

WENA Meeting 11/9/11

Called to order by Chip Martin at 6:30 pm. A quorum was met with seven board members present.

Chip reminded those present that yearly elections will be held at the December meeting. Contact Chip or any board member if you are interested in submitting your name for consideration. We will be voting for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as 7 At-Large Board Members. Any member in good standing can participate in voting.

Announcements

1. Rosanne is requesting volunteers to work with her to offer First Aid and Babysitting classes at Reiche. She does have an instructor in mind and would like WENA to pay their salary to keep tuition low. She proposed the class would be from 3-6 hours, open to 12-16 year olds.
2. Kiosk update. Chip reported that construction is to begin shortly on a permanent, weatherproof sign in front of Reiche. WENA will be responsible for maintaining the sign. Will allow for clarifying location of the Reiche Community Center and posting of local and community events.
3. Annual membership dues are due in December. \$5 for individuals and \$25 for businesses/organizations. Dues must be up-to-date for members to vote in elections.
4. Art at Work update. Four neighborhoods are currently participating in this project designed to help develop and deepen their networks of communication through partnerships with local artists. The West End Neighborhood's first Meeting Place workshop will take place at the Reiche Community Center on November 16th, 5:30-8:00 pm, refreshments served. The second Meeting Place workshop will also be held at Reiche on Wednesday, December 7th. Future locations will be announced.
5. Flu shots offered at tonight's meeting by Mercy Hospital. Insurance accepted if available, but no one will be turned away.
6. Treasurer's Report: No change since last month.
7. Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed to those in need on November 22nd. Volunteers who would like to assist in making deliveries should contact Sarah Colton with the Community Policing Center.

Action Item

The Board voted unanimously to approve a \$50 youth Football Scholarship for King Middle School

Presenters

1. Tax Preparation Programs. Volunteers are needed to prepare returns, make appointments, greet and provide translation services. Preparers will be provided with training and must pass IRS exams. The AARP Tax-Aide program provides assistance to low to moderate income

taxpayers of all ages, with particular attention to those over 60, on weekdays and Saturdays. The CASH Program assists families with income less than 50,000 per year and offers evening and Saturday appointments. Training will take place in January and tax preparation services will be provided from February to April 2012. To learn more about the Tax-Aide program, call Joan Jagolinzer at 883-8415 or go to www.aarp.org/tavolunteers. For the CASH program call 874-1000 or email nevans@unitedwaygp.org.

2. Orien Breen spoke about Hour Exchange Portland which provides access to the arts, education, health care, weatherization, business development and more through volunteer hours. For every hour of time you spend helping a neighbor in need you earn an hour of time credit which you can spend having any member provide a service you need. Some of the services currently offered include media and design, gardening, finance, technology, home repair, massage, cooking, cleaning, transportation, education and art. In 2010, Hour Exchange members winterized nearly 100 homes and assisted over 700 needy individuals and families get services they needed. Hour Exchange Portland is located at 516 Congress Street, in the CTN Building between MECA and CVS. Call 619-4437 for more information or join online at www.HourExchangePortland.org.

3. Portland Public Library's 'Portable Library' is located at the West End Community Center, 2nd floor of Reiche School. Current hours are Monday 5:30 – 7:00 pm, Tuesday 5:30 – 9:00 pm and Wednesday 5:30 – 7:30 pm. The hope is that Saturday hours will be offered in the future. This location's services include 1) **Providing Books** through an honor system. This collection was put together from a group of the library's gift book collection and will be rotated. 2) **Hold Shelf** where items that have been requested from the library may be picked up. As a reminder, there is still a library book drop at Reiche. There was discussion that it may be moved downstairs to the Community Policing office. 3) Three **computers** with internet connections are to be installed in conjunction with the Recreation Department. 4) A campaign to bring back the **Bookmobile** is underway. Funding will be provided through a combination of grant and private foundation funds. Private fundraising is currently underway with the project startup costs estimated at \$100,000. The initial list of neighborhoods to be served by the bookmobile includes the West End and Munjoy Hill. Items will include audio and children's books. For more information on this or other Portland Public Library outreach and Branch initiatives please contact Brian Damien at 207-871-1700, extension 716.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.