

3/16/26 NWONA Board Meeting Minutes

Key takeaways

- The city plans to install bioretention swales and sidewalks along Rogers Street and Hayes Avenue, with construction anticipated for summer 2027 and an estimated 8-week build duration
- Emergency preparedness planning is actively underway in the neighborhood, with a meeting scheduled for March 22nd at Rob and Suzanne Penny's house
- Park cleanup and improvement efforts are being formalized with monthly work parties starting April 26th, including a plant swap
- The neighborhood association is managing several administrative tasks including account access, password management, and event scheduling for the coming year

Topics

Green Stormwater Retrofit - Rogers & Hayes Project

- Project installs 6 bioretention swales and sidewalks on the west side of Rogers Street between Langridge Avenue and Hayes Avenue, funded by a ~\$760,000 ecology grant (swales) and transportation funds (sidewalk)
- Construction will require temporary licenses to construct (TLCs) from 5 property owners, removal of some vegetation and trees, and a retaining wall (~3 ft) at 1403 Hayes due to slope grade requirements
- A flow splitter will divert high flows down Hayes Avenue to reduce flooding near Rogers and Dickinson; swales allow up to 6–12 inches of ponding and drain slowly to manage peak flows
- Maintenance will be performed by the city approximately twice a year; residents are welcome to use a string trimmer to maintain grass; media replacement expected every 5–10 years
- The alley between Dickinson and Hayes is a one-way, dead-end high-traffic alley; contractor will need steel plates on hand to maintain access during construction
- No streetlights are included in the project scope; requests can be directed to the transportation team for evaluation on existing Puget Sound Energy poles
- A childcare facility was flagged as important consideration for minimizing disruption during construction

Emergency Preparedness

- A neighborhood emergency preparedness meeting is scheduled for the 22nd, 3:30–4:30 PM, at Rob and Suzanne Penny's house
- Previous planning was done under former board member Bruce; the goal is to consolidate into one unified neighborhood plan covering where to go and what to do in an emergency
- Thurston County held an Emergency Preparedness Symposium last summer that provided valuable materials and information; organizers hope it will be repeated

Park Updates

- Kathy and Joe will lead monthly park work parties on the last Sunday of every month, 11 AM–3 PM, starting April 26th, which will also include a plant swap
- Concerns about potentially toxic plants in the park; Kathy is consulting the city about removal programs and best practices
- Longer-term goals include an overall park layout plan, replacing the rotting checkerboard table, adding benches, potentially a climbable sculpture for kids, and clearing the creek area for visibility and seating
- The kiosk needs staining and is missing a shingle or two on the corner, with a plan already in place to fix the shingles
- Erica, who originally donated native plants, has been contacted for guidance on managing overgrowth

CNA Update

- The city has a sidewalk survey open for neighborhood participation to help direct city sidewalk policy
- Intercity Transit has a major bus redesign taking effect May 3rd, with 100 new bus stops and new routes/numbers; currently in the public education phase
- Neighborhood matching grants saw 12 applications from 10 associations totaling \$39,000 in requests against \$32,000 available; SWONA applied for emergency preparedness workshops, food access/tool sharing, and hybrid meeting technology support
- The Port of Olympia Commissioner Jasmine Vasavada has been confirmed to present at the May 18th board meeting
- West Bay Yards project was recently appealed by Oly Ecosystems and is likely headed for litigation
- The Evergreen Pool is closing; tree ordinance updates are underway but public engagement won't begin until 2027; sanctuary city status was reaffirmed; armory construction permits have been issued

Administrative / Financial Matters

- PayPal balance: \$197.12; checking account: \$295.51; savings account: \$9.64; PayPal funds need to be transferred to the bank account
- Facebook account access was restored after resolving a two-factor authentication issue tied to an old landline; password sharing remains an unresolved security challenge
- Judy's name is associated with the EIN and needs to be updated with the IRS; timing to be determined after tax season
- The annual meeting month is being reconsidered; November is seen as difficult due to weather and holidays, with May or October suggested as better alternatives
- Lauren is being appointed to the Arts Commission on the 24th

Next steps

- Monthly park work parties will be held the last Sunday of each month, 11 AM–3 PM, beginning April 26th
- Neighborhood association will explore city resources for park improvements before applying for grant funding
- Dates for Summer Fun Fest, Fall Fest, and the annual meeting need to be set; a Doodle poll may be used
- Jasmine Vasavada (Port of Olympia) to be connected to Lauren via email to confirm for May 18th board meeting presentation