



NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS

NECN Board of Director's Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2014
NECN Office – Conference Room
Approved Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Board

Alan Silver, At-Large, President
Loulie Brown, At-Large, 1st Vice President
Jaime McGeathy, Concordia Rep., Recorder
Robert Bowles, At-Large, Treasurer
Katie Ugolini, Concordia Rep., Parliamentarian
Luke Groser, Woodlawn Rep., Exec. At-Large
Diane Benson, Sabin Rep., Exec. At-Large
Micah Meskel, Humboldt Rep., Exec. At-Large

Diego Gioseffi, King Representative
Rachel Lee, Sabin Representative
Damon Isiah Turner, At-Large
Jordan Davis, At-Large
Paul van Orden, Eliot Representative
Dave Johansen, Alameda Representative

Staff

Mark Fulop – Consultant; Interim Executive Director

Guests

Eric Olsen, NNNHA

Meeting called to order by Alan Silver at 6:34 pm

Introduction and Updates:

Flyer handed out on In It Together Community Summit

Administration:

Review of Minutes and Agenda:

Luke Groser moves that we adopt the minutes from the general board meeting on 1/20/2015. Katie Ugolini seconds.

Vote: Abstain: Loulie, Alan, Micah. Opposed: None

Motion Passes

Approve Alameda Representative:

Dave Johansen is the new rep for NECN from Alameda.

Katie Ugolini moves that we approve Dave Johansen as the Alameda Representative. Robert Bowles seconds.

Vote: No abstained or opposed.

Motion Passes unanimously

Finance Committee Update:

Moving to the staffing discussion.

We are still taking suggestions for ways to best utilize a budget overage this year.

Rules Committee Community Committee Guidelines:

Katie Ugolini reviewed the changes made to the committee guidelines. There are not voting or non-voting members, just members.

Intent is to standardize how committees function. These are living documents and can be altered as needed to work best with the way committees need to function.

Spots marked with BL are things that came from the bylaws. These may be considered for removal from the bylaws at a later date.

Robert Bowles moves that we accept the community committee guidelines. Diane Benson seconds.

Vote: No abstained or opposed.

Motion Passes unanimously

Establish Nominating Committee:

We need to establish a nominating committee to nominate people for officers, at-large Board and Executive Committee members for the June election. Chair is the Personnel chair (Luke) per bylaws. There must be at least two other Board members on this committee.

With the upcoming Board redesign the nominating committee may need to be more flexible as positions may be different by June.

Robert Bowles volunteers.

Katie runs the election in June as the Parliamentarian, but does not have bandwidth to be on the committee full-time. Will be part-time.

Diane Benson moves that we add Katie and Robert to the nominating committee which will be chaired by Luke. Jordan Davis seconds

Vote: No abstained/no opposed.

Motion Passes unanimously.

North/Northeast Neighbors for Housing Affordability (NNNHA) Request:

Jordan gave an update on the group. They are looking for an NECN endorsement and \$25 a month for refreshments. They would like NECN to:

- Continue providing meeting space
- Provide \$25 /mo for food
- Distribute articles, action alerts, and event announcements through the website, newsletters, and social media channels
- Encourage Board members to testify in favor of affordable housing, on behalf of NECN, at public hearings when appropriate.

The group has applied for a grant, but has not heard yet.

Katie Ugolini moves that NECN endorse the goals of NNNHA and provide the four asks listed above.

Diane is concerned about setting a precedent around having a \$25/mo contribution. We do not do this for other groups. Diego is in favor of the contribution as this is important. We do provide some food for LUTC and SALT, but those are NECN committees.

Katie considers this a partnership with NECN and community partnerships are part of the ONI plan. Diane mentions that Sabin pays to use the space, no less food. We need some guidelines on when we charge for space and when we provide space/food so these are not ad-hoc decisions. Damon is also concerned about setting a precedent without guidelines.

Katie withdraws her motion.

Mark reviews the facility rental agreements with the Board. There is a suggested donation between \$15-\$55/hr. for use of the facilities. For profit companies must pay.

Katie Ugolini moves that we endorse the goals of NNNHA, continue to provide meeting space, distribute information, and encourage Board members to testify in favor of affordable housing. Jaime McGeathy seconds.

Discussion: Alan notes that we are now integrating housing affordability into the mission of NECN. Luke is excited to delve into the issue, would like clarity on the relationship between NECN and NNNHA. What does “partnership” mean? Is there assumed support that NECN will endorse all future work of NNNHA?

There are several NECN Board members that are members of NNNHA. NNNHA might testify for positions that the Board has endorsed. NNNHA would also appreciate the NECN Board members advocating for affordable housing. As specific issues come up they would come back to the Board for support for that particular issue. Right now this is just a high level endorsement of the general goals of the group.

We want to clarify that in order for the group to put NECN on any specific letters or actions that they would have to come to the Board for that the same way our community committees do. This would act very similarly to an advisory position where they report back to the Board. We could formally elect a liaison to ensure the Board stays informed. Rachel notes that this cannot fall under advisory committee rules as they are a private group not a public one.

Diane suggests we need to do some work to define exactly what a partnership is. She is comfortable endorsing the goals, but is concerned that the other items may be crossing lines.

Robert notes that meeting space is suggested donation for non-profits. We send out communication for any neighborhood group. So these things are pretty standard. Endorsement seems to be the catch. Diane suggests keeping things as simple as possible and work on a model of what a partnership looks like. Diego agrees we need guidelines, different groups have different agreements.

Katie withdraws motion.

Loulie Brown motions that we endorse the statement of values and continue to provide meeting space without charge for the NNNHA. Luke Groser seconds.

Mark notes that we do not have to address the space issue. We have a rental agreement, just use it.

Loulie amends the motion to just endorse the statement of values of the NNNHA. Diane seconds.

**Vote: Jordan abstained, no opposed.
Motion passes.**

We need to work with the new ED to define partnerships.

Pembina Project Letter:

Damon steps away. Eric Olson, NNNHA rep leaves. Paul van Orden joins.

Micah reviews a letter with the Board about the Pembina propane facility that asks for a fair community and public process around the decision. The last public hearing left a lot of unanswered questions about safety and project details.

Diego asks about if the code amendment has happened yet. The commission is looking to make the decision on March 17th, if they have the information. The code change is pretty easy, the commission just has to vote on the amendment.

Katie Ugolini moves that NECN signs on to the letter to the Portland bureau of planning and sustainability. Diego Gioseffi seconds.

**Vote: Rachel Lee abstains. No opposed.
Motion passes.**

Comp Plan Letter:

Loulie reviewed the letter from the LUTC about the city comprehensive plan. This is a reframing of a previous letter on an issue basis, not a neighborhood basis. They are asking the Board to sign the letter for the LUTC that will be added to the public comments for the comp plan.

Rachel suggests on the first page updating the second sentence of residential demolitions away from Concordia to "our neighborhoods".

Jaime McGeathy moves that we sign the letter from LUTC as amended. Robert Bowles seconds. Vote:

Loulie, Diane abstain. None opposed. Motion Passes

NECN Transition Update:**Good in the Hood:**

Got their 501c3 status. This came much faster than expected and have asked us to continue to support them through their June event. They already have donations and sponsorships towards the event. Mark conferred with our lawyer, we can chose to support them through this event. Their fiscal sponsorship ends in March. They lawyer suggests creating a short term fiscal agreement until they are through the Good in the Hood event, likely September, then wrap up their books. We need to ensure we are only sponsoring Good in the Hood for fiscal sponsorship.

Mark wants to meet with them to set the framework for the agreement then submit that to the lawyer to ensure it meets all requirements. They are hoping to set up that meeting next week.

Mark notes that the attorney is from the Lewis and Clark law school assistance center, Martha Taylor is the lawyer who is helping us. The goal is to figure out how to best continue to work with Good in the Hood to help them get through this year and get their nonprofit status firmed up

9th and Fremont Project:

The second update from Mark is that the 9th and Fremont project is going amazingly well. The project has until April 18th to complete their plantings. 5 years in the works so far. Tenacious folks!

Other Updates

(Damon returns)

22 grant applications for the Small Grants Program. Community Cleanups will come through NECN and Anjala is coming onboard temporarily to help with that. Deadline is coming up for communications funds for the neighborhoods. Sabin's fiscal sponsorship is coming up for renewal soon.

Staffing Discussion (Executive Session)

Enter executive session at 7:45 pm

Alan Silver moves we move to executive session. Loulie Brown seconds. Passes unanimously.

Dave Johansen leaves as he is not a Board member until the end of this meeting, per ONI.
Damon leaves.

Leave executive session at 8:45 pm

Micah, Rachel, Diane, Luke, Paul, Jaime, Diego, Katie, Robert, and Alan still in attendance.

Diane Benson moves that we create a contract to complete the Board redesign including training, policies & procedures, and recruitment 16-20 hours and offer it to Mark Fulop. Jaime McGeathy seconds.

Vote: Passes unanimously

(Loulie returns)

Robert Bowles moves that the Personnel Committee negotiates an offer with Damon for the new ED position with a range of \$49-59k. Katie Ugolini seconds.

Paul recommends an amendment to encourage the Board to start a little low in the negotiations which gives us range for raises later. Something like \$54 or \$56k.

**Vote:
Passes unanimously**

Jaime McGeathy moves that we authorize the Executive Committee to determine what professional coaching for the new ED will entail and who will do it. Luke Groser seconds.

Vote: passes unanimously

Loulie Brown moves to extend Mark Fulop's contract. Luke Groser seconds.

Vote: Passes unanimously

Katie Ugolini moves that we authorize the beginning of the recruitment process for program manager and neighborhood coordinator. Micah Meskel seconds

Vote: passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Jaime McGeathy, NECN Board Recorder.