

Friends of Hawthorne (FOH) Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2019

6:00-7:15 PM, Hawthorne Library

Minutes: Cherish Jackson

Attendees: Behnosh Najafi, Co-President | Marita Grunfeld, Co-President | Angela Bell-Austin, Vice President | Cherish Jackson, Secretary | Maureen Merrill, Co-Treasurer | Jessica Emerson, Co-Treasurer

Update on Playground and Garden:

Playground project lead, Peter Schumacher - There is 186K ready to spend although 70-90k is still needed for design costs and construction design for Phase 2. Primary goal for this summer is to reconfigure the grass area and the sports courts and if funds allow West entry stairs. Currently awaiting the status of an 80k grant from King County. Peter wants guidance on fundraising and outreach for the 70-90K needed for this year, along with next year's funding needs as well. First step is to fundraise to cover the design details and construction drawings for Phase 2. Peter projects 25K for design and additional 100k as a minimum scope and provide a base for 2019-2020. The goal is to design this summer and build Summer 2020.

How to raise the money? We've had a lot of success with grants although it will be more difficult next year. There is an opportunity to leverage other nonprofit organization that are focusing on green infrastructure projects. Maybe reach out to FOH donor base? Several people volunteered to write grants although there is more need for outreach and making connections with organizations by the end of this school year. There is no chair for playground fundraising, there is a need for a capital campaign manager. As a part of the initial outreach, there is a video available that can be used as an outreach tool with footage from last year discussing the playground project.

Marita - Gabe Sheffer (sp) offered to be an at-large member of the PTA.

Garden Project Update

Behnosh Najafi - The main challenge she's trying to address is building buy-in from school administration to keep the garden running. Behnosh started a small committee consisting of Mr. Elway and Ms. Gillian who are interested in integrating the garden into their curriculum, three ELL instructors interested in fostering more engagement from immigrant families. Behnosh wants to work with Peter in getting the garden project integrated into the larger playground project. Also discussing with Jason Maderos (sp?) on how to plan a designing effort around the garden and also in involving the teachers and students. Mr. Elway is leading an after-school garden club and Behnosh may be the parent volunteer as well. Jason can possibly facilitate the planning and staff outreach side of things.

Auction Team Update

David and Angela discussed next year's auction planning effort. Possible venue change to Georgetown Ballroom due to the larger space as it accommodates up to 200 people. Mt. Baker

is currently limited to 160 and was very cramped this year. 40 additional ticket sales from the new venue could potentially make up for the extra cost assuming that they generate the average amount of contributions. The question is whether or not there is an absolute need for a venue change. Do we know the grade bands for giving? No. Ticket sales currently cover all of the expenses for the auction.

2019-2020 Budget Review

Jessica gave a quick overview of how to read the 2019-2020 Budget DRAFT spreadsheet. She went over the 2018 budget, what was budgeted spent and the anticipated expenditures. 2019-2020 budget - Tier 1 is what we really want to fund based on the money we have. Tier 2 – if we have enough funds, we'll use that and wait to fund it. Tier 3 – “Nice to have's” and will fund if there's funds left. Jessica went over the items in general. 2019-2020 Budget was informed by both requests and anticipated needs based on past experience. There will be a need to do another round of feedback from staff/administration on their needs.

Question: How does Tier 2 and Tier 3 get funded?

Tier 1 shows how much money we made and it is available to use right now and funding is definite. Tier 2 is what we think will go unspent this year. Tier 3 maybe they're not going to spend more of what we think so maybe we will get some of Tier 3.

Budget Items explained:

- Steam Focus: Anticipating a larger 5th grade class which will make the science camp in Spring will be more expensive despite the existing discount.
- Kindergarten subscriptions: Dreambox and iRead are going away. K teachers are planning for next year but there is nothing at this point
- Motorized board stage: Could not fund the stage in the music room. There's several issues surrounding this project but there are liabilities and the expense is high.
- Classroom Supplies: Fully funded by the PTA but can still do fundraising around it
- School Activity Expense – Academic Support: Not sure how to fund it and will need more conversation around this
- Security System – Funded in the levy, school district will fund this
- After School Activities – After School Teacher Support: PTA participates in covering the cost in compensating teachers for their time
- After School Program Fees – Ultimate Frisbee
- FOH Administration: The Auction – could be making a shift
- Retained Reserves: 20K grant from the that has not been spent

Questions for discussion?

Marita – Figure out if SCORES is happening and would it make sense to roll in the Ultimate Frisbee into the Enrichment Program. Board needs to solidify a plan to discuss this with the administration. Where does the budget come from? Driven by our administration and our teachers, the schools's vision, as well as parent volunteers/PTA, and leadership.

Percy – What are the After School Busses for? 8K is a lot to put into just a few programs. How many kids actually use it?

- Maureen and Jessica – The busses were for Disney and Scores. 2 days a week for 6 months. The hope was for other programs to be involved with this.
- Marita – Need to clarify if Scores is still happening. Was meant to be an equity piece but if it's not being used effectively to address equity in after school programs then it's a waste and not being used elsewhere.
- Behnosh- We need to follow up with Administration and the After-School Program. Are there any innovative ways around planning for transportation or a cheaper way of doing this?

Vote on the Budget:

- 2018-2019: Playground design build. We placed 16K this year but in order to get some of the work done for this year, we'll need an additional 12k. Maureen proposed to move the funds from the motorized board stage and the security system (previously budgeted but school district is already covering it) to fund the playground.
 - Angela voted to move the money from the motorized stage board and the security system to the Playground
 - Wayne seconded
 - Motion passed unanimously

Update on After School Enrichment

Aileen provided an update on the After-School Enrichment Pilot. There is a lot of interest and the classes filled up quickly. K-2 had the highest turn-out, about 75% of enrollment. Challenges that presented itself were in registration as far as accessibility and equity. The registration process created a lot of stress for everyone and will need to rethink the structure for next year. Another challenge was the lack of capacity, space-wise for classes. An additional capacity challenge is that Ms. Mak is currently coordinating everything on the school's end and compensating her for time is taking up a bulk of the expense. She does not have a capacity to expand her hours/days if the program were to grow. Aileen also mentioned challenges with the registration process. There are two models she wanted to discuss. This year, they used a first come, first serve model which was very stressful for many parents. It was hard to integrate paper and electronic registrations in a fair way. Another way would be a registration week. Sign up online and at the end of the week there would be a lottery. May have two lotteries to accommodate those who are applying for scholarships who may be overshadowed by the amount of non-scholarship applicants.

Question from Angela (verify): How many people wanted to participate in a class but could not?

Aileen: We have waitlist data but does not account for those who gave up when they saw that there was a waitlist. Yoga and African Drumming had low interest. Aileen has a question about registration fees. We could price the cheaper classes more if our goal is to make it a self-sustaining program.

Vote on 2019/2020 Nominations

- Katie moved to vote for the new 2019-2020 PTA Board
- ?? Seconded
- Motion passed unanimously

Presidents: Angela Austin & Maya Arias

Vice President: Percy Allen

Treasurers: Jessica Emerson & Tanya Rolluda

Secretary: Kat Henolson

At Large: Peter Schumacher and Game Sheffer (sp)

Update on Legislative Session

Katie shared a brief update. We are still at a 40 million deficit for next year and will change things in every school in the district. This legislation session is supposed to end this Sunday. There are 5 bills that could help and they are still amending. Katie doesn't want to overload folks with too many emails about this. There has been feedback that sending them messages is working. The levies are not fully funded and were passed but the state needed to step up and lift this amount so that we can then collect. There is a higher need to pressure senate representatives.