



City of Tigard Neighborhood Involvement Committee Minutes

MEETING DATE/TIME: Wednesday, July 20, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: The Niche Building at City Hall (Brown Building by the Skate Park)
8720 SW Burnham St., Tigard OR 97223

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christopher called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Basil Christopher, Sue Carver, Bev Froude, Connie Ramaekers, Cathy Olson,
Neighborhood Network Web Administrator Ed Hobbs, Area #4

Absent: Patty Anda

Staff: Joanne Bengtson

3. APPROVE MAY 18, 2011 MINUTES

Bev Froude motioned to approve the May 18, 2011 minutes, seconded by Sue Carver, no opposition.

4. HOW THE NEIGHBORHOOD BLOGS WORK (A DEMONSTRATION)

Neighborhood Network Web Administrator Ed Hobbs from Area 4 (near Metzger) attended to give committee members a chance to talk to one of the web administrators and see some of the newer blogging tips.

Joanne began by pulling up the West Tigard (Area 13) web page which is vacant right now, so it's administered by Joanne until a replacement can be found. Joanne covered the basics of building a blog and what we ask of residents when they sign up to blog for the neighborhoods.

Joanne recommended the button at the top of their screen called "View Next Blog" in order to get a random sampling of the blogs that are available on the internet. No two are alike which led into a discussion about ways to encourage neighbors to use the blog. Ed noted that giving presentations to home owners associations and boards is a great way to build support for the neighborhood pages.

An example of a project that neighbors could team up on came from Ed. He would like to see if neighbors around the Senn Park Trailhead could advocate for a community garden. Joanne advised checking the city's Park Master Plan to see what the city intends for the area.

Speak at neighborhood events, gatherings like HOA meetings, parades, parties, etc.
Add slideshows and movie shorts – linking to Picasa and YouTube

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Joanne stated that websites serve as a tool to communicate with residents in a formal and comprehensive manner, a place to find an agency's detailed information on projects, plans and municipal functions. Websites are like a phone book...you visit them in search of facts (not entertainment) and frequent visitors value the structure and consistent look to help navigate the site for information

Blogs, on the other hand, are a place to inform, connect and entertain through an unlimited range of "gadgets" (clock, calendar, photo book, newsfeeds, games, etc.).

Some ways that blogs differ from a website:

- The last post always appears first in the body of the page.
- Visitors must scroll down to see other news – administrators can choose how many items to show on the main page.
- Maintaining a blog that visitors *want* to visit is great for sharing fun items, news, pictures and/or things that wouldn't make an official agency site.
- Visitors can leave comments attached to posts and share their own material

To learn more, Joanne shared the following sites which are popular with neighborhood network web administrators: <http://bloggerindraft.blogspot.com/> | <http://buzz.blogger.com/>
<http://bloggerfordummies.blogspot.com/> | <http://www.bloggertipsandtricks.com/>

5. **SOLICIT ANNUAL MEETINGS FOR ACTIVE STEERING COMMITTEES?**

The committee asked Joanne to move ahead on contacting steering committees in order to set up annual meetings.

6. **OTHER?**

Connie announced that Tigard High School has been awarded Red Ribbon certification, adding to the list of only 53 schools nationwide.

This year Tigard High School earned the designation for their effective efforts in the prevention of substance abuse among youth and their collaboration with youth, parents, educators and the community as a team that promotes educational excellence. The public is invited to attend a Flag Raising Ceremony at THS (**October 21 at 10 a.m.**)

The next regularly scheduled NIC meeting will be Wednesday, **September 21, at 7 p.m.** in the library 2nd floor conference room.

7. **ADJOURN**

Basil adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.