



**NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

**NECN Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2014
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.
Robert Bowles, NECN Treasurer
Jim Brown, Alameda, NECN Board
Stephen Gomez, Boise, NECN Board
Joan Ivan, Eliot, NECN Board
Carol Gossett, Sullivan's Gulch, NECN Board

Katie Ugolini, Concordia, NECN Board
Peter O'Neil, Irvington, NECN Board
Luke Groser, Woodlawn, NECN Board
Shirley Minor, Woodlawn, NECN Board
John Prell, Grant Park, NECN Board
Brian Cefola, Grant Park, NECN Board
Damon Isiah Turner, NECN Board

Staff

Shoshana Cohen, Executive Director
Katy Asher, Neighborhoods Program Manager

Guests

Casey Parks, Oregonian reporter

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

Welcome and introductions completed.

Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes

Katie U moves to accept the November meeting minutes and tonight's agenda. Steven G. seconds. Unanimously approved, Chris L abstaining.

Executive Director's Report

Shoshana notes that she emailed her Director's report to the Board in December, and will not provide a printed copy this month. Portland State University's Art and Social Practice Program has moved into the King Facility and they are interested in the intersection of art and civic engagement. Board members are invited to a King Facility Open House hosted by NECN and the PSU program on Tuesday, February 4th, 5-7PM. PTA, King Neighborhood Association (KNA) members and staff from the school are invited.

Shoshana presents a list of priorities staff developed for the second half of our fiscal year. These are in-line with the work plan presented with the FY 2013-2014 budget, with some additional areas of emphasis highlighted at the top. She relays that in December, NECN staff helped KNA bring 60+ people together to talk about their priorities for development in the neighborhood. People requested family-centered community gathering places, walkable neighborhoods, access to jobs – desires commonly heard in all neighborhoods. Additionally, staff heard people asking for the neighborhood association to address gentrification, affordable housing so that everyone can access these neighborhood improvements. Staff believes that there is an opportunity to identify shared priorities and avenues for advocacy with representatives of some of the partners that attended the conversation such as the Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF), Urban League and other community organizations in the north/northeast area. Urban development will continue, and brings amenities that people want to see in their neighborhoods. Staff are hearing that if development happens without emphasis on affordable housing and increased job opportunities, those amenities don't get distributed to everyone. Shoshana asks the board for permission to allocate more time to addressing this ongoing theme in the neighborhoods more proactively. Dedicated time would mean having initial meetings with

other partners, integrating those conversations into board and committee meetings, working with King if they want to do another forum, etc.

Discussion of whether NECN can do anything to effect the current Vanport development. Shirley suggests NECN create a team that identifies undeveloped properties owned by the Portland Development Commission in order to allow NECN to proactively make suggestions about what should happen on that land.

Katie U moves to endorse the staff priority of working on partnerships around gentrification. Shirley seconds. Stephen G. supports the general idea and wants to address a broader issue than gentrification, such as housing or other issues. He suggests that NECN be a convener for the neighborhoods and organizations such as the PAALF and Portland Housing Bureau (PHB). Carol agrees with Stephen and encourages Shoshana to see how NECN committees can expand on this idea. Chris thinks of NECN as a natural convener and suggests that newly hired staff have helpful skills in this arena.

Steve Cole questions what this focus will mean a shift away from and what the priorities or partnerships would be. Shirley suggests that NECN's partnerships should be focused and that staff should work with groups that have a focus. Steve requests that staff have discussions with different groups and bring a more specific proposal forward. John asks Shoshana to suggest a specific allocation of staff hours to put toward this priority. Damon suggests NECN speak with developers in addition to neighbors, and help hone in on the big topics (such as vendors, community space amenities), branding NECN as a neutral organization.

Katie U. removes her motion stating that she doesn't think a motion is required for this conversation. Shoshana asks for a straw poll regarding whether this is a direction that staff can emphasize in their work. In favor: 9. Steve Cole and John Prell opposed, Chris L abstaining.

Steve explains that he is confused about what prevents staff from already making this work a priority.

Unfinished Business

Vanport Square South (Alberta & MLK)

Shoshana provides some context for a position letter from the Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) developed at their December 4th, 2013 meeting. Paul suggests edits, including mentioning that Portland Development Commission (PDC) has chosen an out-of-state developer, using the phrasing "constructing two small single-story retail buildings," mentioning that people are unhappy that it is being so under-built for what it could be.

Steve C. mentions that many neighbors favor the development and also understands that PDC collected community input, albeit several years ago. Paul suggests that the PDC is lying to neighborhoods, and Chris reports that he has heard similar sentiments from King neighbors. Steven G. thinks NECN should make a stronger request that the PDC more proactively engage the community. Steve C. points out that LUTC wants to intentionally make the letter soft. Stephen wants NECN to expect tremendous change and rigorous engagement. Some around the table suggest PDC doesn't want NECN as a neighborhood partner.

Steve moves to send the letter with Paul's changes. Paul seconds. Shoshana says if we're weighing in on the Vanport Development, this letter may be out of date due to all of the activities that have taken place since the beginning of December. Katie U would like to write another letter about process if we do approve this one. In favor:10. Stephen G. opposed, Chris L abstaining.

Update on Grievance

Rick Sills filed a grievance against NECN in November. The Grievance Committee reviewed the grievance and wrote to Mr. Sills stating that his claims were not supported by their investigation. After receipt of the Executive Committee's response shortly before the beginning of the holiday season, Mr.

Sills requested and received an extension for an appeal to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI).

The Executive Committee subsequently discussed the motion in question (dated September 2013) that indicated that was NECN asking neighborhood associations to change from a membership governance to board governance structure. This original motion did not contain an indication that much of the board's discussion was about the fact that neighborhood associations would need to have a board governance structure in order to receive liability insurance offered by NECN. At their January meeting, the Executive Committee voted to amend that motion to more explicitly include language about liability insurance.

Mr. Sills also submitted a public information request to NECN for all records pertaining to the issue on Jan 9th. ONI weighed in on the issue January 17th saying that they did not support the motion made by the Board in September, but that the amendment made in January was acceptable. ONI also discussed NECN's right to choose an insurer. Mr. Sills wrote yesterday to say he is still appealing. Given Mr. Sills' most recent email, Shoshana is not clear if the records request still stands or not and she will wait to see.

The Board acknowledges that such an extensive record request will take much of Shoshana's time, that it should not be her immediate priority and that she should charge appropriate fees for time and any materials produced. Chris explains that Mr. Sills says the reason he is continuing to grieve is because he doesn't think NECN responded to the grievance thoroughly enough.

FreWill Dock Request (Note: Correct project name is One North)

The developers of One North have requested a letter of support from NECN for a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant for creating public space in their development at north Fremont and Williams. Boise narrowly voted to send a letter of support, and Shoshana is waiting to hear back from Eliot about what they've decided to do. Stephen G. presents the BNA letter of support and mentions that One North is pursuing a non-profit partner with an educational organization in the area. **Steve C moves to table the issue due to lack of information and Robert seconds.** Shoshana emphasizes that the Executive Committee tabled this earlier in the month because they lacked information and that she received additional answers to the Executive Committee's earlier questions if the board will allow her to share that information. Due to timing, tabling is not an option. We may not have enough information for a decision, but we cannot just table for another time. **Steve withdraws the motion to table.**

Discussion follows about whether NECN will support the project, including Boise and Eliot's positions, other community partners, safety and how additional money might benefit community access to and enjoyment of the space. Shirley suggests that Boise should ask for priority use of the space similar to the agreement that Concordia Neighborhood Association has with McMenemy's Kennedy School. She suggests that if the community is to get something in return for a letter of support, we be specific about what that benefit will be.

Steve C. moves to support sending letter in favor of grant application. Peter seconds. In favor: 8, Joan and Carol opposed, Chris and Jim abstaining.

New Actionable Items

Community Event/Fundraiser – 2014

Shoshana reports staff are proposing to host a community event and small fundraiser in September or October in celebration of NECN's 40th birthday. She shares a draft outline of the event to include music, food from each neighborhood, silent auction and possibly a film about the history of our organization. She invites board members to help with idea generation and assistance with finding musicians, MC's, ticket sales, sponsors, food and silent auction donations. John Prell offers to help with the music. Shoshana takes a straw poll and the board expresses general support for inviting their friends and talking to businesses with support and materials from NECN staff.

Possible Board Workshop/Training – 2014

Chris L announces that the City's office of Equity is offering a workshop to all coalition staff and board members on February 27th, 4-7pm at the Kenton Firehouse. The Office of Equity is also open to creating a custom workshop for us sometime in the future as well.

Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association (SGNA) Nature in Neighborhoods Grant Application

Carol reports that SGNA submitted a pre-application for one of these grants and is requesting NECN to be their non-profit partner if they are accepted. As part of their proposal, SGNA would mow low-growing weeds, trim trees and bushes, and work with Portland Parks and Recreation, NECN, Irvington Community Association and Grant Park Neighborhood Association to partner with Oregon State University and Portland State University to host education programs in the Gulch between 11th and 37th Streets. Steve suggests that this would be a good way to collaborate with Lloyd Center businesses and neighbors. Shoshana says we will still need to consider our fees and exact support details, and ask for the project to fund NECN staff if we fiscally sponsor such a large project. **Carol moves that NECN agree to partner with SGNA in the pre-application and application. Paul seconds. Unanimously in favor, Chris L abstaining.**

Parks Subcommittee Feedback

Steve C. reports that the Parks Subcommittee submitted a report to Parks staff and Commissioner Fritz regarding their main priorities for parks in the area (refers to letter in packet). Steve allowed it to be sent to the Commissioner and feels that he should have asked for prior approval from the Board. He presents the letter to the board for comment or approval.

Paul supports the content of the letter and requests that the Board strike the section regarding a request for a park in Humboldt. Carol requests the Board strongly advocate for funding for the area along the Sullivan's Gulch trail. After additional discussion about strategy, **Steve moves to resend the letter with Paul's amendment, and authorize board members to advocate for all of the recommendations in the letter with Parks staff and Commissioner Fritz. Seconded by Jim. Unanimously in favor, Chris L. abstaining.**

Green King Project – AmeriCorps Volunteer

NECN fiscal sponsor project Green King is applying for a grant from East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District for landscaping and depaving around the King Facility and King School. Shoshana and Diego, the volunteer leading Green King will explore opportunities for hiring an AmeriCorps Volunteer to help coordinate the project and also support additional environmental projects in the NECN area.

Letter to Legislature reaffirming our opposition to the CRC

Steve C. asks the Board to consider reiterating NECN's position as the Legislature continues to discuss the Columbia River Crossing. **Steve moves to send a letter (see packet), sign onto 1,000 Friends of Oregon's petition against the CRC and authorize someone to speak on NECN's behalf at a Legislative Town Hall this Saturday at Self Enhancement Inc. Shirley seconds.** Damon suggests reaching out to Mayor Hales's policy advisor, Jackie Dingfelder, who was strongly opposed to the project when she served in the legislature. Steve proposes that the letter also ask City Commissioners and the Mayor to come out against this project. **Unanimously in favor, Chris L. abstaining.**

Community Committee Reports

CEDC

No report.

LUTC

Carol shares that Barry Manning from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability will attend LUTC tomorrow night to talk about rezoning mixed-use corridors in the area.

SALT

Peter, Katie U. and Claire met with command staff at the North Precinct and Precinct staff agreed to attend meetings on a quarterly basis. At their next meeting, SALT will host The Portland Food Project, and meet a new District Deputy Attorney. Shoshana brings forward an initial staff recommendation that Parks Subcommittee be consolidated with SALT, and become an ongoing topic at SALT meetings. The recommendation reflects staff having difficulty finding an appropriate date to schedule evening meetings for this subcommittee that don't conflict with existing neighborhood and NECN meeting times. Staff has spoken with the SALT chair, but has not fully vetted this recommendation yet and will continue to talk to both SALT and LUTC over the next month.

Schools

No report.

Board Committee Reports

Finance

Robert presents information from November, stating that NECN is under budget. Shoshana says December reports are looking good and that she will present taxes at the February Exec. Board meeting.

Personnel

Luke reiterates a previously made offer to meet with potential Board members, and requests that Directors begin thinking about people to invite to join the Board at NECN's June elections.

Rules

Steve provides background information about the current bylaws revision process explaining that the last rewrite was more radical, and that the current revisions are more a matter of housekeeping. Stephen suggests changing the word "morally" to "ethically" in Article 4, Section 3. The group agrees to make this change. Chris L. leads a line by line review of proposed changes. (Joan leaves meeting.) In Article 6, Section 2 the word "of" is replaced with "and" in "...Board meetings *and* the Executive Committee." In Article 7, Section 4 the number 9 also will be spelled out to: "...minimum of nine (9)...". Chris raises questions about quorum requirements in Article 7, Section 8 and not allowing meetings to be held without quorum present. Discussion follows that we often conduct meetings and wait to take action until quorum is present, no change is made. The group decides to change language in Article 8, Section 2.B.3. to: "...those time sensitive decisions must be submitted to the board for ratification." **Steve moves to accept these bylaws for a reading as amended. Paul seconds. Unanimously in favor, Chris L. abstaining.**

Neighborhood Announcements

Shirley announces that Woodlawn will host Sunday Parkways on July 27th.

Carol announces that the Transportation Subcommittee of LUTC will meet tomorrow at NECN at 1pm with a representative from Metro.

Adjourn 9:35 pm

Submitted by Katy Asher