brandan and Adriane Borgias
Judy Belous
Carl and Lyndall Cook
John Daquisto
Diane Fritz
Councilman Bill and Myrna Gothmann
Bart Haggin
Margaret Mortz
Gene Odell
Jim Pantaleo
Skip and Jeanette Ritner
Gail Stiltner
Keith and Gina Stracchino
Kathy White
Mayor Diana Wilhite

Respectfully submitted, Adriane Borgias
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