



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Meeting of January 4, 2010

PRESENT: Matt Ruben, President; Don Phillips, Vice-President; John Braxton, Treasurer; Janet Finegar, Secretary; Fernando Benavides; Larry Freedman; Erika Goldberg; Micah Gold-Markel; Irene Lambrou; Ken Mitchell; Barbara Mulckhuyse; Bill Russell; Barbara Saverino; Ira Upin; Anne Wager.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:07 p.m.

Motion: By John Braxton, seconded by Fernando Benavides. "To approve the minutes of the December Board meeting as amended with one typographical error corrected."

Passed 13-0-0

President's Report: Matt Ruben; written report attached and reviewed.

There was a discussion of the specific language in the civic association letter about the BRT and property taxes and whether the NLNA should sign on to the letter as proposed.

Motion: By Don Phillips, seconded by John Braxton. "To sign on our support of the civic association letter as presented."

Passed 9-4-1

There was a preliminary discussion about rethinking the NLNA's mission. Based on the conversation, it was agreed that a small group of board members (Matt, Erika, Anne, Fernando, Don, and Barb volunteered) will develop a process for working on the mission. It was anticipated that the process will include developing a survey for the neighborhood in general, putting together focus groups, and then a Board retreat to process the results. The desired end point is to develop a vision, a new mission, and a plan for moving forward. At least two questions for the survey that were generated were "what do you think that the NLNA does?" and "if the NLNA disappeared, what would you miss?" It was also discussed that better branding of the things we do should be developed.

Treasurer's Report: John Braxton; balance summary distributed and reviewed.

Motion: By Ken Mitchell, seconded by Fernando Benavides. "To authorize spending up to \$350 to purchase QuickBooks for NonProfits for the NLNA's use."

Passed 14-0-0

There was discussion of the proposed conflict of interest policy. Several Board members mentioned that they felt that the proposed policy was overly broad and didn't fulfill the required purposes. John clarified that the document was drafted to be clear to a layperson rather than as a more detailed legal document.

Motion: By Don Phillips, seconded by Micah Gold-Markel. "To accept the proposed conflict of interest policy as presented."

Passed 11-2-1

Motion: By Janet Finegar, seconded by Ira Upin. "To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented."
Passed 14-0-0.

Business Association Liaison, Casino, Community Center, Crime Prevention, Education, Election, Environment, Membership, Neighborhood Plan, Operations, Recycling, and Urban Design Committees: No reports.

Clean and Green Committee Report: Erika Goldberg; written report attached and reviewed.

Fundraising Committee Report: Barbara Saverino; written report attached and reviewed.

There was some discussion of the annual appeal and why it received little response. Bill noted that the Community Center does not have strong identification on it, especially from the Fairmount Avenue side. It was agreed that the CC needs better signage and more interesting things in the windows. Anne noted that people do walk in quite frequently when someone is in the office. Ira reviewed the plans for signage and lighting that are under discussion.

Barbara also noted that there should be a policy in place for tracking grants and making sure that the funds expended are all reimbursable for that grant.

Liberty Lands Committee Report: Janet Finegar; written report attached and reviewed.

The Board approved the committee's selection of Go Festive to run the 2010 movie series.

Operation Santa Report: Janet Finegar and Don Phillips; written report attached.

Zoning Committee Report: Larry Freedman; written report attached and reviewed.

Motion: By John Braxton, seconded by Barbara Saverino. "To approve the actions of the Zoning Committee on the matter of 451 Fairmount Ave. with one friendly amendment to delete the provision regarding a trellis; i.e.: 'We support the application for a variance as presented with the following provisos: 1) no bedroom in basement; 2) plan shall have green roof and permeable ground floor patio as presented. Please meet with UDC regarding the above provisos, and the design for the cornice, and provide signed and dated plans to ZC. '"
Passed 13-1-0

Motion: By Ira Upin, seconded by John Braxton. "To approve the actions of the Zoning Committee on the matter of 1124 N. 3rd St.; i.e.: 'We give preliminary support to the project as presented with no expansion of third floor unit. Please return to ZC with further refined plans.'"
Passed 14-0-0

Old Business

Ira reported that we have a new tenant on the 3rd floor of the Community Center, with a discount of \$50/month in response to his paying 6 months rent up front.

It was agreed that in the spring we should discuss some use of the additional Operation Santa funds left over from this year, possibly for summer benefits for children. One possibility would be to do a summer lunch program for needy kids.

New Business

Matt updated the Board on the 5th and Fairmount building, which has a cease operation order on it but is still being rented out for parties.

It was agreed that we should raffle the donated DS at the holiday party.

Motion: By Micah Gold-Markel, seconded by John Braxton. "To adjourn the meeting."

Passed 14-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at roughly 8:45 p.m.

Addenda:

President's Report

1. PLANNING AND POLICY-RELATED ISSUES

- Casinos – The PA Senate passed legislation legalizing table games. This version does not direct any of the table-games tax revenue to local communities, instead directing it all to the City's general fund. This version also includes 2-year license extensions for Foxwoods and SugarHouse. The final shape of the legislation depends on the House-Senate conference (the House Bill includes the local-share provision and does not include the license extensions).
- Central Delaware Plan – No updates; the planning process should begin later this month.
- Zoning Code Commission – The "Neighborhood Matters" civic coalition met with members of the Zoning Code Commission (ZCC) last month and had a frank and productive discussion of a variety of issues, including community input into the future development process. Formal discussions with the full ZCC, and with representatives of the developer community, are slated to begin this month. The ZCC will make its final recommendations to the City later this year.
- Property Taxes – As you know, we've been asked to sign on to a letter written by other civics to the Mayor about the BRT and tax issues. We should discuss this at our meeting so I can communicate our consensus position to the other civics.

2. FUNDRAISING/FINANCES/ADMINISTRATION

- General Fundraising – See the Fundraising Committee report.
- Events – Operation Santa was a success (report in Liberty Lands or Old Business). The Holiday Party has been confirmed for North Bowl, Feb. 21. This is a little late, but we have had it in mid-February in the past and it has been successful.
- Spring Garden Greenway Project – The draft RFQ/RFP was created by DIGSAU and ARUP (their lighting consultant), vetted by Barbara S. and I, and has been passed on to Mural Arts. It should be issued in the next couple of weeks. As that goes on, the plans for the Doughboy Park will be finalized, and the first plantings are on track for the spring. We need to mobilize volunteers for those plantings, and I need Clean & Green's help in (as Erika has pointed out) thinking about options for maintenance of the plantings in the future.
- NLNA Budget – No updates. This month I hope to be able to put new software in place that will allow us to generate monthly and quarterly reports that match the formatting of our budget.

3. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPER RELATIONS

- Tower Investments – The Schmidt's project has begun, and according to Tower the Pathmark supermarket at 2nd and Girard will be the first part constructed and this part will be largely done in a little over a year. 2nd St. rumble strips have been filled in. Tower also is addressing a dumpster issue on Laurel St., and a handicap accessibility issue on the crosswalk joining Liberties Walk and the Piazza. Ira continues to communicate with Bart about recognition of his Liberty Lands donation – the last installment of which is due this year.

4. OUTREACH/EVENTS/GENERAL MEETINGS

- General Meetings – As part of our mission discussion, we need to think about the role of the GM in our activities. The January GM will take place on the 28th, and we have a couple of guests lined up (a rep from Mural Arts, on a project they're doing with Bodine High School; and a rep from a composting company).

5. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICITY

- Email – In the past month list grew from 1,033 to 1,056 (I had cleaned out a little over a 100 bad addresses prior to that). So the list continues to grow modestly but steadily.
- Web Site– I've not looked at any statistics but anecdotally it appears that updating the Web site more frequently (which we've done for about the last 3 mos.) is having a positive effect. It also allows us to send out briefer emails and direct people to the site for more info.
- Other Internet – We continue to gain followers on Twitter (89 as of today). Fernando has kindly offered to help with postings to our Twitter account.
- Local Press – No updates.
- Other Outreach – We are still working on coordinating an energy related event with Friends Neighborhood Guild. We also have other opportunities, as the Membership Committee has pointed out, and we need to keep trying to find ways to take advantage of them.

6. OTHER ITEMS

- Crime and Safety – No specific updates. Generally, the winter weather seems to be producing a typical dip in crimes.
- Online Board Polls – Ratification of any online board polls.

Clean and Green Board Report January 2010

Christmas Tree Chipping on January 9, 2010.

- Partnering with Greens Grow Farm and Recycle Bank this year. Still at OH dog park just lots more trees!
- A rep from Recycle Bank will be on hand to sign neighbors up for their Rewards Program starting in February.

Worm Compost Bin workshop:

- Planning next one for late January/early February.

February 2010: Recycle Bank comes to our Disposal area

- Possible Fund raising source! Neighbors choose to direct earnings to NLNA
- See press release last month's report.

City-wide April Clean up:

- Focus on Cleaning and Greening the Rec Center this April. They are in desperate need of a completed kitchen, painting, and more! Stay Tuned!

ONGOING:

Philadelphia Water Department: Model Neighborhood:

- Plans continue with PWD for selected blocks to be models for storm water management.

Greening Bodine:

- Lara has been meeting with Bodine, arborist/landscape designer, and mural arts to beautify and green Bodine highschool.
- Bodine Science Club students participated in tree planting.

Web site for Clean and Green:

- Working on a web site to be a sustainability resource for NL community and include both useful info and announce C & G events.

Fundraising and looking ahead:

- Movies that Matter: Environmental Education Films shown at CC or partnering restaurant.
- Want to do Hard-to-recycle/E-waste collection again but researching different company to work with.
- Make your own Rain Barrel workshop.
- Patagonia Grant for Rain Barrel and composting workshops.
- Terracycle wrapper collection.

NLNA Fund Raising Committee

- There was no December meeting.
- Annual appeal: Final draft was reviewed by committee and forwarded to Matt for email/html out to mail list in December with a follow up reminder to the list last week of December/first week of January. Matt sent out and it is posted in the NLNA homepage.
- Holiday Party: Verbal yes from Oron at North Bowl for Sunday, February 21. Working on the details and will share as soon as possible. We are planning to use the extra cases of beer that were donated by Yards at this event to help keep costs down.
- Grants: Creative Economy Grant –spoke to the City rep and the community center was not a good fit.

Liberty Lands meeting December 2009

- Present: Liz Reed, Janet Finegar, Jessica Hall, Erika Goldberg, Seth Donkochik
- The two movie proposals (Lawn Chair Drive In and Go Festive) were distributed to the committee members and quickly discussed. The committee agreed that the inflatable screen Go Festive is proposing is worrisome and asked Janet to contact them about it. (Update: Go Festive offered to try the inflatable screen at the first showing and switch to a hung screen if we find it too loud/awful.) The committee agreed to review the proposals at home and send recommendations to Janet. . .
- The Liberty Lands committee recommends hiring Go Festive for the 2010 movies at the park, based largely on the fact that their proposal allows for rain dates while LawnChair DriveIn's does not. With Board approval, Janet will draft an agreement with Go Festive based on their proposal and the screen agreement and contract with them for the 2010 movies.
- Most of the meeting was spent reviewing various things that people were going to take care of in January. Janet noted that she is still working on dealing with the zoning appeal, that she will talk with Kait Midgett about getting ownership of the property behind her house, and that she will draft a letter to the Becker Building management about residents picking up after their dogs. Jessica plans to do the tool/hose clean up as soon as possible (which now means as soon as there's a thaw) and will stop the Monday trash pickup for the winter. Liz noted that she will deal with the cistern monitoring and getting William to get a design for an irrigation system.
- It was agreed that we would make a final decision about the irrigation system/zoo grant at the January meeting.

- It was agreed that Dennis should be paid to haul the compost from the CompostPilefromHell to the Fairmount Park compost tipping facility: the cost of paying Dennis, reimbursing his gas and tipping fees will still be less than the \$500 budgeted for a fall dumpster, and will avoid putting the organic material in a dump. (Update: Janet talked to Dennis about this and he's separating large materials to chip at the tree chipping on the 9th.)
- It was agreed that a September "play day"/harvest festival should be scheduled when park people and gardeners could get together socially rather than just always to work.

Operation Santa Report

- Food expenses : \$1,200, Gift expenses: \$392.45
- We delivered to 36 households, of whom 7 were senior citizens and 8 were families of 6 or more kids. There were 124 children total. We had several new households on the list this year.
- This was an especially big year for people pitching in and helping.
- Donations made in cash, with substantial in-kind donations of gifts from Waterfront Square and from Sparks Online (Linda Gheen's company) covering the vast majority of gifts. We also had some leftover money from last year, so that this year's expenses were easily covered.
- Lots of people showed up for the wrapping and the teenage girls (Nora, Claire, and Mimi) did extra hard labor sorting and creating gifts.
- The blizzard hitting on our delivery day was a serious setback, but Hank and Ken, along with two other sets of neighbors I didn't even know previously, showed up to handle a lot of the deliveries. Harvey Bell's truck and driver Mike got the food picked up and the Port Richmond deliveries handled.
- As always, cheers to everyone who helped and especially to Don.
- Op Santa AC Moore 12/11 – \$21.87 wrapping paper and tape; Op Santa Scholastic 12/10 – \$25.00; Target 12/16 – \$303.58; book sale mugs – \$28, book sale books \$14: total \$42; Janet owed \$392.45 from op santa
- Operation Santa ideas for next year
 - include CHIP and LIHEAP forms in their boxes (or even with the letter in November?)
 - send out the confirmation letter to recipients in early November
 - do a request for referrals to all the Kearny teachers, especially kindergarten teachers, in early Nov
 - include notes to the parents about what it is that's being sent

Zoning Committee Meeting

Monday December 21, 2009, 7PM

Present: Larry Freedman, Irene Lambrou, Jonathan Sher, Mike Simons, Joe Mikuliak, Barb Mulckhuysse, Ira Upin, Chris Isaacson

Absent: Matthew Emerson, Harvey Bell, Marc Butakis, Charlie Abdo, Tim McDonald

Motion to approve Nov. 2009 Minutes by JS; 2nd by IU. *Passed: 7-0-0*

1. 451 Fairmount Ave. – David Orphanides – R10A – Return visit regarding a proposal for the erection of a two story addition with deck as part of an existing three story structure for proposed two family dwelling (two family dwelling not allowed in R10A). Return to address the concerns about living space in the basement. Proposing to increase the size of the units by extending building back to line of east side neighbor and adding fiberglass roof deck and a green roof (Live Roof) for upper unit. 1270 sf for upper unit/1575 sf for lower unit. Lower unit has access to backyard. Storage and utilities in basement; more storage in attic crawl space. Both units have 2BR/2baths. Block has mostly multi-family units and commercial uses. Developer can't afford to build as single family house with the high end renovation they plan. Neighbors indicate still multi-family; some sympathy for circumstances of purchase. Would rather see duplex than vacant building? Overstatement that no single family houses on this street? Neighbors agree this is improved design over prior presentation. Should there be visual barrier (trellis?) to guard view of deck from the Russian church behind it?

Motion by JM; 2nd by MS: We support the application for a variance as presented with the following provisos: 1) no bedroom in basement; 2) a trellis or other visual barrier should prevent visual observation of deck from the interior of the church; 3) plan shall have green roof and permeable ground floor patio as presented. Please meet with UDC regarding the above provisos, and the design for the cornice, and provide signed and dated plans to ZC. Passed: 4-3-0

2. 1124 N. 3rd St. – Brian Phillips – R10A – Proposal for 3 residential units with two off street parking spots. Initial presentation before they proceed with design process. Access to parking from Galloway. Considering reactivating existing dormant breezeway (2'10") for circulation. One (rental) unit on each of three floors. 3rd Street façade—plan to retain the bay windows on 2nd and 3rd floors. Open space plan is first floor has garden that goes along side of house (6x8); 2nd floor terrace partially on top of the first floor open space (6x10); and 3rd floor terrace over 2nd floor unit (144sf). Can only fit 2 parking spaces. Units 990/1080/725 sf. Is the 3rd floor (725sf) too small? Galloway Street needs some help.

Motion by BM; 2nd by JM: We give preliminary support to the project as presented with no expansion of third floor unit. Please return to ZC with further refined plans. Passed: 7-0-0

Old Business: The Delaware Ave. Project did get on the Planning agenda on the 12/8 for a "conceptual approval" in light of the fact that the Scottish Bank would work with the applicant only if there was an approval before the end of the year. Larry went down to testify. Bottom line - there is little or no structure for neighborhood involvement as part of the POD (Plan of Development) process. Technically, there isn't much structure at Zoning either but there is always the appeal which gives some teeth to the process. Applicant did receive the approval. However, they will meet with us and respond to our motion regardless - probably next month. BTW - light and air to bedrooms is a code regulation (LF did discuss this with CPC) Plus, here are the uses the overlay does not allow in the C3 zone--see below:

- Uses approved for the Plan of Development (POD) are those of the underlying zoning district, C3, with **exceptions outlined in the waterfront overlay**. Exceptions include: non-accessory signs, private bus terminals, buildings or structures with gross floor area in excess of 40,000 square feet, with a single retail store as a principal or predominant use, parking garages except as approved by PCPC as part of a Plan of Development, parking lots as a main use, self-storage facilities, adult entertainment, adult spa or health club, massage businesses, drug paraphernalia stores, cabarets, check cashing, pawn shops, payday lenders, gun shops, penal or correctional institutions (public or private).

Proposed Conflict of Interest Policy

The Board of Directors of The Northern Liberties Neighbors Association (NLNA) recognizes and supports the Duty of Loyalty and therefore prohibits any board member from using their position to obtain personal gain for themselves or others at the NLNA's expense.

Each board member must pay careful attention to transactions where there may be a conflict of interest and ensure that each board member does not breach his/her duties of care and loyalty to the organization.

The Board is obligated to perpetuate public trust by demonstrating that they are committed to managing an organization with the utmost integrity and good faith and in the best interest of the community and the mission of the NLNA.

The undersigned realizes that in the context of a non-profit organization, a conflict of interest may occur when personal interests prevent an individual from making an impartial decision that is in the best interest of the NLNA. It is the responsibility of the board member to remain pure in this type of scenario or situation. If that board member feels that he/she is unable to stand forthright in a particular decision-making situation, he/she is expected to excuse themselves from that decision-making without exception.

E-mailed comments about mission

Anne Waginger – The dog park mounted a survey last month to help us understand what our members/users of the park want, expect of the park and the board. Of over 300 who received the survey in an e-mail 150 began the survey, 138 completed it. I think it would be worthwhile to mount such a survey to send to the over 1,000 people on our list serve. The trick is asking the right questions. We used "survey monkey." I found the responses very interesting and often surprising.

Erika Goldberg – On the topic of defining a mission for NLNA. All have made good points. My experience with this is in line with Larry's and Fernando's suggestions. We need to evaluate what the needs of the community are. There is no question they have changed drastically since the organization was established some 30 years ago. // Finding out what the "new" members of the community look for from NLNA while maintaining what the "old-timers" have come to rely on are both important. // A survey would certainly be one way to do this. Another, or hand in hand with a survey, is to invite individuals representing the various interests of the neighborhood: business owners, new residents, longer term residents, young and old residents, residents of different socio-economic and racial background, etc. and learn from them what their perception of what we do and their vision for the future of the neighborhood. // What do other neighborhood associations do in communities that have experienced similar changes, like Queen Village, Logan Square, Fairmount, Olde City, etc? Do we invite reps from these associations to learn more about their activities and missions? // If we can spend some money on this, there are professionals who help drive these discussions and help groups stay on track to develop a strategic plan and a mission as a result of that process. // A final note. I asked Brice, as a member of our community who was born here and is becoming a young adult here, what he'd like to see. He said we need more things to do, like a movie theater, flag football league, etc. There may be enough kids here now to start our own baseball or soccer league.

Ira Upin – I'd like to start this discussion about our mission by identifying, in my opinion, what we do that actually serves the community and that the community really even cares about. I think there are really only 3 items that fit that bill. 1) Zoning committee work, 2) Liberty Lands work, 3) Clean and green work. // To my mind everything else is self serving busy work to sustain ourselves. We need to come up with new ideas for services that NL really needs and wants, based

on the reality of what our demographics are - not were, to maintain our relevance. Because to be honest most of the time I feel like we're just members of a private club that is existing more and more in a vacuum. // It seems to me that even the continuing development of the community center project needs to be clarified. Otherwise it could just become a real estate venture that produces income and creates one full time job. Is that enough to sustain us in conjunction with the 3 relevant items that we do? // We need to expand our membership base, our fund raising, etc. but without more services that are relevant to who and what the community has become I don't think those things will happen. // I don't know how our non-profit status restricts us, but if we could offer things like day care, after school, and any other type of services that relate in a concrete way to our community's needs we would begin to draw more involvement from many more new people. // Frankly if we don't come up with new ideas we will wear out and disappear. Our board is becoming too old and too familiar.

Fernando Benavides – AA) I still consider myself somewhat of a newcomer (to the board and the neighborhood), and as such I still have some difficulty in visualizing what was NLNA's original (perhaps not too detailed) mission. Although I believe that it is summarized under Article II of our by-laws, these can be deemed as very general goals and objectives, rather than it being a detailed mission statement. // To some extent Ira's thinking (though perhaps a bit pessimistic) is a call for all of us to realize that if he -as someone that has been among the original "founders"- sees our organization in this light, perhaps many neighbors have the same thoughts, and they too may be also questioning the Association's (or part of our activities and services) relevance. BB) I would posit that our primary, most general and most logical mission-thus the core reason of our existence- is and should be to serve our community. CC) The question is: how and in what manner? DD) In order to avoid the perception that we are acting as a private club, we would need to have a much, much wider participation of the entire community in determining what should our mission be. I.E. Rather than 15 of us suggesting to the other 5,985 members what we think we should be doing for them, perhaps it is time to ask for their input as to what should our role and mission be. // In short, Ira and Larry are courageously and to some extent proposing that in order to find and define what is our mission, we question the purpose and even the very existence of NLNA, and that we go to the core to derive, and define from it our mission. I do not see anything wrong with this, radical but pragmatic, approach. // If we are to rethink and perhaps even restructure who we are, and where do we go from here, it is my opinion that we should spend the time and money to conduct a thorough community-wide survey/ census to find out (in as much detail as possible) what is the composition of our community (age, economically, and other factors) and what are the community needs, priorities and expectations from their Association, then pick the top (and most realistic) priorities and try to define our mission on that basis, keeping in mind that the mission of any entity does change with time, and we should be ready, willing and able to modify and adapt it, from time to time, accordingly.

Larry Freedman – I think Ira makes some good points but I feel we need to take a step backwards and establish the goals and therefore the role of the Board based on the larger picture. The larger picture then allows for an outline, a discussion/brainstorming session, and then finally, a mission. // For me, the larger picture encapsulates these three groups: Preservation (the past), Sustenance/Representation (the present), Enrichment (the future). // Preservation would include history, community, infrastructure, buildings, etc. Sustenance/Representation would include community forums, financial stability, etc. Enrichment would include programs, projects, events, etc. // If we agreed on these basic principles, the discussion could be organized into categories and brainstorming topics could be recorded and discussed. Eventually, we would have the necessary elements to start writing a mission. // As an example, to use Ira's thoughts, Zoning committee, Lib Lands and Clean and green work would apply if we, looking at the big picture, felt that these items fit into the larger established categories. Would we just be members of a larger club if we offered the community the opportunity to take part in this outline and help compose the mission. There's an interesting opportunity. // Now that we've shed the restrictions of the City, we can now take this time and reflect to see if we're in a tweak situation or an overhaul. But, as elected members of the Board, it is our responsibility to guide this Mission Project so that participation is organized and efficient. My comparative example is, of course, the Zoning Committee's procedures. In essence, the ZC's goal is not to make decisions - it is to have a forum where people can participate, offer opinions, and then within in some given parameters, create a resolution that reflects, hopefully, a consensus. I think that is what we can do here - and it's pretty exciting, isn't it.

Barb Mulckhuyse – Would have to agree with Larry's general approach. As far as a survey; surveys tend to work best in terms of satisfaction, and/or rating/ranking certain statements- not necessarily in terms of open ended questions. For example, a question could read; please rate the degree to which you agree with each of the following statements: NLNA is key in representing my rights as a citizen of Phila. (1-2-3-4-5); NLNA is a mostly a social network to me (1-2-3-4-5); NLNA Board of Director decisions impact me as a neighbor (1-2-3-4-5); I am fully aware of NLNA's activities (1-2-3-4-5). // So, if we want a survey to understand what the neighbors think, need and expect, I suggest we all submit statements like these and group them by subject matter as Larry laid out below (ie preservation, sustenance, enrichment.) Does that make sense?

Barbara Saverino – I look forward to our discussion regarding the NLNA mission tomorrow night. I think that a survey would help us as an organization and a neighborhood identify our priorities and goals.

Janet Finegar – In no particular order, these are the things that I think the NLNA does that are important. Maybe they're not exactly what our mission should be, but what we do already that I think we need to keep doing. // At the core, I'd agree with Ira that the most important things we do are zoning and the park. They are part of a lot of the things I mention below // **NLNA is a think tank for the community** – The community center and park are both SPACES for people to write their own interpretations of what the neighborhood and NLNA can/should be. NLNA is itself kind of a space to do that. We who are active right now define it, but others can and could come and do the same thing. // The organization and its members encourage people to do things themselves that the neighborhood needs (crime watch, composting classes, etc.). // We think ahead about what the neighborhood needs and figure out ways to make those things happen (recycling, park, playground, CC, street trees). // **NLNA is an information center** – We pay attention – all the time – to what's going on in the city and neighborhood, so that when people are interested, curious, upset we know what is happening and can fill them in easily and relevantly. We react to things before the general public might even notice (zoning, casinos, the tax law kind of stuff, billboards, recycling and other green initiatives). // We help neighbors negotiate the city government with issues like trash, nuisance neighbors, street closures, etc. // **NLNA is a social and community center** - We provide and organize opportunities for neighbors to socialize as neighbors, to do things together and think of ourselves as a neighborhood (events, but also park, community center) // We are a clearinghouse when disaster strikes (such as the attack on Katrina or other crime issues) – we organize relief and provide information // We help neighbors out when they need help and encourage them to help others (operation santa) // **NLNA does local policing** – We make and enforce neighborhood rules and standards (trash things, zoning, etc.). // I think there's more, but those are the ones that came to my mind first.