



NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS

**NECN Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2015
NECN Office – Conference Room
Approved Minutes**

Meeting Attendees

Board

Alan Silver, At-Large, President
Louie Brown, At-Large, 1st Vice President
Katie Ugolini, Concordia Rep., Recorder
Robert Bowles, At-Large, Treasurer
Paul van Orden, Eliot Rep., Parliamentarian
Luke Groser, Woodlawn Rep., Exec. At-Large
Dave Johansen, Alameda Rep., Exec. At-Large

Garner Moody, Boise Representative
Joan Ivan, Eliot Representative
Micah Meskel, Humboldt Representative
Rachel Lee, Sabin Representative
Robin Stevens, Vernon Representative
Shirley Minor, Woodlawn Representative
David Lomax, At-Large

Staff

Damon Isiah Turner, NECN Executive Director
Adam Lyons, NECN Associate Director
Anjala Ehelebe, Board Assistant

Guests

Meeting called to order by Alan Silver at 6:40 pm

Introductions

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda

Agenda will have items switched around, said Alan. Okay. **Draft Minutes from August 3rd are approved by acclamation.**

Announcements

Diego broke his hip in a fall and will be not participating in King NA or other meetings, still in hospital. Renter's committee calling for a state of emergency in Portland that will allow immediate imposition of rent control. Lokye is going to the upcoming renters meeting.

Alan thinks the housing affordability advocates will be clashing with rent control folks in the future because of inherently conflicting wishes: affordability requires more density, some

David Lomax says "Summer in September" Jambalaya festival had an issue with Parks double-booking Dawson Park. He thought his organization had rented the entire park, especially the pavilion, but the online system allowed someone else to rent the pavilion. Those who rented the pavilion were rude and uncooperative and wanted the festival folks, who'd rented the park, not the pavilion, to leave.

Another issue: the newly passed non-smoking rule in City parks, David got a complaint letter about a person "Medicating" in the park. At the time, David had asked the toker to stop but they didn't.

Shirley said Woodlawn had four great events in Woodlawn Park this year, over 2,000 showed up for the Movie alone.

Robin says that they had a great event in their park inviting folks to their mixer, 30 people showed up, and from these people they might have new Vernon board members.

Dave Johansen mentions the LUTC letters, first one about the Comprehensive Plan. Micah says he and Garland worked on this letter. Alan asks for a primer in the future explaining what is really going on, because this is a highly technical issue. Robin says she would prefer subject, sub-head, bullet point

formatting. It is hard for her to know what the committee wants the Mayor to do. Rachel says the second to the last paragraph is the list of action requests from the committee. Paul says, maybe up front, have an executive summary. **Paul makes a motion that this letter go through as is and then advise the NECN LUTC to draft more user-friendly letters. Alan seconds the motion. Abstaining: David, Shirley, Garner. All other Board members approve sending the letter as is. Motion passed.**

Dave says the proposal in the second letter is to increase Floor Area Ratio to 50% in the Business Campus zone. Garner says in his neighborhood (Boise) there is a problem in that the affordable housing being built there is 700 square feet, for example. Eliot is losing square footage. Loulie says the HUD law allows 7x10 residences. Loulie says that we should continue to look at matching the need and the resources and studying this topic further. **Dave makes the motion to approve the letter, Loulie seconds, unanimously approved.**

Amendment from Board of Directors November 17, 2015 meeting: HUD law allows 7'x10' bedrooms.

Future of Tri-Met service in NNE Portland letter from NECN LUTC to TriMet. Discussion. Line Y seems fabulous. Adam mentions the payroll tax is less than 1% and TriMet can do these things. **Dave makes the motion to approve the letter, Katie seconds, Loulie is the only no vote. Motion passed.**

Noise in mixed use areas letter from NECN LUTC. Dave gives background on this letter: A Boise resident brought issue this up. Each business can have their own trash collection schedule and this creates noise all night long. Any way we can also ask for more noise enforcement staff to deal with this issue, asks Alan, this type of issue affects his neighborhood too. Requesting enforcement doesn't work without more enforcers. Robin asks about the "one angry neighbor with a grudge against a hauler" who forces a route change. Paul says there are no rules about this. City is depending on the niceness of haulers who respond to complaints. Usually the smaller haulers are more responsive, he adds. The issue of single complainers doesn't come up often. Paul is a City noise enforcement officer. Recommended edits: take out "single complaint" and replace it with "when complaints are received". **Motion to approve the amended letter by Loulie, Dave seconds, one opposed (Garner), one recuse (Rachel), all others in favor. Motion passes.** [Rachel Lee recuses herself from this discussion because she works as an attorney and represents a business that would be affected by this.]

Alan says three neighborhood associations have asked him whether neighborhood LUTC committees have authority to write letters on their own. Adam says yes, as long as the chair of the committee is an association board member, for indemnity reasons.

New Business

Letter from Katy Asher from SE Uplift asking the City to cooperate with the County on disaster preparedness workshops, preferably on the same date. Katie says this is something SALT has talked about, planning on putting on a disaster workshop, so this is in alignment with that. **Paul motions sending the letter, David seconds, all in favor, motion passes.**

Alan says there's a guy on Facebook from one of the Neighborhood Associations who reminds folks to add certain items to their emergency kits and he updates the message monthly.

Community Committee Reports

LUTC

Dave says Commissioner Novick asked us to create a survey asking how our neighbors want street repairs funded, and we did. We received 102 responses and Lokyee tabulated them. The most popular funding mechanism is "gas taxes", the least is "cut city services". We will send these results to Novick's office. David asked what a city sticker option was. Dave says he lived in a city that required one. It is an annually renewable window sticker that funds street services. If you didn't have one, when license renewal time happened, you couldn't renew until you paid for one.

Safe Routes to School is an effort by Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Lokyee is following this for the NECN. Adam reports that Loulie says there's more crosswalks, more lighting needed. Safe Routes is created from a federal program that hands money to cities. Confusion as to if there is an action item attached to this. Robin says Vernon has requested that the City review building a four-way crosswalk near Vernon school, now that school has started.

Dave reports that last month the LUTC had presentations on "employment zones" and what plans are for industrial zones near the airport and golf courses. Also the LUTC discussed campus zoning definitions. There's going to be a meeting of a NECN LUTC subcommittee this week on Mixed-use zoning issues that will develop a letter for the LUTC to review and approve.

SALT

Katie says we all know about the woman who was injured in her hand by a gang-related shooting: there was a meeting about this event. The community wants efforts toward solving this. Damon met with Commander Chris Uehara of the Police about it. Next steps: SALT will work with Portland Police Bureau and Gang Enforcement Team and Police Strategic Services division and PSU to develop a survey of King and Humboldt neighbors. Next week SALT will meet at its regularly scheduled time and this will be on the agenda. Survey results should be available in October.

King NA wants to have a Kids bike rodeo in the park (reclaim the park) says Alan.

Alan says it was a tense meeting in the park, angry, scared folks talking about race and gentrification issues.

Board Committee Reports

Finance

Loulie says she sent out the July financials by email yesterday: the 2-page front and back cheat sheet. Anyone who wants the longer 8 page version has only to ask. She describes the form design decisions. Got a couple of questions in email return that she has already answered. Any questions from attendees tonight on this form? None. Summary, we are doing well, so far. NECN prepaid the rent and that is giving us a huge cushion. Grant programs (shown only on the 8-page report) will be simpler now that Good In The Hood is not fiscally administered by NECN, and have their own 501c(3) status. Damon says that he wants to thank the Board for their approving increased funding for staff education and training.

Personnel

Luke says the committee and staff developed a Board orientation package (which is handed out tonight). Says, in the past, orientation has been scheduled an hour before a Board meeting, but an hour is in no way sufficient: much is learned about being a Board member over time. He has a best practice packet from the nonprofit alliance that he also presents to the Board members. Damon says that this orientation package will change because we're still in the Board development process. Also, people come to the Board with different skill sets and experiences and may not need as much training.

The Executive Committee asked Personnel to begin the process of evaluating the Executive Director, who has been here for six months now, and also create a plan for an annual evaluation. Luke says they will put together a plan to do this. Alan said the Assessment committee will put together a report as to how the changes have gone. Technically, there is also an Equity committee comprised of himself and Katie. They don't have a mission, yet, so they haven't met.

Executive Director's Report

(For details, see the complete written report.)

Interviewing past small grants recipients.

Putting more emphasis on developing the website. Also working on using Presspoint, a customer relation management database. [At 8:00 pm Loulie leaves]

Damon provided more information on the gun-shot woman meeting and the resulting agendas.

Staff has been really going out and working with community organizations, institutions and City partners.

Alan asks will we do a yearly fundraiser as decided 15 months ago? No, says Damon, we got the deposit back from the Ballroom.

Robin asked Damon what's up with Last Thursday. Damon says the event is in a holding pattern with the city and local folks. There is no official proposal for anything to be done by the City or by NECN. Katie says, because of the shooting in May, for the September Last Thursday the police plan to have a visible, early, larger presence. Damon says that NECN asked the City for funding for a full time person to coordinate Last Thursday, and they said, no, that's too expensive, maybe a half-time position could be funded. Adam said, if we can get enough buy in from other community organizations, we could potentially rebrand, rework Last Thursday so it is a smaller community art activity, **not** a drink and drug-fueled party. The community and organization representatives he and Damon have talked to like this idea, but the city balks at the expense. City thinks maybe possibly let NECN do this on a temporary 3-year or so basis. City thinks maybe long term this coordinating person would be a city employee in a city office. Alan thinks if Last Thursday is a small, NE community activity, it is best to keep administration local, not in a City office.

[David leaves at 8:10.]

Adam says the revised Draft Comprehensive Plan is a huge deal that is already provoking problems. There's going to be many zoning changes. SE Uplift is planning a lawsuit against Bureau of Planning Services because of what they see and don't see in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Also Sullivan's Gulch is angry about what has been happening with plan-proposed up-zoning and increased density. Please take a GOOD LOOK at the map application, see what's going on in your neighborhood.

Adam says it seems like only input from strategic advisory committees got heeded in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. For instance, the NE Quadrant plan strategic advisory committee was more effective in getting their plan issues considered, than input from all other sources. Paul says this Comp Plan combined with the Mixed-use zoning code revision going on now is going to be creating huge changes in the future.

Paul says that at the Eliot Land Use meeting last night, they wrote a letter complaining to the city about a builder (Ben Kaiser) that circumvented the City building code approval by going to the State to get a 95 ft. tall (instead of City regulated 85 ft. tall) building approved. Kaiser's also running an illegal parking lot for New Seasons and getting more money from New Seasons monthly than the city fines him.

Rules

Paul says they came up with a few items at their last meeting:

Term limits - mostly to give someone on the Board a break and to build capacity by letting someone else have that duty for a while.

Removing Board members:

If they violate conflict of interest

Unexplained absences

Develop proper removal processes

(Don't put these in bylaws, put them in Policy and Procedures.)

If a Board member is removed, who gets to appoint a new Board member, the association or the NECN staff? This question is still to be debated and decided.

Possible new structure of the Board: One Board member per association (12), up to three at-large members with expertise, plus up to three from partner orgs. Robin says they discussed this possible changing Board structure at Vernon, and they were ok with that idea.

What is required to vote on at the Annual Meeting (because we're a Membership Corporation)? Rachel says that, according to our lawyer, we are REQUIRED to have an annual meeting. Therefore we need to build into our bylaws What Members Vote On At The Annual Meeting. [It could be anything under the sun: planting a tree on the property, a strategic plan, selecting Board members; preferably something meaningful.) Rachel says in the ideal process NECN would make notice to the neighborhood associations of the annual meeting and each NA would then notify NECN in response as to who will be the officially designated representative for that meeting.

Rachel says if anyone has a great idea for what the annual meeting should be about, let this Board know. Robin suggests: what if there's a community visioning process and the highest result that concerns neighbors is voted on at the annual NECN meeting to set the tone for the year, topics such as the Williams corridor; Last Thursday; Housing Affordability, as examples? Discussion of the pros and cons of this idea. Isn't this what happens from the community committees? Luke says the idea discussed by the Rules committee was to have the Annual meeting coincide in June with the Board Annual meeting. Not a good idea to have voting on Board members be the subject of the Annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Minutes taken by Anjala Ehelebe, archived by Katie Ugolini, NECN Board Recorder.