



**NORTHEAST COALITION  
OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

**NECN Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
NECN Office – Conference Room  
Approved Minutes**

**Meeting Attendees**

**Board**

Chris Lopez, Sullivan's Gulch, NECN President  
Steve Cole, Irvington, NECN 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Paul Anthony, Humboldt, NECN 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.  
Jim Brown, Alameda Representative  
Katie Ugolini, Concordia Representative  
Joan Ivan, Eliot Representative  
Paul Anthony, Humboldt Representative  
Peter O'Neil, Irvington Representative

Luke Groser, Woodlawn Representative  
Shirley Minor, Woodlawn Representative  
Joshua Curtis, Sabin Representative  
Carol Gossett, Sullivan's Gulch Representative  
Sharita Towne, Vernon Representative  
Damon Isiah Turner, At-Large  
Jennifer Jardee-Borquist, At-Large

**Staff**

Shoshana Cohen, Executive Director  
Cameron Herrington, Communications Manager  
Claire Adamsick, Committees Coordinator

**Guests**

Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Sue Glenn, Portland Parks & Recreation  
Alan Silver, King NA Board Member  
Margo Dobbertin, King NA Board Member

**Meeting called to order by Chris Lopez at 6:40pm**

**Presentation by Commissioner Amanda Fritz**

Commissioner Fritz thanked NECN for soliciting neighborhood input via its Parks Subcommittee via its Land Use and Transportation Committee. She announced Parks funding in NECN neighborhoods, including the completion of the new Grant Park track and field (a total of \$550,000); additional work at Dawson Park on ADA accessibility and a water feature; and a new splash pad at Fernhill Park. Splash Pads are planned for parks like Alberta but are expensive (\$500,000). Sue Glenn, PPR North Zone Manager, can share design plans at the next Parks meeting. Commissioner Fritz also noted the sinkhole in the tennis courts at Grant Park and will discuss this issue with Parks maintenance staff.

Other priorities that NECN submitted will not be funded in this budget cycle. Commissioner Fritz will be sharing an updated project list in the coming months, and will be asking coalitions to review this updated list and share priorities. In the meantime, anyone is welcome to call in with a suggestion or question about parks funding. Parks Proposal Process forms are available online.

Future areas of consideration for NECN: Commissioner Fritz indicated that a number of questions have come in about fencing for DOLAs (dog off-leash areas). She has also received a few requests on installing name placards on benches in Dawson Park for community leaders Harold Williams Sr. and Lee Perlman. She encouraged board members to think about other community leaders whose names could be included. Since there is no maintenance funding for this, Commissioner Fritz asked whether a "Friends of Dawson Park" group could be formed to help raise funds for this project. Also, there will be funding for one Citywide Master Plan next year; one consideration is a mountain bike master plan. NECN will be hosting its next discussion on Parks priorities at its May 28 Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting.

The City is buying Colwood Golf Course with SDC funding and will operate it as a 9-hole course with a driving range while the City pays off its System Development Charges.

City Budgeting forums are coming up over the next several weeks; the Commissioner reported that the City is not intending to make funding cuts but has very little extra capacity. There were things that were one-time projects that are of importance like the SUN schools and the Tree Project, for which the City will continue to seek ongoing funding in its next budget cycle.

### **Welcome and introductions completed.**

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Chris Lopez suggested an amendment to agenda to include approving three new NECN board members.

**Joshua Curtis moves to approve the agenda and minutes, Seconded by Jim Brown. Motion carries with Chris Lopez and Jennifer Jardee-Borquist abstaining.**

### **Approval of new NECN Board Members**

NECN would like to formally approve three new board members: Alan Silver and Margo Dobbertin, King Neighborhood, and Sharita Towne, Vernon Neighborhood. Margo is a non-practicing attorney and Alan is a longtime renter in King who is interested in bringing equity issues to the table.

**Katie Ugolini motions to approve three new board members Alan Silver, Margo Dobbertin and Sharita Towne. Jennifer Jardee-Borquist seconds, Motion carries with Chris Lopez and Damon Isiah Turner abstaining.**

### **Executive Director's Report**

Two events on Wednesday 3/19: Urban Bee Habitat Workshop in the NECN conference room; the City is simultaneously holding a Liquor License Forum (with promotional help from NECN's SALT Committee) in the King School Cafeteria.

Small Grants applications were due on Friday 3/14; 16 applications were received. NECN will be distributing \$5,000 among five eligible projects. The grants committee will be meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> to review applications.

Shoshana, Steve Cole and Peter O'Neil met with Mayor Hales and his staff on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Last Thursday was one of the items the Mayor wanted to discuss. The City will continue running the event this year and is interested in a 9 p.m. closing time and in having businesses/vendors that profit from the event help pay for the event. Mayor Hales mentioned hiring an event manager to oversee these activities. The City still seems interested in having a non-profit assume responsibility for this event in the future. A Last Thursday-focused meeting with North Precinct Commander Leloff and Chad Stover from the Mayor's Office will take place at the April 21 SALT meeting.

NECN Messaging: Cameron Herrington, Communications Manager, solicited initial feedback from board members at the February meeting to gain a sense of members' perceptions of NECN's role and purpose in the community. Cameron and NECN staff will continue to analyze the input in helping shape our organization's messaging.

Fundraising: NECN will be hosting a celebration/fundraising event in September or October of this year. Staff is still looking for volunteer support to help solicit donations, sponsorships and design the event itself. We'll be following up with an email soon.

Staff has also been busy supporting neighborhoods and fiscal sponsored projects recently including Sabin Green Streets and Albina Green Park..

Chris Lopez announced that after four years of board service, he will be stepping down as Board Chair as he recovers from a health scare. He will continue to stay involved with SALT and other issues about which he is passionate.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Vanport Square South (Alberta & MLK) Update**

Mayor Hales called a meeting with leaders in the African American community that Shoshana and Steve attended to assess support for the original Vanport Plaza (Trader Joe's/Majestic) plan. The Mayor said that there will be an additional \$20 million for a total of \$36 million that will be allocated to affordable housing in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area (ICURA).

Jennifer Jardee-Borquist reported that Ray Leary and Jeana Woolley, the original Vanport Square developers, came to a King NA meeting to talk about the history of development at Vanport and along MLK. The issue about neighborhood development and community investment extends beyond the Vanport parcel itself.

Paul Anthony reported that he spoke with PBOT recently about Alberta/MLK and the challenges of that particular intersection. PBOT is interested in putting in left-hand turn lanes; which would require street widening on the west side of MLK. This would make a commercial development at the Vanport site more realistic. We need to make sure that this Land Use process with this site is not circumvented.

### **CRC Update**

The CRC office is being closed, according to media reports. Steve Cole reported that NECN is a plaintiff in a federal lawsuit involving an environmental impact statement. This lawsuit is being delayed a year; the Governor is hopeful that the legislature will change enough to win support for the project in Oregon and Washington in the future. The CRC is still an agenda topic at Metro's TPAC (Transportation Policy Advisory Committee) so it is an issue likely to resurface again. As a non-practicing attorney, Steve will continue to monitor the legal process related to our case.

### **New Business**

#### **Sabin Community Association and Boise Neighborhood Association – Affordable Housing Letters**

The Sabin Community Association and Boise Neighborhood Association are working to address displacement and affordable housing in our neighborhoods. They have asked that the NECN Board of Directors consider adopting affordable housing in North/Northeast Portland neighborhoods as one of NECN's priority projects. Sabin and Boise neighbors are organizing a cross-neighborhood work group to address these issues.

One of the issues is in updating aging homes. Owners need funds to salvage homes so they don't continue to deteriorate. The only way to have funds is if those family members are working. We need to look at these issues holistically; the issue is not just a lack of affordable housing, it is an issue of economic stability/living wages. Clarifying what is meant by "affordable" housing is critical – does this mean low-income, subsidized, etc.?

For now, it makes sense for people to participate in the affordable housing work group and see if there are more specifics that emerge.

#### **Request to co-sponsor a speaker panel/info session with CNN & SE Uplift about development**

A number of neighborhoods in and outside of our coalition area have shared concerns about tear-downs, remodels, and the regulatory environment around demolitions in our neighborhoods. SE Uplift is forming a "demolition study group" to research the standards around demolitions and will be sharing its findings. In the meantime, NECN is interested in working with coalition partners to develop a public forum to inform and mobilize neighbors on these issues.

#### **Steve Cole moves to support an informational forum on the regulatory environment around demolitions and development in our neighborhoods. Seconded by Joshua Curtis. Motion carries with Chris Lopez abstaining.**

### **ONI Equity Training**

The Office of Equity and Human Rights organized a training for Coalition staff and board members on equity, institutional racism and bias in decision-making. The Office is interested in providing tools and resources that could be used more broadly in the community. The training is available to the broader NECN board but we're still not sure if board members from each of the neighborhood associations will be able to attend. There is also a Governing for Equity Conference next week in Portland with a public session the evening of Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Jennifer Jardee-Borquist moved that NECN ask the Office of Equity and Human Rights organize a training for the NECN board, Katie Ugolini seconds. Motion carries with Chris Lopez abstaining.**

### **Community Committee Reports**

#### **CEDC**

No meeting in March; Tony DeFalco from Verde will speak at April 22 meeting on Living Cully, an initiative focused on preserving housing affordability, retaining existing neighborhood businesses, and helping families achieve economic self-sufficiency. Damon Isiah Turner noted that the April meeting will be CEDC's last meeting; it will move to an ad-hoc status and will designate its regular meeting time (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month) as a slot where discussions on timely and critical community economic development can take place.

#### **LUTC**

The Transportation Subcommittee of LUTC is reviewing the project list of Metro's Regional Transportation Plan, a process that takes place every four years to attain federal funding for projects in the region. LUTC is interested in submitting

comments to Metro on the project list. Public comment period is March 21 – May 5. The NECN Executive Committee meets April 7<sup>th</sup>; the Subcommittee, via the LUTC, will submit projects for support at that time.

Jim Brown shared a concern on Chapter 5 on the Comp Plan regarding neighborhood-sensitive development. This will be a topic of discussion at the LUTC meeting on March 26.

### **SALT**

SALT is helping promote a City-led “Liquor License Best Practices” forum on March 19. At its April 21 meeting, Commander Leloff will be present to discuss public safety measures, community perspectives and concerns on Last Thursday.

### **Schools**

No meeting in March due to Spring Break.

### **Board Committee Reports**

#### **Finance**

We are under budget and currently working on next year’s budget. It looks unlikely that there will be funding for the Small Grants program. We would like to pre-pay expenses for FY 2014 so that we can maintain a slightly larger budget without an increase in ONI funding.

#### **Personnel**

Luke encouraged recruitment of new board members for June elections. Working on developing Directors Interest form, Recruitment Handouts, Election Guidelines, Mid-Year Position Vacancy Guidelines.

#### **Rules**

Nothing to report.

### **Additional Neighborhood Updates**

Carol Gossett: 24<sup>th</sup> and Broadway had the oldest lights in the City and are finally being replaced, in addition to new sidewalks. Sullivan’s Gulch NA is hosting its third annual Charrette on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m. at Grace Memorial Church (17th and Weidler). Dr. Burns from PSU will be talking about the Geology of the Gulch, among other speakers. In July and August, the neighborhood association will be inventorying every tree in Sullivan’s Gulch (in public right of way).

Shirley Minor: Was amazed by the Bioswale at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Bryant in Woodlawn. She reported on the City’s program on Bioswales through the Bureau of Environmental Services. Danny Kapsch is the person at the City who manages Stormwater Retrofits. Shirley proposed that Danny to come present this project to the NECN board.

Steve Cole: Irvington is trying to keep the City from cutting down large healthy trees. If a person owns private property or on a corner/double lot, there is no policy that prevents them from cutting down the trees. Steve would like to go through Land Use to seek support for a Tree Policy, akin to Amanda Fritz’ suggestion at the beginning of this meeting.

**Luke Groser motions that it be the sentiment of the NECN board to offer our most sincere gratitude to Chris Lopez for contributing his past heartfelt, passionate and extensive personal skill, energy and time to the maintenance and growth of our NECN. We offer him a big and warm thank you. Peter O’Neil seconds. Motion carries.**

### **Meeting adjourned 8:19 pm**

Minutes submitted by Claire Adamsick