

Admiral Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

January 09, 2024

Officers and Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Joanie Jacobs, President

Cheryl Lea, Vice President

Bridgett Markille, Treasurer

Meagan Loftin, Secretary

Dan Jacobs, Communications

Megan Erb, 4th of July Kids Parade

Phil Frick, Member-at-large

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. ANA Purpose
3. Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
4. Guest from SPD, Mark Solomon, Crime Prevention Coordinator
5. Guest, Stu Hennessey, Walkable Admiral District
6. Upcoming Events for 2024
7. Volunteer Sign-ups
8. Communications and Membership
9. What's Happening
10. Meeting Adjourning

Welcome, Joanie Jacobs

Introductions of the ANA Board, including newly elected officers, Cheryl Lea and Meagan Loftin.

ANA 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.”
- Attendee introductions.

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer Report

- November general meeting was primarily dedicated to the election of officers.

- Motion to approve the November meeting minutes moved by Dan Jacobs, seconded by Cheryl Lea, and carried unanimously.
- Treasury Report: 2023 was the first year that the ANA ran the Admiral Funktion (previously put on in 2022 by the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce). The ANA also participated in the 4th of July Kids Parade and held the Summer Concert Series at Hiawatha Park.
- As of December 31st, 2023 the total balance in the ANA funds is \$5430.95.

Guest from SPD, Mark Solomon, Crime Prevention Coordinator

- Reminder from Joanie Jacobs that guests may/may not be able to answer all questions at this time but we can always follow-up. Guests are here to hear the community's concerns. Please be kind and respectful.
- Mark Solomon has been the crime prevention coordinator at SPD for 30 years. While his primary focus is the South Precinct, he is currently filling for the Southwest Precinct as well.
- 28-day Snapshot
 - Shoplifters at Bartell's and Safeway
 - Car Burglaries
 - Trespass
 - A few assaults
 - A few attempted business burglaries
- The general year-over-year trend for the SW Precinct shows fewer sexual assaults, robberies, arsons, burglaries, etc. The only increases were seen in homicides across the city. In the SW Precinct motor vehicle theft also increased, which is in line with city-wide trends.
- SPD still has steering locks available though no current date is set for an event.
- Regarding recent crime in Admiral, robbery is the taking of property from a person by force or threat of force. Burglary is entering a property that is not your own without permission with the intent to commit another crime (usually theft). Shoplifting is theft from a business—this can become a burglary with the use or threat of force.
- Remember that SPD only sees what we tell them. The community needs to always report suspicious activities/crimes. SPD is data-driven and resources are allocated to the areas where reports are made.
- You can report car break-ins online but when in doubt call 911.
- Community Questions/Feedback

Q: Does SPD have statistics for speeding and failure to stop?
A: No, only collisions.

Q: Does SPD have a category of statistics for bicycle thefts?
A: This falls under general theft.

Q: How is officer staffing and recruiting?
A: Down several hundred officers compared to 3 years ago. The big issue is retention of officers who often move to other departments. Additionally, many of the officers who have left over the last few years had served for 20-30 years and retired.

Q: Does SPD not enforce traffic laws?

Comment: ANA has had SDOT at meetings in the past to discuss speeding on Admiral but it is lower on their priority list than other areas.

A: No data available at this meeting on traffic issues.

Q: Do traffic laws fall under the current pursuit guides from WA?

A: SPD is more concerned with keeping traffic moving smoothly than speeding but this can become a focus if needed as has recently happened with speeding on Alki.

Q: Can the ANA do anything to help make that a priority?

A: Send an email.

Comment: re: recent juvenile suspects in crimes throughout Admiral. Two of the three suspects were in juvenile detention until Jan 8th. Members noted that the persons in question are and have been well-known to businesses and residents for a while.

Q: What can be done in the moment. While the statistics show crime trending down, a previous visit to the ANA general meeting by the City Attorney's office suggest that low-level crime is now a priority. Frustration centers on the lack of consequence for these crimes.

A: Call 911, always call 911

Q: If suspects are repeatedly bursting into businesses to yell and then leave, does that qualify as harassment?

A: Yes, call 911.

Q: Can businesses file restraining orders in this case?

A: Yes, and there is also an option to trespass the persons.

Q: Can you text 911?

A: Yes, but only in English. Usually, this option is used in domestic abuse situations when the abuser is in close proximity to the victim. Call if you can, text if you must.

Q: Can you call 911 for a vehicle running a red light if you have the license plate number?

A: Call for reckless driving but not running a red-light.

Q: What is the consequence for reckless driving?

A: Not sure but officers will investigate.

Q: Regarding speeding, note that it is not happening on just major roads like Admiral Way and California Ave. What can be done?

A: Remember that officers need specific reasons for pursuits, which must be approved by a supervisor.

Q: Are steering wheel locks a good deterrent?

A: They can be if installed properly. The best deterrent is a locked car in a well-lit area. Cars with push-buttons and fobs are harder to steal.

Comment: The city recently hired someone to revamp the 911 call center. The city is looking to institute a different triage response to calls.

Q: Can/how do we report cars with no/fake license plates?

A: Yes, report where you see it, when and give a description of the vehicle.

Q: Can you send a picture to 911 or text?

A: You can upload images to the SPD website or email them to Mr. Solomon. The 911 text line may not be able to take pictures.

Q: What is the endgame for minors committing crimes? What qualifies as assault?

A: Assault does not necessarily need to involve being struck.

Q: What is SPD doing to prevent youth crime? Is there outreach?

A: Used to have community resource officers in schools but that ended three years ago at the direction of the superintendent. SPD does have a youth violence unit. PD works with community-based organizations. It's a complex issue that requires intervention on different levels.

Q: What is the age limit to qualify as an adult?

A: Depends on the crime. Generally 18 years old, but can be 16 for more serious offenses.

- Thank you to Mr. Solomon for being here. Thank you to attendees for questions and for compassion. These are big problems to we can't solve in one night, but Mr Solomon will take these concerns to SPD.

Guest, Stu Hennessey, Walkable Admiral District

- Current traffic light and intersections do not support a walkable Admiral.
- Walkability score of Alaska Junction is 98. Admiral is 70 which is below the city average of 74.
- Community Questions/Feedback

Q: How did the Alaska junction achieve an all-walk?

A: The Junction Association BIA pushed for it. Admiral businesses really want this. And North of Admiral Way, California Ave needs mid-block raised crossings.

Q: Doesn't SFD not want those?

A: There are ways to works around emergency vehicles.

Comment: There are various ways to fund these improvements: grants at the federal and state level. Right now the goal is to organize and gather community support. Also the 44th

Ave greenway is ready to proceed from the Alaska Junction which could connect to a closer of Lander near Lafayette Elementary.

Q: These needs should be directed at STP. Additionally the state has to funding routes of interest: Safe Walk to Schools and a Pedestrian Bicycle Safety program.

A: We're aware of both.

Q: Have you talked to the West Seattle Transportation Coalition?

A: No, but will do.

Q: Have you talked to Good Society given that they use the section of Lander by Lafayette for outdoor seating?

A: No, but will do.

Q: Is the federal money for transportation up for grabs?

A: Yes, and it's a good question: what is the city currently doing with this available money?

Comment: This should be what STP is focusing on. Additionally, our District 1 City Council member, Rob Saka is on the transportation committee.

Q: Sidewalks on California Ave are difficult for those with mobility issues to navigate. That should be the focus along with adding curb ramps to intersections.

A: One potential answer to ramps is continuous sidewalks.

Q: What about getting rid of parking on California Ave?

A: This would be very difficult on residents and businesses.

- Stu is currently looking for representatives from the various stakeholders. This proposal for a Walkable Admiral will be posted on the ANA website, connecttoadmiral.org. They currently have funding for yard signs and can bring those to future meetings.

Upcoming Events for 2024

- 4th of July Kids Parade: this will be the first year that the parade, organized by Megan Erb, will be under the umbrella of the ANA.
- Concert Series: With Hiawatha Park under construction this summer, the summer concert series in 2024 will look a little different and we have a number of options.
- Admiral Funktion: Held annually in August, this will be the second year that the ANA is organizing the event.

Volunteer Sing-ups

- Sign-ups for all of our events will begin in March.
- Additionally there will be a full list of sponsorship opportunities for businesses to participate in these events.
- These will also be posted on the ANA socials.
- Hopefully we will also be able to host one outdoor movie screening this summer.

Communications and Membership

- Social media for the ANA has really exploded over the last year.
- Focusing on highlighting anything in Admiral—especially businesses.
- Socials: @admiralneighborhood
- Web: connecttoadmiral.org
- Also note that while the ANA does not run the Admiral trick-or-treat, we do participate in it and fund the media. 2023's event also raised many of the traffic safety issues brought up by Mr. Hennessey previously—specifically re: crossing California Ave.
- Individual and Family Membership is \$25/year and Business Partners pay \$50/year. These memberships go directly to supporting our community events.
- While individual memberships are low, we've added nearly 3 dozen business partners in the last year. Business partners get media spotlights on the ANA socials and website.
- The ANA also received donations at our community events in 2023.
- Unlike the Alaska Junction Association, the ANA is all volunteer-driven. Thank you to our members and business partners for their support.

What's Happening

- Art Walk Thursday January 11th from 5-8PM.
- Thursday January 11th is Comedy Night in support of Lafayette Elementary at Otter on the Rocks
- The West Seattle Transportation Coalition is looking for members and board members. You can contact Phil Frick if interested.
- The Log House Museum is looking for volunteers who are available at least 2hrs per month. Contact Meagan Loftin if interested.
- Dry Heat at Bebop every 2nd Friday from 6-9PM.

Meeting Adjourned

- If businesses are interested in donating a prize for our general meeting raffle drawing, please contact Joanie Jacobs.
- Thank you all for being here and to our guests. Thank you for caring about our neighborhood.