

# Admiral Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2024

## Officers and Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

*Joanie Jacobs, President*

*Bridgett Markille, Treasurer*

*Meagan Loftin, Secretary*

*Dan Jacobs, Communications*

*Megan Erb, 4th of July Kids Parade*

## Agenda

1. Welcome
  - a. Our Purpose
  - b. Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of March General Meeting Minutes
3. SPD Update: Officer Shawn Ross
4. SDOT Update on Admiral Bridge Retrofit: Dr. Matthew Howard
5. Treasurer Report: Bridgett Markille
6. ANA Summer Events
  - a. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Kids Parade: Megan Erb
  - b. Admiral Music in the Parks: Meagan Loftin
  - c. Grand Parade: Meagan Loftin
  - d. Admiral Funktion Block Party: Joanie Jacobs
7. Other Neighborhood Events
  - a. Rumble Ready: Joanie Jacobs
  - b. Any other events?
8. Membership and Communications Update: Dan Jacobs
9. Raffle Drawing
10. Meeting Adjourned

### *Welcome, Joanie Jacobs*

Thank you all for being here and thank you to the Admiral Congregational UCC for hosting us. Introduction of officers present.

### *Our Purpose*

“The Admiral Neighborhood Association is comprised of residents, businesses, and others who care about the diverse environmental, economic, and social sustainability of our Admiral Neighborhood. We believe in maintaining quality of life for everyone and exist to inclusively

serve our neighbors and our community; the place where we all live and breathe and have our being.”

#### *Land Acknowledgement*

“The Admiral Neighborhood Association acknowledges that we are meeting here today on the traditional lands of the first people of Seattle, the dx̣ẉḍəẉʔaḅš (Duwamish) people, past and present. As we strive to serve our neighbors, our community, and the place we call home we honor with gratitude the land itself and the dx̣ẉḍəẉʔaḅš (Duwamish) people who have stewarded it since time immemorial. “

#### *Approval of March General Meeting Minutes*

- Motion to approve March General Meeting Minutes by Carrie McCann, seconded by Megan Erb. Motion carried unanimously.

#### *SPD Update: Officer Shawn Ross*

- Admiral is still one of the safest neighborhoods in the city.
- Across the city, crime is down double-digits with the exception of property crime—primarily car thefts and burglary.
- Today the City Council passed a retroactive SPD contract which makes the current pay more competitive and hopefully this will result in more officers.

**Q:** Will the contract make recruitment easier?

**A:** Most patrols that you see out have ride-alongs right now with potential recruits. However the first question most potentials recruits ask about is pay and pay has been much higher in neighboring areas. As of the vote today, SPD pay will now be back in a competitive range. However SPD is still in negotiations for the next contract.

**Q:** How is morale?

**A:** Tough. A lot is being asked of officers in regards to overtime—for example mandatory overtime while President Biden was in town over Mother’s Day weekend. However SPD is seeing more cooperation with city and county prosecutors which is encouraging. Officers are getting more feedback throughout the process from arrest to prosecution.

**Q:** Seattle seems to be a catch and release city right now.

**A:** SPD does not operate a jail. That is contracted with King County and SPD gets a certain number of beds for that contract but that means that the jail determines what offenses constitute a jail stay. SPD is now looking to contract with 2 other jails: one public and one private. However those increased beds will only apply to arrests downtown—but that’s also where most crime is located.

**Q:** re: Ann Davison: is the new direction from her office useful?

**A:** SPD is seeing fewer people on the high-utilizer list which means that they are seeing less recidivism. Studies show that prosecution needs to support law enforcement and that’s happening more now.

**Q:** Any special plans for the Alki curfew over the summer?

**A:** That will be subject to staffing—which is still low. The department has increased overtime allowance for the summer for emphasis patrols but that’s not a guarantee that

officers will consistently be available on Alki. Closure of the parks is handled primarily by the Parks Dept. with Park Rangers and SPD assisting,

**Comment:** 10PM seems too early for closure.

**A:** If you have concerns about the closure time, the best people to contact are the Parks Dept. However, the closure is likely meant to line up with SPD shift overlap during which they have the most available officers to assist.

**Q:** Anything we can do to help with morale?

**A:** If you see something, report it, but also stick around and be available to follow-up with an officer. Call 911 and the dispatcher will direct you appropriately even if its not an emergency. You can also use the Find it/Fix it app to report many non-emergency issues.

**Comment:** Thank you for the recent traffic enforcement on Admiral Hill, specifically regarding speeding.

**A:** That was thanks to community feedback on the issue. Keep reporting issues to SPD: the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

#### *SDOT Update on Admiral Bridge Retrofit: Dr. Matthew Howard*

- The bridges are due for a retrofit—this is not only a public safety issue, its necessary to meet federal benchmarks for infrastructure maintenance.
- SDOT currently has the funding to do this project from the Levy to Move Seattle and they need to complete the project before the levy expires. This is one of 16 bridge projects across the city funded by the levy.
- Note that the Admiral Bridge is actually 2 bridges: one concrete (built in 1927) and one steel (built in 1949). The project is to build a wedge system under the pillars with undergirders and carbon fiber wrapping.
- The ideal scenario down-the-road would be to combine the two bridges into one structure, preferably steel.
- Note though that the bridge is currently safe, but SDOT has the money and time to complete this work now before an issue arises.
- SDOT knows that this is a major thoroughfare for the neighborhood. They haven't finalized traffic control and getting feedback on that is why Dr. Howard is here. The current plan is for both bridges to be closed on the weekend for 8-9 months and to have 1 bridge at a time closed during the work week. The work is projected to start in June, but a date has not been finalized.

**Q:** Is there anything on the SDOT website about the traffic control plan?

**A:** Not yet, but Dr. Howard will be setting up a map with information about closures.

**Q:** Is it true that it will be shutdown during the weekend but only 2 lanes will be shutdown during the week?

**A:** Yes, because the structure is actually 2 bridges, SDOT can shut down one at a time to do things like surface repair work.

**Q:** What about pedestrian access during the closure?

**A:** The team will be following up about that issue next week.

**Q:** How will they address the effects on congestion through neighboring communities?

**A:** There are two teams from SDOT focusing on that issue that are part of the project's weekly meetings.

**Comment:** SDOT might need traffic mitigation to let residents out into the congested traffic on Admiral during lane restriction times.

**A:** Dr. Howard will talk to the team about those concerns and the possibility of temporary signals.

**Q:** What about access to the Fairmount ravine?

**A:** Fairmount Ave will be closed for the retrofit. This is a safety issue and also the area will be used as staging for the project.

**Comment:** That is a major route for bikes/pedestrians to access the Harbor Avenue and the Water Taxi.

**A:** Dr. Howard will give that feedback to the team, but it will be very difficult to keep Fairmount open.

**Q:** Does SDOT currently have a contractor?

**A:** No, they're working on finalizing that now.

**Q:** Are you going to direct traffic to arterials rather than local streets? An increase in vehicle traffic on local roads can be dangerous especially for kids who aren't used to their neighborhood being a heavy traffic area.

**A:** SDOT is actively trying to prioritize rerouting traffic through main thoroughfares. They're working with the different map apps to get people around as efficiently as possible.

**Comment:** When the WS Bridge was closed, many streets were closed except for local access and that's an avenue that SDOT might explore for this project.

**Comment:** How about traffic circles?

**Q:** How quickly will choosing a contractor happen and will it affect the current timeline?

**A:** SDOT expects to choose a contractor in the next 2-3 weeks and it might push the start date back a few day but not much given that they need to complete the work before the levy expires.

**Q:** Is there anything on the SDOT website about the traffic control plan?

**A:** Not yet, but Dr. Howard will be setting up a map with information about closures. As to traffic circles as mentioned by a previous commenter, you would need to address that concern to City Council.

**Comment:** SDOT should just put scaffolding under the bridge to maintain pedestrian access like they do downtown.

**A:** Dr. Howard will take that feedback back to the team however its unlikely to happen because of the increased cost and the continued need for staging in the ravine.

**Comment:** Thank you for addressing the bridge maintenance now before an issue arises. We are all grateful to SDOT in preventing another bridge failure in our community.

#### *Treasurer Report: Bridgett Markille*

- The general fund balance is currently \$6,030.80.
- We continue to seek out memberships, sponsorships and donations to support our work.
- The ANA is a volunteer organization, so all of your contributions go directly into supporting events and projects in our community.

### *ANA Summer Events*

- We're all here because we love our community and we have a number of ways that you can support your community through volunteering, sponsoring or donating to our summer events.

#### *4<sup>th</sup> of July Kids Parade: Megan Erb*

- Megan has been running the event for 8-10 years.
- We have a lot of returning sponsors this year but would like to include more.
- Nothing is bought or sold at the booths for the event so sponsorships are the main way we fundraise for the parade.
- Megan will need volunteers for things like flyering beforehand and putting out yard signs and to staff the ANA booth at the event.
- This is not just an Admiral event, it's a West Seattle event and it's the only kids' event in Seattle on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- It's a great event for people to dress up, play games, and have fun and it's all over by noon!
- Note from Dan Jacobs: If you would like to donate, you can specify the event you would like to support on our website: [connecttoadmiral.org](http://connecttoadmiral.org).

**Q:** What was the cost last year?

**A:** Roughly \$3-4,000 but this year the event insurance is provided by the ANA and each summer event gets \$500 seed money from the ANA general fund.

#### *Admiral Music in the Parks: Meagan Loftin*

- Formerly known as the Concerts at Hiawatha, this is a beloved community event that's been going on for more than 15 years.
- This year the closure at Hiawatha has presented us with the opportunity to reimagine the event.
- Now known as Admiral Music in the Parks (AMP) this year we will host 3 concerts at 3 different parks: Belvidere, California Place, and Hamilton.
- The dates are July 18<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, and August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Like the parade and the Funktion, we are currently looking for individual donations and business sponsorships to help fund the event.
- We will also be needing volunteers for things like flyering, tabling the ANA booth and serving as crossing guards (18+ only).

**Q:** Any news about the bands?

**A:** We aren't ready to announce the band lineup yet but you can find all updates about AMP on the ANA website [connecttoadmiral.org](http://connecttoadmiral.org) and on socials @admiralneighborhood.

#### *Grand Parade: Meagan Loftin*

- Given that half of the grand parade's route runs through our neighborhood, this year we've applied to participate in the parade.
- The parade is July 20<sup>th</sup> at 11AM.
- We will need volunteers to walk the route handing out candy and also prepare supplies the day beforehand.

### *Admiral Funktion Block Party: Joanie Jacobs*

- The Funktion will be a day-long event this year on August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Whitney Cummings, formerly of the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce, put on the original Funktion in 2022 before handing it off to the ANA in 2023.
- Like our other summer events, we are looking for volunteers, sponsors and individual donations via GoFundMe.
- The event has live music, booths from local businesses/nonprofits, and food from our Admiral restaurants.
- Joanie is working with Admiral Pub, Mission Cantina and Arthur's to plan the event.

**Q:** Where does this take place?

**A:** On California Ave between Admiral and College. The street is closed to traffic the day of the event.

### *Other Neighborhood Events*

- Rumble Ready on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a city-wide event run by the Seattle Office of Emergency Management with the Seattle Emergency Hubs. The goal is to simulate response to an earthquake by matching needs with resources so that the local community can assist each other. If you would like to volunteer as an actor during the simulation, our local hub is Hiawatha Park.
- Pride
 

**Q:** Will there be an Admiral Pride event this year.

**A:** Joanie has heard of this but follow-up with Alex about it.
- Homestead Trust at the Admiral Church: On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Homestead Land Trust will present their plan for the affordable housing development at Admiral Church. Because this is secured by a land trust, this development will remain affordable housing indefinitely. The Church will remain on sight after completion as a community gathering space. During construction the congregation will meet at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church. The goal is to break ground in 2025 and open in 2027.

### *Membership and Communications Update: Dan Jacobs*

- We continue to add more individual and family memberships weekly. We currently also have around 40 business memberships. These memberships help us have a steady income stream to support events in our community.
- Our newest business is Electric Butter Marketing.
- You can connect with us and stay updated at [connecttoadmiral.org](http://connecttoadmiral.org) and on socials @admiralneighborhood.
- Note that this year, several local businesses and individuals in Admiral were nominated for the Westside Wards: including Meeples, Dragonfly, Hawthorne Massage, Wend and Southpaw Barbershop (which won emerging business of the year). Tommy Andrade, Whitney Moore, Tracy and Patrick at the Blog and Joanie Jacobs were also all nominated for Westsider of the year.

*Raffle Drawing*

- Businesses generously donate items to be raffled off at our meetings. Please go out and support our local businesses. This month's items were donated by Soiree, Hawthorne Massage and Self Care, and the Admiral Theater.

*Meeting Adjourned*

- Thank you for being with us today and please join us at our future events this summer and beyond!