

Ferry Village Neighborhood Conservation Association (FVNCA)

April 14, 2006

Minutes

13 Ferry Village people and 1 guest were present for this meeting.

Introductions were made.

1. **The minutes** from the January meeting were approved as amended. The amendments were:
 - Under Liberty Village Project discussion to add: "FVNCA convey that although our views have not changed...we would like to support..."
 - Correction of the spelling of Linda Boudreau's name

2. **Treasurer's report:**

Current balances in accounts: \$1,044.82 checking, \$1007.83 in savings with \$500 designated funds to support the Old Joe's Pond project, if necessary plus \$1,000 designated for Beulah Swiger Memorial. Report approved as presented. Reminder that dues are due in October of each year. They are \$5.00 per family.

3. **Program Presentation: Mary Lou Fathke, South Portland Horticulturist**

Highlights included: Mary Lou has shared her expertise as our city's horticulturist for 8 years. She conducts classes on Saturdays at the city's greenhouse on O'Neal Street. The greenhouse is open 9:00-3:00 for viewing where they grow over 75 different species of plants. She also oversees an arboretum at SMCC where there are over 240 species that she is assisting in labeling. Her department is responsible for maintenance and beautification of the city's golf course, Millcreek Park, the Police and Fire Stations, City Hall, various memorials and the South Portland Library. She shared a wonderful PowerPoint presentation with us as well as answered questions regarding tips for the gardeners.

4. **Beulah Swiger Memorial**

Discussion occurred regarding the most appropriate way to commemorate Beulah Swiger with the donations made in her memory. Ideas included: a name plaque at School Street Playground in memory of Beulah, a park bench at Millcreek in memory of Beulah and Noonie Swiger, a picnic table at Millcreek Park, and some identified needs at the PROP building in the Village. Members present favored further discussion about the possibility of commemorating Beulah at PROP in light of her strong interest in children. Peter Stuckey from PROP offered to give this consideration and return to our next FVNCA meeting in June with some ideas.

5. **FVNCA Treasurer**

After many years of service to our association, Carol Campbell is stepping down as our treasurer, effective immediately. We thank her for all of her work in this position. Please contact Aileen Martello if anyone is interested in assuming this position (marvmeal@netzero.net) as this position should be posted prior to and voted on at our June meeting.

6. **Liberty Village Update**

It was reported that some excavation on the property has been occurring. Aileen was unable to reach Mr. Mitchell prior to this meeting but will continue to and have an update for our June meeting.

7. **Earth Day ~ April 22nd**

Although FVNCA is not organizing a specific event for this Earth Day all Ferry Village residents are encouraged to gather rubbish and clean their neighborhoods during this weekend.

8. “Beacon Hill Village”

Merle Borberg from Village Beach Association presented information regarding a concierge service in Massachusetts to assist older people to stay in their homes as long as possible. Merle expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of starting a similar project in our neighborhoods. Both Willard and Knightville have already expressed their support in exploring this project further and assisting in whatever way they can. It was mentioned that PROP has some current programs available to meet the needs of senior citizens within our community. **Vote:** FVNCA unanimously approved its support of this concept.

9. PROP ~ Peter Stuckey

Mr. Stuckey presented information regarding discussions occurring related to income that could be generated by the City for the sale of the PROP building. It was decided by the City to extend the lease of the building to PROP for 2 years rather than the desired 10 years. The property is estimated to have a value of approx. \$486,000. PROP provides valuable services to our community and is interested in developing a plan to continue to meet the needs of the community in which it resides. **Vote:** FVNCA unanimously voted to support PROP in staying in the Village. FVNCA approved Steve Davis as its representative to assist in this support. **Vote:** Unanimous vote that PROP should receive a complementary FVNCA membership.

10. Other Items:

Continued concerns were voiced regarding operations at REO Boat Yard. It was discussed that Chief Geimont (So. Ptld. Fire Chief) has been authorized to check all marinas and boat yards to ensure all ordinances are being adhered. Tom Blake will check to see if REO's is on the list for inspection. Aileen will also contact the Chief to express that there have been multiple concerns regarding REO expressed to the association. It was suggested that Chief Geimont be requested to attend a future FVNCA meeting to share status of ordinances of marinas and boatyards.

Tom Blake reported on activities of the So. Ptld. Land Trust:

- The Land Trust's Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th from 9:00-1:00 at the American Legion Hall, 413 Broadway
- Saturday morning tours of local, interesting sites will occur again this summer. A flyer announcing dates and tours was distributed.
- The West End Trails Committee is working diligently to improve access to that end of the City (the mall area). The objective is to clean up that area and make it more pedestrian friendly. Anyone interested in more information or to become involved can contact the So. Ptld. Land Trust at 799-2900.

Future Meetings:

June 8, 2006 – Program Presentation – Stan Brown, South Portland's Animal Control Officer, regarding animal control issues and strategies. Nominations for 2006-07 FVNCA Officers will be presented.

September 14, 2006 - Possible Program Presentation – South Portland Fire Chief Geimont

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Morrison