

# Laurelhurst

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## LNA May 2025 Election Results

By Kayleen Kusterer, LNA President  
[laurelhurst.president@gmail.com](mailto:laurelhurst.president@gmail.com)

The Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association (LNA) held its Annual Membership Meeting and Board elections on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at the Laurelhurst Club. This annual gathering offers residents a chance to shape the direction of our neighborhood by voting for board leadership and engaging in the community.

A total of 46 ballots were cast – 19 in person and 27 online – to fill five open board positions, each serving a two-year term through May 2027. We're pleased to announce the official election results:

- Vice President: Abigail Smock
- Treasurer: Dian Odell
- SE Uplift (SEUL) Representative: Steven Fisher
- SE Quadrant Representative: Wendy Stenzel
- SW Quadrant Representative: Steven Rebischke

Congratulations to our newly elected board members and thank you to everyone who participated in the election! The new board members began their tenure at the June Board Meeting.

The LNA would like to thank our outgoing board members for their dedicated service to the Board and to the Laurelhurst neighborhood. Your time, effort, and commitment have helped build a stronger, more connected community.

### Want to Get Involved?

Not on the Board? That is okay! You can join committees like Beautification, Land Use, and Safety— or volunteer at upcoming events, park cleanups, and other community events. Every helping hand makes a difference! Contact [Laurelhurst.president@gmail.com](mailto:Laurelhurst.president@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity.

## Meet the New LNA Board Members

By the LNA Elections Committee

During the Annual Membership Meeting, the LNA held elections for half of its Board positions as it does every May. Board members serve 2-year terms, and half of the positions are open for election each year. This provides overlap in service terms and allows for continuity in processes and “organizational memory.” Voting on paper ballots was available during the Membership Meeting and electronic voting was available for 24 hours.

The persons elected to the new 2-year Board terms are:

**Abigail Smock** – Vice President. Abigail is a long-time Board member, most recently serving as SE Quad Rep, coordinating delivery of Newsletters and other LNA materials to the SE Quad. She has also coordinated the annual Picnic/Block Party for the past 2 years, and again this year (Aug. 5). She has also initiated and supports LNA family-friendly activities.

**Dian Odell** – Treasurer. Dian is new to the Board but not new to the activities of the LNA. She has been active as a member of various LNA committees (Finance, Elections, Bylaws, Club, Century Home Plaques), and in the background creates and supports the technical tools and structure for LNA communications, record-keeping, financial practices and ease of transition when volunteers change roles.

**Steven Fisher** – SEUL Representative. SEUL is “Southeast Uplift”, which is a Portland City coalition of 30+ neighborhood associations. Steven will communicate to/from SEUL on issues important to LNA, and, given the new Portland government structure, he will expand his attention to a broader government focus. Steven is also chair of the LNA Land Use and Transportation Committee, which monitors new developments in the Laurelhurst area, watches for changes to land use laws and codes that may affect the neighborhood, and negotiates “Good Neighbor” agreements with any organization that has a potential impact on neighborhood traffic or conditions.

*Continued on page 3*

## September General Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, September 9, 6:30 pm**  
**The Laurelhurst Club**

Join your neighbors for the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting!

### What's on the agenda?

- Proposed ByLaws changes introduced
- Neighborhood Updates
- Special guest Sara Johnson, Rose City Self Defense Program Director, will lead a Rose City Defense Personal Safety Workshop -- topics include trusting and using your intuition, establishing and setting boundaries, assertive communication and others to help you stay safe.

## At Domingo's, the Authentic Flavors of Oaxaca Run in the Family

By Chris Brewster, LNA Secretary  
laurelhurst.secretary@gmail.com

Late last year, a new entrant in the local food scene moved into the space recently vacated by Pollo Norte, near the corner of NE 30th and NE Glisan. Domingo's is owned and operated by Gloria Martel and Abraham Carrasco, the powerhouse couple behind longstanding Santo Domingo Taqueria on Killingsworth. I recently sat with Gloria and her daughter, Leslie Carrasco, to talk about Domingo's, their cuisine, and their overall approach to food.

Domingo's focus is on the cuisine of Oaxaca. What is Oaxacan Mexican food? As Gloria explained, its signatures are a variety of rich, complex mole sauces, as well as special dishes like the Tlayuda, a large corn tortilla topped with vegetables, beans, cheese and meat, or Huaraches – the Tlayuda's elongated, thicker cousin, also topped with beans, cheese, meat and veggies. Another specialty is pozole – a soup with hominy at its core, spiked with mole, with chicken as an option. Domingo's menu is vegetarian friendly; for instance, the beans and rice are vegetarian.

After successfully running Santa Domingo Taqueria for many years, Gloria and Abraham felt that the time was right to expand into a second location. They weren't alone. Their daughter, Leslie, explained that after spending some time in other endeavors, she and her two siblings felt that "We're ready. We've had our own adventures, and we're now ready to be in the family business." Leslie's vision for Domingo's is a family-oriented restaurant that hosts different events – like live music – inspired by the warm family gatherings of her youth.

As a Texas transplant to the Pacific Northwest, I can say that having a real Mexican restaurant just blocks away has been a gift. Gloria's pozole and mole are for real, and I appreciate the homemade corn tortillas. The menu goes deep into classic Taqueria staples, with offerings like lengua (beef tongue), tangy nopales (the pads of the prickly-pear cactus), and chile relleno (a cheese-stuff poblano pepper smothered in sauce) and I encourage all neighbors to stop by and try it for themselves.

**Domingo's, 2935 NE Glisan St; open 9 am to 9 pm, seven days a week, for all-day breakfast lunch, and dinner. Beer and cocktails; happy hour 2-5 pm.**



Owners: Abraham and Gloria.  
Photo from Instagram



Interior of Domingo's  
Photo from Instagram

## What are the neighbors up to – and why?

By Pat Kelly and Shelley Zucker  
laurelhurstnetteamleader@gmail.com

In April, LNET hosted a meeting on active blocks, those where neighbors know each other and have planned together to support each other during emergencies or disasters. The attendees included over twenty lively change agents who acknowledged that a default response to today's political scene is often cynicism or withdrawal. Their antidote is activism in support of their neighbors. The group included a wide variety of neighbors whose occupations differ widely, including engineers; folks who work in various positions at the City of Portland, including the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management; Federal employees, including the Environmental Protection Agency; Amateur/Ham radio instructors; consultants for earthquake retrofits; committee members for statewide policies related to seismic safety; teachers and other community members who were in the direct hit zones of large tornadoes and California earthquakes. Several NET members from Buckman and Kerns attended with the goal of increasing collaboration with other NET teams and neighbors.

A central theme of the meeting was "What do active blocks look like?" Throughout Laurelhurst, you'll find "block captains" and others moving in and out of roles that welcome neighbors to block gatherings where kids can put on shows, folks can participate in potlucks or happy hours, engage in street art (like painting an intersection), dance in the street to a DJ, and collaborate to build a safer and more resilient neighborhood. Some active blocks have annual potlucks where they also dedicate a part of the meeting to learning from block "elders" and take steps to build community and resiliency by creating an email list and neighborhood map and discussing skill sets (medical training/search and rescue) and resources (AED/extra water/generator/heat sources) they may be able to share during an emergency.

Participants shared how critical it was for neighbors to organize from a place of knowledge and, during times of small or large crisis, to come together to help clean up, grab groceries, cook meals, do neighborhood sweeps and collaborate to create a friendly and resilient neighborhood.

Reinforcing this approach is particularly the work of Dr. Daniel Aldrich, currently at Northeastern University in Boston. Dr. Aldrich has studied multiple disasters throughout the world and experienced some, including personally being evacuated during Hurricane Katrina. His many publications and interviews in the twenty years since Katrina focus on the role of "social capital" in crisis. There are things that only governments or utilities can do, such as provide clean water and restore power. However, it is the personal ties among members of a community that determine survival during a disaster and recovery in its aftermath. Aldrich found this to be true during Hurricane Katrina, in Indian villages hit by a Tsunami, and in Japan and New Zealand following earthquakes. His recommendations include "Get more involved in neighborhood events . . . really at the end of the day, the people who will save you, and the people who will help you – they're usually neighbors."

Continued on page 12

Our suggestion is to take advantage of your block's summer get-togethers to develop a contact list that can be circulated among those interested in at least knowing who the neighbors are and how to contact them. From there consider having a meeting to learn about each other's skills, needs and interests regarding preparing for disasters.

One quote summarized the meeting: "We want to see collaboration!" So do we.

If you'd like support or ideas for organizing your event, please contact LNET at [Laurelhurstneighborhoodnetteamleader@gmail.com](mailto:Laurelhurstneighborhoodnetteamleader@gmail.com).

Portions of this article are taken from "The key to Disaster Survival? Friends and Neighbors," National Public Radio, July 4, 2011, and "Christchurch, Hardtack and the myth of Earthquake Preparedness," Thomas Hayden, March 10, 2011.

### Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

The LNA Newsletter is a good way to be in touch with your neighbors. If you have an idea for an article let the editor know at [laurelhurstnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:laurelhurstnewsletter@gmail.com).

Looking to advertise a business or event? Write us at [adteam.laurelhurst@gmail.com](mailto:adteam.laurelhurst@gmail.com).

The newsletter is delivered one week prior to each general meeting.

General Meeting	Article Deadline	Ads Deadline
Nov. 11	Sept. 23	Sept. 23

## Laurelhurst Partners with City's Problem Solver Team to Address Livability Issues

Vanessa Robinson and Alan Comnes, LNA Safety Committee Co-chairs, [laurelhurstsafetycomm@gmail.com](mailto:laurelhurstsafetycomm@gmail.com)

As a close-in neighborhood, Laurelhurst is heavily impacted by a range of livability issues like graffiti, illegal dumping, abandoned cars, and more. One way your LNA Safety Committee works to address these issues is by participating in bi-weekly "Problem Solver" meetings held by the City's Public Environment Management Office (PEMO, [www.portland.gov/pemo](http://www.portland.gov/pemo)).

PEMO works to revitalize the City's public spaces, including sidewalks, streets, parks, and rights of way. Its goal is to boost safety, use and economic vitality by cleaning up these spaces and adding lighting, murals, landscaping and other improvements. PEMO initiated the Problem Solver meetings in 2022 with the Mayor's Office facilitating meetings in districts experiencing a disproportionate amount of livability impacts.

Problem Solver meetings connect impacted neighborhoods like Laurelhurst and businesses directly with City agencies to solve public space issues creatively and quickly. The bi-weekly meetings include representatives from Portland Police, Portland Fire, the Street Services Coordination Center, and Graffiti Abatement—ensuring that concerns go straight to the right people.

LNA's Safety Committee regularly participates in these meetings as they are the best way to raise persistent safety and livability concerns and have the strongest possible voice in developing solutions with city staff. It's how we raise and track persistent problems in and around Laurelhurst Park, including drug trafficking, tree burning, individuals living or sleeping in their cars, and tent encampments.

### Your Role? Keep Reporting!

We know it can be frustrating to report the same issues again and again—but those reports matter. They build the documentation needed for the City to assign personnel and build a case. Reporting remains the best avenue—along with attending Problem Solver meetings—we can effect change.

If you see an issue please report it to [PDX Reporter](mailto:PDX Reporter), call 3-1-1, or email [311@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:311@portlandoregon.gov). As always, crimes or life-threatening emergencies should be reported to 9-1-1 and non-urgent criminal/suspicious activity reported to 503-823-3333 (PPB nonemergency). And, as always, please reach out to LNA's Safety committee with unresolved safety issues and your questions: [laurelhurstsafetycomm@gmail.com](mailto:laurelhurstsafetycomm@gmail.com)

### Laurelhurst Hats & Aprons

Purchase a Laurelhurst hat and/or apron on our web shop and support the LNA. \$25 per hat; \$35 per apron. Comfy & Stylish!





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**Shelley Zucker, MS**  
Oregon Principal Broker