

## Lake Grove Business Association - August 6, 2019

**Present:** Crystal Shum, John DeCosta, Katy Kerklaan, Julia Fowler, Joe Buck, Bruce Goldson, Karen Jacobson, Liz Hartman, Mike Buck, Scot Siegel, Debbie Siegel, Christopher Boyer, Deanna Bitar, Katie Fields, Ken Sandblast, Sheila Carlson, Mark Fitkin, Steve Kaer

**Minutes:** Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** \$9,283.28

**Neighborhood Reports:** Lake Grove: General meeting is in September, third Thursday of the month. Procedure for tree protection is an area of concern for the neighborhood. Four recommendations are going to Bill Youngblood at the city. Street trees in Lake Grove are sometimes hard to delineate, but the neighborhood is working on making it work.

Waluga's annual meeting is in October. On Quarry Road three lots across from Waluga Park are being developed. Storm sewer will need to be rerouted.

There is a new development on four acres on Parkhill behind the ball fields in East Waluga. Ken can answer questions.

Blue Dog development next to Banner Bank has been stalled. No one is sure what is happening. The city will be doing some storm water work in front of it for the road project.

The Springs is opening in November and is 70-80 percent filled.

**Chamber:** Friday, August 23 will be the Hail to the Chiefs party at Freeman Motors - tickets are on the Chamber website.

Leadership LO is open and is looking for people to join for the new year.

Julia is the new president. Liz Hartman is the new executive director.

**Boones Ferry Road project:** Excavation is happening around Bank of America for a retaining wall.

A speed of 25 mph is now in place. Some citations are being written. Late night work is also starting.

The old Casa del Pollo building is coming done at night this week. The trees next to it are going to come down as well.

The sign ordinance passed that allows businesses to put out A frame signs during construction.

September will have business promotions in the Hello LO. The City is also wanting to do a raffle for gift cards in Lake Grove each month.

Julia made a motion to spend \$100 every other month toward the raffle project. Mark suggested doing it every month and then re-evaluate after a year.

Julia amended her motion. Bruce seconded. Passed unanimously.

There have been very few complaints overall.

The pedestrian crossing at LaProvence has been very helpful and Sheila asked about keeping one there. Crystal said it is not going to happen since the old fire station property extends into the street.

*Crystal has the following amendment to the minutes: I had said that we are not planning on permanently installing the midblock crosswalk on Bryant. One of the difficulties is that we don't have the ROW where the crosswalk is currently located. However, there have been some requests to keep it.*

**Fitkin Project:** Mark said the road work has been going very well. The Elements Roofing building is costing a lot to tear down. The pre-app meeting was held recently on the project. The Marquess of Granby site is also being worked on. There are two design districts in the area the Lake Grove Village Center plan and the West Lake Grove Design district. It makes it difficult to work with, especially in the Fitkin case which straddles both districts. Mike attended the pre-app and said it seems extremely onerous with codes that no longer make sense with the new wider road. The materials and styles don't make sense like a 45 foot cape cod style building. No variances are allowed in the West Lake Grove design district.

Mark said non-environmentally friendly products are also required.

Scot said the design was done in the 1990s and that the goal was to make it in residential in scale. Unfortunately some of these are overly prescriptive in materials. There are no design variances allowed which can help deal with some bad situations that would go against the overall goals of the plan.

West Lake Grove has three or four zones within a very small area. The Sunset Crossing development was developed under the current plans. It could have been done much better with more flow.

The design variance option would give an opportunity for people to propose better ideas. When Lake View Village went through in the 1990s 11 design variances were used. Some requirements have unintended consequences so it helps mediate unforeseen circumstances.

It would take about a year to get a design variance added to the West Lake Grove Design District.

Ken suggested Mike write a summary of why the changes need to happen in order to discuss as a group in September at the next meeting. Mark offered to help Mike work on this. He also asked Scot if a two-pronged approach would be best. Some interim changes may need to be made and then a longer term look could happen as well.

Bruce said the neighborhoods need to be brought up to speed. He said there may be some opposition.

**Our next meeting is being moved to September 10 due to Labor Day weekend.**