

King Neighborhood Association Meeting:

September 13, 2017, 6:30pm at NECN office

Board Members present: David Kennedy, Emily Leuning, Andrew Neerman, Diego Gioseffi, Christen Cannon (arrived at 6:48pm)

Neighbors present: Margaret O'Hartigan, Brandon Vaughan, Sonja Vaughan

6:38pm: Intros & check-ins (5-10 mins)

6:42pm: Humanities conversations (5 min)

Update: conversations have been paid for, need a different location. Alan and Margot are going to try to get our money back. If the conversations do not occur, can we get our money back? Do we want to hold the rest of the conversations, given low turnout at first one?

Diego says timing may not have been great for the first one – similar conversation happened in Sabin around the same time. Would be good to have more promotion if we hold future conversations.

There were two conversations remaining to be held. If Alan and Margot want to take it on, can we invite them to a meeting to give update?

David will email Alan to discern his desired involvement with this.

6:48pm Newsletter (10-15 min)

Diego says we should attempt to get a solid schedule down before even trying to do a paper one. Andrew says he will volunteer to do layout as long as content is all provided.

Christen says should we focus on social media? Diego says a lot of people open the e-newsletters when we send them. Christen says we can use facebook events to get the word out about events – not a perfect forum, but it's one we can use. Diego says we can also post to nextdoor.

David will try to contact Demian again.

Christen says we have a board training coming up – would like to think about how we maximize impact and focus on the important things given our limited capacity. Always have projects getting tabled, but no prioritization.

Andrew says maybe we could have a google doc for content folks want – he would pull the content and send the email.

Do we want to discuss the content before sending it out? Talk about it at a board meeting then send out?

We will start with January – quarter 1 of 2018. Start submitting content now!

Christen says we should have something on the website that says – have something (event/article) you want to include in the newsletter? Submit it here! (David will add this blurb to the website) Diego mentions we also need to have deadlines for content.

7:03pm Refreshing finance committee membership (5 min)

Past finance committee: Diego (chair), Matt Anderson

Christen says she can be chair and set up meetings. This year should be pretty straightforward as we have set a pretty narrow scope. In the past, finance committee met every quarter or so. Would meet 10-15 minutes before board meetings to discuss finance matters. Diego says he will be on the finance committee as well.

7:05pm Conflict assessment? (Christen) (10 min)

Christen proposed having an assessment at the special meeting in July. Are we in a place where we can make a decision on this? Would be a third party who has expertise in conflict management – investigation to say what happened, why did it get to this point, what are strategies for moving forward? Doesn't think the problem is understood well enough to do conflict resolution. Have been voices outside of the board that have said ours in an extreme case, acknowledgement that public forums such as NAs tend to attract this. Since the conflict has existed for multiple years, and many of us are new or unrelated to the origins of the issue, would be good to discuss. Work begins with the assessment, and may evolve into how to boards, coalitions, etc. have better mechanisms in place to triage this type of thing?

David – how does this tie into the board training with Anjala? Could we accomplish some of the same goals? Second, we have Resolutions NW which contracts with NECN and may be available for free.

Christen says they are not a third party and it should be someone outside of the coalition. They are also more focused on conflict resolution. Doesn't think it should be a volunteer type of position – we need a paid, neutral professional.

David says we should make sure there isn't a free or cheap option that would accomplish our goals.

Christen says we could potentially ask other orgs higher up than NECN if they can sponsor it – if it framed in such a way that it becomes a resource for other orgs/boards.

Andrew says maybe Chloe Eudaly/ONI would be interested/able to pay for it

Christen says also potential for a PhD student, but would hesitate to bring someone on with little experience.

Andrew says it will be money well spent.

Diego thinks it is an important issue – would be a good use of money. Says Margaret is an important part of the conversation and needs to be on board. Doesn't want a process started without all involved – ex board members, etc. Wouldn't be successful without others involved.

Christen says she could put together an email to all the stakeholders saying this is what we're looking to do, time commitment needed, are you willing to participate?

Diego says it needs to be open and fair.

Christen will work to put together list of stakeholders, communicate to stakeholders. Others not listed who we also need to reach out to?

David says he's not sure if it will be possible to get all stakeholders involved – if we can get current stakeholders, that may be sufficient. Diego says he thinks we need the original folks involved if it is going to be successful. Christen says that having the original folks involved would be helpful, but we also have emails, meeting notes, etc. if they don't want to get involved.

David says let's do our best to get as many people as we can, and we will go from there. Asks Margaret if she would be willing to participate and other stakeholders who should be included.

7:21pm Neighbors chat

Brandon and Sonja are starting a church (Christian City Church – C3) at Alberta Rose Theater – leasing it out for Sundays. Opening day is October 1. Want to be involved in the community – here to listen and see what's happening in the community. It's a non-denominational Christian church. Eventually would like to start some sort of neighborhood outreach – help with kids lunch accounts at Vernon.

7:25pm: Meeting minutes

July regular meeting minutes: Christen says to make clear that Derwin said he preferred to be a volunteer rather than a board member.

Margaret says she is concerned that Derwin's removal wasn't on the agenda.

David says grievance about the issue has already been cleared by ONI.

Diego says we knew via email communication that Derwin wanted to be involved in a volunteer capacity.

***** Emily motions to accept the July minutes with Christen's edits re: Derwin's preference to volunteer

Andrew seconds

Emily, Andrew, Diego, Christen vote in favor. David abstains.

July 26 Budget meeting minutes:

Christen wants to make sure the powerpoint is also posted with the minutes when they are posted.

Diego says he's not sure what he was saying in the 6:41pm section

***** David motions to approve the minutes with Diego's correction

Andrew seconds

All vote in favor: David, Emily, Christen, Diego, Andrew

August meeting minutes:

Christen asks about quorum – are three members not sufficient with a board of six? There were four members later in the meeting.

*****David motions to approve

Emily seconds

Andrew, David, Diego, Emily vote in favor. Christen abstains.

7:40pm Bylaws (Emily) (10-15 min)

Frequency of membership meetings – consensus around quarterly, time with newsletter

Regular board meetings – adjust frequency based on increased membership meetings? David suggests six. Continue to schedule meetings monthly but if unforeseen events occur, we're not breaking rules. Consensus is six board meetings per year.

Do we want to change terms of service? Two years sufficient? Christen says maybe single year terms, Diego thinks it should be three years... but more people may be interested in signing on if it's only a one year commitment.

David says the one year term could get us into trouble if the whole board turns over, good to have staggered two year terms.

Consensus is that two year staggered terms are best.

Christen asks about the 7 day advance rule for submitting an item to the agenda – do we follow this? Do we want to lengthen the requirement? Shorten it?

David proposes changing it to **ten** days beforehand – we do have the open time for members in the agenda each meeting if issues arise.

Number of directors: Christen says the bylaws state “no more than three members may be business representatives” what does this mean?

David says it's for folks who would otherwise not be a member – people who live in the neighborhood are already included (whether you have business dealings or not).

Diego says we should broaden it – not just businesses, non-profits and other orgs included too.

Board member termination: discussion around removing “may” unexcused/excused

Language around adopting bylaws – take out each director, say that notice will be given 30 days in advance.

Christen: We currently have code of conduct for board members, can we extend it to members and make sure people follow it.

Emily asks how we get members to sign on?

Andrew says he wonders how it would work – if you haven't signed it, are you beholden to it? Is there physical document – where does it exist?

Christen says if we give notification, we can say “by engaging and participating, you are agreeing to follow these guidelines”.

David says behavior can be subjective – keep it simple and clear, easy to follow.

Christen will find examples and update us at the next meeting.

David says timeline – hopefully membership meeting in January where we can vote on bylaws.

8:11pm Member open floor (15 min)

Margaret says she emailed us all examples of bylaws from neighboring neighborhoods. Concerned that other than increasing the number of membership meetings, the changes give more power to the board. David asks for an example of such a change? Margaret says the code of conduct gives the power to remove a member – she saw folks at the Overlook meeting be asked to leave a meeting when they were disrupted. Margaret says you're not looking at proposed changes that would give members rights back that were stripped away three years ago. Christen says we don't have a robust membership base now, we need to build that back. Margaret says that the bylaws proposals are dictatorial and should consider other neighborhoods' bylaws when making changes. Christen says we have looked at other NAs, and ours is the only one with these specific issues.

David says that ONI has repeatedly stated that Margaret's abuse of the grievance system is like nothing they've ever seen in other NAs--so that's what makes our situation different from other NAs, and our bylaws must take that into account.

8:19pm Land use announcement: Andrew says Multnomah County is looking at demolishing a building at the corner of MLK and Killingsworth – would still own it. Would likely be a mixed use building.

8:21pm. We adjourn