

**NECN Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 16 2012, 6:30-8:30
NECN Office – Martin Room
Approved Minutes**

Meeting Attendees

Luke Groser, Woodlawn, NECN Board
Steve Cole, Irvington, NECN Board
Peter O’Neil, Irvington, NECN Board
Don Rouzie, Sabin, NECN Board
Jim Brown, Alameda, NECN Board
Joan Ivan, Eliot, NECN Board
Chris Lopez, Sullivan’s Gulch, NECN Board
David Lomax, King, NECN Board
Robert Bowles, At-large, NECN Board
Katie Ugolini, Concordia, NECN Board
Spencer Burton, Boise
Lupin (Gloria) Morgan, Boise, NECN Board
Don Rouzie, Sabin, NECN Board
Shoshana Cohen, Interim Executive Director

Meeting called to order by Chris Lopez at 6:36pm

Welcome and Introductions were done

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda, minutes and previous months’ minutes.

Katie Ugolini moved to amend the agenda to include the holiday party and amend the September minutes to refer to the correct casino measures. Robert Bowles seconds. Vote is taken. Chris Lopez abstains, all others vote in favor. Motion passes.

Joan Ivan moves to approve the minutes from the following months: October 2011, November 2011, February 2012, March 2012 and June 2012. Steve Cole seconds. Chris L. abstains and Don Rouzie abstains. All others vote in favor.

Holiday Party – the Board and Staff Holiday Party will be Saturday, December 1st at Steve Cole’s house. Katie U. will coordinate with Board members for food.

Announcements

State of the organization

Shoshana passes out Interim Executive Director’s report. Currently she has two main priorities. 1. Program Continuity – working with staff to ensure neighborhood associations, community committees, community partners and others receive quality programming. 2. Organizational administrative reviews and catch up. Reviewing finances, budget, reporting, policies, etc.

Neighborhood roundtable

There was an abbreviated neighborhood roundtable due to timing. Katie Ugolini reported that Concordia has their general meeting coming up. They have a lot of Board turnover and have 9 Board positions open.

Don Rouzie reported that there is work being done on NE 16th and Beech in an area that has had a lot of flooding.

Unfinished Business

1. **Energize NE** – Board members are being asked to flyer if they have an hour or two free at any time. There is not yet a need for canvassing, but there may be.
2. **NECN Board of Directors reporting back at NAs.** – Seems to be working well so far.
3. **Approve Communications funds for dispersals** – Shoshana clarifies that we actually need to amend the communications funds amount first. The budget only has \$9501 for communications line item. This is the amount that we received from ONI this year, but we still need to have the full \$12,000 for neighborhood communications.

David Lomax moves that we allocate \$2499 for communications funds dispersal. Don R. Seconds. Discussion: Steve C. brings up that we shouldn't say dispersal. NECN is able to directly use some of the funds for appropriate neighborhood communications. **David L. amends the motion to allocate \$2499 for communications. Peter O. seconds. Chris L. abstains. All others in favor.**

Peter O. moves that we disburse the funds to the neighborhoods. Don seconds. Discussion. At the executive committee meeting there was also discussion that the clean-up postcard has not been budgeted for. Possibility of using some of the communications funds for clean-up postcards. Alternatively if we give NAs full \$1000 and also fund the clean-up postcard we should clearly communicate to the NAs that we are funding additional communications efforts on their behalf. **Steve C. amends the motion to have Shoshana contact ONI to see when we need to get the funds out and if we can use the funds for the clean-up postcard. If so we get them out, if not Shoshana will send an email to the Board and ask them to take the temperature of the neighborhoods regarding value of communications funds and clean-up postcard. David L. and Chris L. abstain. All others in favor.**

New Actionable Items

1. **Approval of Small Grants Committee** – list of committee members is handed out. Joan Ivan expresses interest and that she hasn't been able to connect with Babs. Joan is still interested. **Steve Cole moves that we accept the small grants committee members, with the addition of Joan Ivan. Katie U. seconds. Chris L. abstains. All others in favor.** Lupin Morgan's name should also be corrected on the list.

- 2. PPS Arts Tax Measure brought by the schools committee.** The schools committee has brought a letter requesting that the NECN Board endorse Ballot Measure #26-146 for the Arts Education and Access Fund. *Luke Groser moves that it be the sentiment of the Board of Directors of NECN to endorse and support Measure 26-146. Peter O'Neil seconds.*

Discussion: What are the cons? People don't like taxes. Also, this is a regressive tax. Everyone, no matter their income, will be taxed the same amount. There was an Op-Ed in the Oregonian saying the operations costs and bureaucracies associated with this measure will be too high for the value that it will bring. Many Board members agree that the mechanism for this funding is not good. The Measure will not only support school arts funding, it will also go towards other arts organizations in the City. There are also pros to this measure. Arts funding is the first thing to be cut from schools. Currently, students' access to arts education is inequitable because some students attend schools where the parents raise extra money to support the arts. Students at schools where the parents can't raise funds don't get this education. These students may never know their arts related talents. Arts education also helps with brain development and critical skills. This funding mechanism may be a work around because there are no other options because of state laws. A number of members express that this is far from perfect, but it is the only thing that is available right now and without this kids will not get arts education. *Vote: Chris abstains, Jim Brown is opposed. All others in favor.*

- 3. Request for \$150 to be spent for consultation with Cindy Cumfer re: non-profit structure and risk management.** This is for follow up work with Cindy Cumfer to provide continued clarification on issues of risk associated with NA organizational structure, decision-making structure and fundraising. Several of the other coalition Directors will be doing prep work in each of these areas in order to use Cindy's time as effectively and efficiently as possible. *Steve Cole moves that we approve up to \$150 for this consultation. Don Rouzie seconds. Chris L. abstains. All others in favor.*
- 4. Request to offer fiscal sponsorships to Neighborhood Small Grants Applicants.** If we don't offer fiscal sponsorship to NAs and other small groups who are not 501c3s, many of them will not be able to receive a grant from us. Any organization that applies for a grant and would like fiscal sponsorship from us will need to fill out fiscal sponsor paperwork and meet our fiscal sponsor policies and procedures. We are currently short staffed and fiscal services take time, so for the larger fiscal sponsor program we still need to evaluate our capacity. We will also continue to consider appropriate limitations to put on the free service that is offered to Neighborhood Associations. *Steve C. moves that we approve fiscal sponsorship for grant applicants that meet our fiscal sponsor policies. Robert B. seconds. Chris L. abstains. All others in favor.*
- 5. Request for \$2,164 to repay PPS for back property taxes.** As an exempt organization we should not have to pay property taxes. However, we need to file

with the County for exemption every year. We did not file for 2010 and 2011. PPS paid the bill on our behalf, but according to our lease we are responsible for those taxes. PPS has repeatedly requested that we pay them. We submitted paperwork to try to appeal to the County for an exemption for the prior years. We were denied. We have successfully applied for the exemption for 2012. ***Steve Cole moves that we authorize the repayment to PPS for the back taxes. Jim Brown seconds. Chris abstains. All others in favor.***

Community Committee Reports

Committee reports are contained in the Interim ED report and committee summaries.

Quick summary from SALT. Katie Ugolini is now the SALT Chair. Also SALT discussed supporting Pastor Bradford and other churches and volunteers in daily lunchtime walks around N. Killingsworth and N. Albina. This effort has had success in reaching out to area youth and there has actually been a recent drop in crime in the area. Staff will work on a schedule and send to Board to see who can join us.

Staff will also continue to send all committee agendas to entire neighborhood board list and work on sending committee summaries to neighborhood board list as well.

Board Committee Reports

1. Finance – Robert Bowles reported on last year’s financial information. For fiscal year 2011-2012 we lost close to \$40,000. The finance committee will be bringing some budget revisions to the Board, hopefully by next month. We are still working on the specifics of last year so we have good information upon which to base this year’s budget. While we want to remain conservative in our budgeting, we also need to be realistic and plan for items that we will actually need to spend, i.e, some money for fundraising, the full communications amount, etc.
2. Personnel – no report
3. Rules – no report

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Fundraiser will not be happening in January

Interim Director's Report – report was handed out

ONI is looking for people to serve on an ONI Standards review committee and looking for representatives from the Coalitions. Chris has already been contacted about this. ***Steve Cole moves that Steve and Chris represent the Coalition on this committee. Peter seconds. Chris abstains, all others in favor.***

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.