GHFL President’s Report
November 2019

This year, your Goose Hollow neighborhood association has devoted hundreds of hours of volunteer time to many projects that work to beautify our neighborhood, protect our low-income housing from demolition, bring our community together for Goose Hollow Days, and emphasize the importance of neighborhood associations to City Hall.

People often have the wrong idea about Goose Hollow’s demographics. I was shocked to see a news story this year that described Goose Hollow residents as wealthy. In fact, Goose Hollow residents are 80% renters and half of those are low income. 21% of our neighbors are on food stamps. 15% of Goose Hollow rentals are subsidized housing. Our board works diligently to represent all of our neighbors.

This year, in the Better Housing by Design effort to right-size zoning in historic districts, we reminded City Hall that our King’s Hill Historic District doesn’t just have beautiful historic buildings, but it is also the site of much of our naturally occurring affordable housing. Michael Mehaffy and I studied current rental rates and found that our oldest 2-6 story buildings are where renters can find the cheapest rents, at ½ the per square foot than in newer buildings in Goose Hollow. When the King’s Hill District was formed in the 1990s, the zoning was never changed to match the sizes of the historic buildings. Better Housing by Design was supposed to correct that mistake. City Council hasn’t voted on it yet, but we hope to bring allowable heights to 75 feet in a 2-block area, rather than the currently proposed 100’.

You may have read about Commissioner Eudaly’s efforts to strip neighborhood associations from the code in the Code 3.96 rewrite. We believe that any group receiving city money should be required to have open meetings, open records, and hold elections. This requirement would be removed in Eudaly’s proposals. And the importance of geographic representation, which is the bedrock of democracy will be removed. Portland’s 94 neighborhood associations are our only geographic representation, since City Council members are elected at-large. We will continue to keep a close eye on Eudaly’s proposed code changes.

Tiffanny Hammer and I have been working with the Oregon Department of Transportation to try to get food carts along SW 13th and 14th (where ODOT owns land next to I-405). ODOT has identified lots at SW 13th and Alder and 13th and Montgomery where they would allow food carts. We’ll keep working on that.

We’re grateful to Tiffany, who has put new energy into the Safety, Parking, and Transportation Committee. It meets on the third Wednesday every month and now includes a walking group to clean-up and keep an eye on the neighborhood.

In the Planning Committee, Jerry Powell and Scott Schaffer continue to keep us aware of the huge amount of developments occurring in Goose Hollow. We estimate that there are around 1,600 recently completed or soon to be completed apartments in Goose Hollow.
Roger Leachman is the point of contact for the\textit{ Bylaws Committee}, if you have any suggestions.

Eric Simon and Roger are the reps to\textit{ Neighbors West Northwest}.

Andrya Spiry is the co-chair for the\textit{ Goose Hollow Days Street Festival}, along with Melody Hues. This year, we had the incredible good fortune to have Pastor Dan Hues and his wife Melody from Zion Lutheran volunteer to chair the committee. No one had stepped up to work on the committee, and it looked like it wasn’t going to happen. We ended up having a very successful 3\textsuperscript{rd} year of the Goose Hollow Street Festival, which wouldn’t have happened without Zion’s help. They brought over 50 volunteers to help plan and run the event. Most of those folks don’t even live in the neighborhood. The MAC was a major sponsor and supporter for the event in many ways that the community doesn’t often see. Thank you to Mary Fetsch for continued good relationships with the MAC. The Timbers and BMW were major donors, along with many local businesses who participated as vendors and contributed. So we are very grateful to Zion, the MAC, the Goose for their great beer tent, and other businesses for their help to bring our Goose Hollow community together in such a positive and wonderful event. If you want to be a vendor at next year’s event, please contact Andrya.

We worked with the MAC and many other neighborhoods and organization to testify to Tri-Met to oppose the closing of the\textit{ King’s Hill MAX Station}. Though we showed up for months of meetings to testify, we were unsuccessful. Tri-Met voted to close the station. However, they will revisit their decision in a year, and we plan to remain involved to testify again.

We hope you will find a place to get involved with your neighborhood association, meet your neighbors, and help to keep Goose Hollow a wonderful place to call home.