



**NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

**NECN Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
NECN Office – Conference Room
Approved Minutes**

Meeting Attendees

Board

Alan Silver, At-Large, President
Loulie Brown, At-Large, 1st Vice President
Robert Bowles, At-Large, Treasurer
Katie Ugolini, Concordia Rep., Parliamentarian
Luke Groser, Woodlawn Rep., Exec. At-Large
Micah Meskel, Humboldt Rep., Exec. At-Large
Shirley Minor, Woodlawn Representative
Rachel Lee, Sabin Representative
Dave Johansen, Alameda Representative
Joan Ivan, Eliot Representative
Paul van Orden, Eliot Representative

Staff

Damon Isiah Turner, Executive Director

Guests

Mark Fulop, Consultant (via phone)
Dan Lerch Walters, Sullivan's Gulch Board Member
Sara Long, Eliot Neighbor

Meeting called to order by Alan Silver at 6:35 pm

Introductions

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Sara Long from Eliot would like to add an item to support appeal of Land Use Decision for demolition in Eliot – previously appeal was not completed in a timely fashion.

Robert Bowles moves to approve minutes and add Sara Long's request to the agenda.

Katie seconds

Shirley Minor arrived 6:50 pm

Meeting minutes from previous board meeting approved unanimously. Shirley Minor abstains.

New Business

Community Committee Updates –

Katie Ugolini added an issue from SALT and the LUTC: how to spend community committee funds by June 30.

LUTC/ SALT

SALT and LUTC would like to use the funds for a series of joint events/projects, the Boise and Concordia Alleyways projects.

Clarification is needed on how money may be rolled over.

Boise alleyways project is applying for fiscal sponsorship. Are committee's funds specific to the committee, or can they share the funds with using LUTC funds for the fiscal sponsorship. Garlynn would

like to use funds for Concordia alley project. Can this be done? Even though they are in a specific neighborhood. Is money noted in budget?

Discussion about coming up with a policy to address expenditures:

Addressed issues of whether it was appropriate for a project that was applying for fiscal sponsorship to utilize committee funds.

Is this a demonstration project?

Who should be the decision-makers about the expenditure of funds?

Is this line item in the budget?

Decision: Rules committee to take on issue to clarify policy

Sara Long's demo issue: Eliot's LUTC wanted to appeal neighborhood development project (NE 7th and Thompson) but – it did not make it into the minutes. Sara wants it on the record and wants NECN to make the appeal; Eliot failed to the appeal because quorum was an issue.

Project: NE 7th and Thompson: 2 houses (LU-184-123) together. Old brick sewer. All storm water goes into sewer. Owner wants to remove trees. An abundance of erosion will be happening. Lots of rock going into sewer.

Max on parcel is 14 units. Owner wants to put on 2 bedroom structures. 650K/unit. Alternate plan.

Demand keeping trees, and include 3 bedroom units for families and roommates. Purpose of appeal is to protect significant trees.

Discussion: Since the Eliot Land Use Committee is overwhelmed, couldn't the Eliot Board appeal the decision? Long and Van Orden are requesting support from NECN – philosophical support.

LUTC is supportive – but what are criteria for Board to take it on an issue like this?

Micah Meskel: NECN is here to assist our neighbors when they can't take something on their own.

Through LUTC system has fallen apart, NECN steps in. Hearing that it is a lot of work. If we do decide to support appeal, we should devise a plan to parse out work.

Reluctance to step in when Eliot cannot act – Board asks Long for additional information regarding the specific appeals.

Dave Johansen notes that the lack of quorum at Eliot could be construed as a lack of interest in the issue by the Neighborhood Association.

LUTC Report

LUTC requests Board Support for North Interstate bike route between Tillamook and Larrabee. Width of Roadway narrows, but bikeway is only 2 feet wide.

Alan Silver notes that walking on that stretch of road is also very difficult.

Decision:

Micah Meskel moves that NECN sign onto letter with geographically appropriate language. Paul van Orden seconds. Passes unanimously.

Board Committee Reports

Finance: to be covered later

Personnel: see ED's report

Executive Director's Report (Damon Isiah Turner)

Employee Handbook update completed and Employee Evaluation system currently under review.

Introduces Adam Lyons, new staff member who has already navigated the Neighborhood Association elections.

Community Committees Coordinator has been hired! Her name is Lokyee Au, and she has land use experience. She will be starting May 29.

Stakeholder meetings this month are keeping staff busy.

8:10 Mark Fulop joins meeting by phone to discuss Budget and Board Development and ONI Grant.

ONI Grant

NECN Board needs to vote on language for ONI Grant. No apparent issues to be discussed.

Robert Bowles moves to approve ONI grant as presented. Dave Johansen seconds. Passes Unanimously.

Proposed Budget for 2015-2016

Budget was 277K last year, and is 280K this year. Potential streams of income also noted. Goes through line by line.

Expenses noted – salaries, expenses bumping up education and training line item.

There is a carryover of 33K +- that needs to be spent.

Proposed prepaids:

- Rent (\$27K) and it will be increasing.
- Legal retainer with Lewis and Clark Law Center
- Shifting accounting person – want to allocate 2400 for either current bookkeeper or new one.
- IT guy (we use his servers), upgrading equipment. Steve Watkins has been with NECN for many years.

New item is mileage line item based on current federal standard.

Discussion:

Community Committee money allocation: \$400/event +\$500 for food. Is this within reason?

Decision: \$400 for food for each committee, \$300 for events, and \$300 for the Board.

Rollover is 33K, Surplus is 24K. Next budget will be 9K in red. Assume that 15-18K negative.

NECN now signed on with national grant access system to help avert chasing inappropriate grants.

What did we allocate for ballroom?

Increase education and training to 4K.

Discussion about Mark Fulop's fee:

Board development portion already paid out. We will decide when we are done with that piece.

Board needs to support leadership development for Executive Director.

Concern for money to cover ongoing training and education – and 2016-2017 budget shortfall.

Motion: Robert Bowles motions amended budget be accepted, Loulie Brown seconds.

Further discussion

Vote: Passes unanimously.

Adam Lyons is taking on role for neighborhood clean-ups.

Mark Fulop still not available by phone.

Other announcements:

Shirley Minor noted PCRI meeting about Homeowner Repairs. She also mentioned that it would be helpful to have BES person to talk to us about sewer updates – and potential associated assessments.

8:20 pm: Mark Fulop joins by phone

Mark reviews progress and explains handout

1) Restructure Board

Executive Committee would absorb Finance – and be chief supporter to ED, advise ED, take lead in evaluation

Board Development: Rules, Personnel, Nominating Committee absorbed.

Outcome: Fewer meetings – subcommittees would meet every other month, and alternate with full Board.

Explanation: This makes sense because of the size of the organization.

2) Restructure Board Composition:

Shrink number of Neighborhood Association specific reps and increase At-Large members.

Status: Rules committee has reviewed first draft. Executive Committee will talk about it next month, and get it out to the full Board for June meeting.

Subsequent tasks: Aligning bylaws to support new structure, training in September.

Discussion

Role and tasks for Board Development Committee are less clear than others.

Board is generally supportive, but Rules Committee needs to weigh in. Integration of Bylaws and new structure will be addressed over the summer.

Point that will require further discussion in June Board Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting:

Should SALT and LUTC have authority to sign letters?

Points for discussion:

- If signature power is allocated, two Board members should be a part of it.
- Only certain things that non-Board members can vote on for insurance reasons (liability). They only insure Board of Directors. Boards can only make a decision when there is a quorum.
- We should consult with lawyers.

Timeliness issue with modified

Is there a way to get a previous Board member back on the Board?

Final announcements:

Shirley Minor is concerned with the uptick in violence in her neighborhood: murder in Woodlawn was down her street and there was another shooting yesterday – 15th and Liberty. How are we going to deal with the media? We need a strategy.

Katie Ugolini offered that at June SALT police will come and talk.

Shirley Minor shared that there is a new park opening in the Cully neighborhood- the first one in years.

Dan Lerch-Walters noted Sullivan's Gulch is having internal issues – will talk to staff after meeting.

Luke Grosser noted that June Board meeting will include elections for officers, At-Large Board members, At-Large Executive Committee members and requested Executive Director to send out memo to Neighborhood Associations to remind them about representation to NECN.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Minutes taken by Loulie Brown, NECN 1st Vice President.