

Minutes  
Longmont Neighborhood Group Leaders Association  
May 15, 2008  
Longmont Senior Center

Meeting was called to order: 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Mark Lowe  
Meeting agenda: motioned & approved with changes  
Meeting minutes (4/17/08): motioned & approved

**Police Updates** — Longmont Police Cmdr. Paul Zuber reported that assaults, car break-ins, and graffiti vandalism were up, but burglaries were down, in April. Garage doors were open in 20% of the homes burglarized. The department is trying to set up a city initiative to address graffiti.

**Staff Updates** — Jennifer Hakanson reported that the NIP Grant Committee had met and had discussed various issues including a perceived sense of entitlement on the part of some applicants and feelings of unfairness (HOA vs. non-HOA neighborhoods). There needs to be better communications about the grant process timeline. The committee will meet again in late May or early June and will make its recommendations at the June NGLA meeting. Jennifer requested that any further questions or suggestions be given to her as soon as possible.

Jon Clarke reported that that HOA training sessions would be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> (foreclosure and legal issues) and June 26<sup>th</sup> (legislative update). The HOA training session schedule is available at <http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/cnr/>. Jon's office is in the initial planning stages for an NGLA summer picnic in conjunction with Neighborhood Night Out in early August.

**Activity Grant Review** — **By motion duly made and seconded**, the members agreed to fund the first round of Neighborhood Activity Grant requests, totaling \$6,325.00.

**By motion duly made and seconded**, the members agreed to fund a second round of activity grants limited to neighborhoods that had not applied for first round funding. An amendment to the motion offered by Fred Esposito to divide the total available for the second round (\$1,675) by the number of submissions and to use the result as the maximum available for any one neighborhood was seconded but failed.

Since the NGLA will not be meeting in July and therefore will not be able to vote on the second round of Neighborhood Activity Grant funding, Mark Lowe appointed a committee consisting of Liz Hayes (eahayes@redhawk.org, 303-776-9053), Sue Bridgeman (garmasue1@msn.com), Jennifer Hakanson, Fred Esposito (303-651-1084), and Chris Zeh (czeh@comcast.net) to determine which neighborhoods will receive funding.

The members were advised to note that second-round activities must occur after July 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Presentation and discussion on neighborhood activities / involvement and conflict resolution** — Susan Spaulding with Longmont Mediation Services reported that her office does a lot of neighbor-to-neighbor dispute resolution regarding matters such as trees, fences, parking, noise, parties, pets, barking dogs (**big** problem), trash cans, basketball hoops, and lifestyle issues. Community mediation largely involves trying to handle cases that would otherwise clog up the court system.

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Susan's office has achieved an 80% satisfaction rate, which is much higher than with the courts. People come to an agreement, or not, on their own, and although the process is taxpayer-funded, it is entirely confidential. Only volunteer, trained mediators are used, and their services can be implemented at any point in the dispute process, even while the matter is in court.

Susan feels the community mediation program is greatly underutilized, probably because so few people know of its existence. More volunteer mediators are needed. The next 5-day training session, conducted by the Colorado Council of Mediators, will be in Louisville beginning July 21<sup>st</sup>. (The cost of the training is \$1,000, so these folks must be really dedicated!)

Jon Clarke discussed neighborhood activities and involvement and presented the four elements of creating and fostering a sense of community.

1. Membership
  - a. Boundaries
  - b. Emotional safety
  - c. Sense of belonging & identification
  - d. Personal investment
  - e. Shared system of symbols and terms
2. Influence – Members need to feel they have some influence on the group, and some influence by the group is needed for group cohesion.
3. Integration & fulfillment of needs
  - a. Members feel rewarded for participation
  - b. Neighbors helping neighbors
4. Shared emotional connection
  - a. Shared history and future
  - b. Participation (or at least identification with the history)
5. Activities
  - a. Make it fun
  - b. Be creative
  - c. Change the dynamic: make it the norm to interact
  - d. Find out what people's interests are
  - e. Give credit where credit is due

**Public Invited To Be Heard** — Sue Bridgeman invited all present to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southmoor Park Picnic on June 7<sup>th</sup> and passed out flyers for the event.

**By motion duly made and seconded**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



George C. Nowell, Secretary