



**NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

**NECN Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2013
NECN Office – Conference Room
Approved Minutes**

Meeting Attendees

Board

Chris Lopez, Sullivan's Gulch, NECN President
Steve Cole, Irvington, NECN 1st Vice President
Paul Anthony, Humboldt, NECN 2nd Vice Pres.
Lupin Morgan, At-Large, NECN Board
Jim Brown, Alameda, NECN Board
Adam Karol, Alameda, NECN Board
Stephen Gomez, Boise, NECN Board
Pauline Bradford, Eliot, NECN Board
Joan Ivan, Eliot, NECN Board

Katie Ugolini, Concordia, NECN Board
Peter O'Neil, Irvington, NECN Board
Joshua Curtis, Sabin, NECN Board
Luke Groser, Woodlawn, NECN Board
Shirley Minor, Woodlawn, NECN Board
John Prell, Grant Park, NECN Board
Brian Cefola, Grant Park, NECN Board

Staff

Shoshana Cohen, Executive Director
Fran Ayaribil, Special Projects Coordinator
Katy Asher, Neighborhoods Program Manager
Cameron Herrington, Communications Manager
Claire Adamsick, Committees Coordinator
Katie Chastain, Administrative Coordinator

Guests

Micah Meskel, Humboldt neighbor

Meeting called to order by Chris Lopez at 6:35pm

Welcome and introductions completed.

Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes

**Katie Ugolini moves to approve the agenda and minutes as written. Paul Anthony seconds.
Motion approved unanimously with Chris Lopez abstaining.**

Executive Director's report

Shoshana shares written ED report and asks for feedback from the board to share any suggestions for what they'd like to see for content and format. Highlights upcoming events, roundtables, and meetings. Further introduced the new NECN staff and Fran, Claire and Cameron shared their backgrounds and roles at NECN.

Unfinished Business

N. Williams Project – wrap up

Steve Cole sent a letter to the developers that our board had decided after the last meeting to not pursue leasing space in the FreWill Doc building. They acknowledged our withdrawal. We continue to support their desire to engage the community.

New Actionable Items

2013 NECN Holiday Party

We are considering a board/staff holiday party in place of the December board meeting. Steve volunteered the Cole residence as an available location. Katie Ugolini, Brian Cefola, & Lupin Morgan will coordinate the potluck and details of the holiday party.

2013-2014 Small Grants

The City's small grants program funds were cut for this year. We raised about \$5,000 last year to put toward our own small grants program. Staff has been brainstorming ideas with goals to increase ties in the community, reaching beyond neighborhood associations, and support a wide variety of grassroots community projects. We would like to change the criteria and put on an event (with the possibility of some sponsorships/fundraising during the event) that showcases all of the projects before the small grants selections are made.

The early word at ONI BAC is that FY 14-15 will not be a budget cut year. It may be possible that we will also get the funding for the City Small Grants program back next fiscal year.

PDC MLK & Alberta Development

Last week the PDC voted to give a \$2M subsidy to a mystery grocery store, later announced to be Trader Joes, for the vacant lot at MLK Blvd & Alberta St. Immediately following the vote, PDC attended the King Neighborhood Association meeting to share the news to approximately 50 attendees. About 10 years ago the community recommended a grocery store in the lot, and there have been continued conversations about this at several points since then. There have also been many changes in the neighborhood since the original recommendation and at the KNA meeting there were questions raised about whether or not the community supports this development and/or the giving of a subsidy for it. They heard from people who felt the PDC is relying on old information and didn't provide a public process before making this decision. KNA did not take any particular position about the development.

There are some people who are very upset and there was a protest organized this last weekend on the proposed site. In particular we have heard from people upset that the PDC is subsidizing a project that will continue to contribute to the gentrification of the neighborhood. There are also others who are in support of the project and in particular the existing Vanport businesses seem to be very supportive of the proposal.

We are just sharing information for board awareness around this issue as it is rising very quickly. NECN has provided feedback on PDC's process in the past, and held a series of forums for community feedback back when the Interstate Urban Renewal Area was expanding. There is a collective decision for NECN to watch this issue, see what position the KNA takes, and reassess after the first of the new year.

Formation of a Grievance Committee

A grievance was received yesterday and we need to form a committee to process the grievance in a timely manner. Some background training will be given to committee members, and then the committee can consider the grievance. It was encouraged that board members without ties to the grievant or already on the Executive Committee volunteer for this. No volunteers in the room. **Steve Cole moves for the Executive Board to act as Grievance Committee at next regularly scheduled meeting, seconded by Joshua Curtis.** More discussion, Jim Brown volunteers to serve if a Grievance Committee is formed separate from the Executive Committee. No other volunteers. **Vote taken and motion passes, with Katie Ugolini, Jim Brown and Chris Lopez abstaining.**

Community Committee Reports

CEDC

They will be reviewing the Brownfields forum that occurred last month and will likely talk about the new PDC action.

LUTC

The committee has been gathering neighborhood transportation priorities from all 12 NAs to deliver to Commissioner Novik at the December meeting.

Commissioner Fritz selected Steve Cole to serve on the Washington Park Transportation Management Association Board.

Parks

Shoshana informs the board that the new Parks & Infrastructure Subcommittees have brought on a lot of additional staff time. While just subcommittees they have had similar workloads to the full committees. Staff is still considering what the ongoing needs will be and whether or not we will be able to accommodate them. The staff plan was based on four committees, not six so she may come back to the board in the new year and ask for guidance prioritizing some of the committee work.

There is also discussion about whether Parks should be nestled under LUTC or would be more visible in SALT or on its own. We would want to be as inclusive as possible with our outreach on the Parks Committee. It will remain under LUTC for now, and we'll ask for the specific feedback that is being requested in the short-term from Commissioner Fritz's office. We value being asked for our neighborhood's priorities from the City and want to honor that. As we determine the longer term goals for the Parks Committee, we can revisit its status as a subcommittee vs. a committee. We can also send inquiries to NAs to see about interest in participation.

Steve Cole clarifies the intent of the Infrastructure Subcommittee is to be a small working group to focus on specific tasks and report back to LUTC for decisions, not a place to bring issues. Staff should continue to post notice of the meetings, etc.

SALT

New members are welcome at SALT! They are currently working on planning ideas for the next six months, with a possible focus on gentrification affecting the area.

Schools

PTA leaders coming to speak at the next meeting. PPS has announced they are starting rebalancing process again in January.

Finance

Review reports in handouts.

Personnel

Luke Groser reports the current issue they are working on this quarter is to evaluate health insurance benefits for staff. There is also a continuation of recruiting board members and working on board orientation. Encourages all board members to look around your neighborhood for people who are potential assets to our organization.

Rules

Steve Cole reports the committee has had several meetings, should have something to submit to the Executive Board soon and bylaws to the full board in January.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Resource Development

No report.

Strategic Planning

Met once to share initial thoughts. Request for more people to join the committee.

Adjourn 8:15 pm

Submitted by Katie Chastain.