

Meeting of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association 11-14-19

Meeting came to order at 7:00 pm. Introductions were made.

Reuben is chairing the meeting -- he is the Vice Chair of the SNA Board. Reuben was Co-Chair of SE Uplift, which is a district coalition of 20 neighborhoods. As of Nov. 2nd, he is no longer the Co-Chair.

Clarification by Reuben on who is/is not a member of the SNA: a voting member is anyone who lives within the boundary of the Sunnyside Neighborhood.

Presentation by Scott Moshier, 2020 US Census hiring. Recruiting in communities.
Requirements: 18 years of age or older, US Citizen. \$18-20/hour

Presentation by PPB Officer K. Stuart Fox, who spoke about his beat and neighborhood issues.
Theft from cars: always lock, remove valuables, covering with blanket etc. not effective.

Prevent license plate theft by using hex screws or "lock-tite"

Q: Mike F. asked what to do about people living in cars for weeks or months.

A: Report at pdxreporter.org ("one point of contact") or call police non-emergency number.

There are two officers from Central Precinct who deal with car camping and clean-up every day.

Public Comments:

*each number denotes a different person speaking... did not get all the names.

1. (Christy) Difficult conversations... people feel sympathetic to homeless, but there are a lot of things going on that are not acceptable. Many people went to "Crisis and Conscience" panel hoping for more tools or more support ... walked out with less than we came in with... a couple of vehicles parked by church for a long time, problems around cars with drugs, going to the bathroom outside, etc.
2. (Kathleen) Trying to get on top of homeless situation by SEUL -- tired of noise, etc (lives on Main).
3. (Nate) People doing illegal activities --people moving their cars, not taking tents down after 72 hours -- we are here to ask SNA to make the city enforce the laws.
4. Speaker says SEUL is sponsoring a camper... is that true? Asks about camper named John... says he has been camping outside of SEUL for three years.
5. (Reuben) Efforts are being made to find another place for John to camp.

-- further discussion about John with various voices -- SEUL is not "sponsoring" John -- People have seen him coming into the building -- it is a public building and people can come in to use the bathroom.

6. (K.C.) Children at SES not allowed to play in leaves because of needles. Neighbors should be getting mad and bugging the city -- John's camping is symptomatic of a larger problem.
7. (Colin) SNA doesn't have answers about homeless situation -- and we do not have power... we just have a group of neighbors who can call officials and write letters.
8. (Taylor) Spoke about SNA panel at SES -- Says public perception was that SNA seems to lean more towards wanting to support the homeless rather than other residents of the neighborhood. People felt they weren't given any tools or answers... frustrated and angry with SNA.
9. (Dave) Also frustrated at panel -- no answers. Nobody on stage had any way to help.
10. (Kelly?) Felt panel was set up to shame neighbors.
11. (Colin / KC) many other NAs are dealing with these issues as well.
12. Reuben - Panel frustrating because city leaders don't have solutions. The idea of starting with homeless services makes sense to me. Our elected leaders are out of their depth and have no plan to solve this. Making it go away to another block is not a solution.
13. (?) Person outside in a tent w/ mental illness not being served. We are "resource rich" -- it's connecting people to services that's a problem. Someone needs to bring John to an agency.
14. (Nate?) John is not interested in accessing services and says he's not moving.
15. (Don) Felt the panel was informational, not shaming. Spoke about his family's sadness at having the SCH suppers close -- no good explanation from the Methodist Church as to why it closed. There are homeless people all over the city, not just here. Was also frustrated at Rob Nosse's attitude at panel -- his statement that the city doesn't have money to deal with the problem. Money not being used well by city... rents going up, problems of substance abuse, etc going up too.
16. (Mike F.) Those of us who live around SCH were delighted when it closed.
17. (Julia) Please don't speak for others, I live there too and am not glad it closed.
18. (Mike) Services at church turned our neighborhood into a crime-infested slum..
19. (Colin) Person from CODA said Oregon ranks 49th in per capita funding for mental health. Upset by the comment that neighbors were "shamed" by the panel. The intention was to choose people for the panel who could answer questions that neighbors had. Walked a woman to Unity CB Health -- drug user -- learned that "unless a person is a threat to self or community" they cannot be kept for more than two days. We need more personal involvement in our community. We can help someone if we put ourselves out there to do that.
20. (Reuben) Every organization/ social service agency is working at 110%.. All full.City spending 6 million on sweeping camps and moving people around.
21. (Russell) Where is the money going? City needs to create affordable housing. Frustrated by Mark Jolen saying "no" to everything and the city not creating any affordable housing
22. (Reuben) wanted to clarify my use of word "intractable" earlier -- didn't mean that the problem is intractable, but that we seem institutionally incapable of solving it... not that it couldn't be solved. Meant as an indictment of the system.

23. (Jim) There are services for people like John that are in place. We came here to ask SNA Board what their opinion is of SEUL allowing a trespasser.
24. (Reuben) Have already been in conversation with SEUL about this situation -- I'm the former chair of the Board of SEUL. I hear you ... we are working on John's case. I have no idea how to change low funding in Oregon for services. Looking at demands in letter, there are six, I personally agree with 4 of them... I hear you, don't want SNA to get in the way of neighbors. Having people come to us with solutions makes a difference.
25. (Jim?) We in the neighborhood would act if there was something happening in front of our house -- we are asking SEUL to address John and deal with him.
26. Dale: Neighbors Together Program -- Neighborhood Watch Program going away. Individuals,, Apartments, businesses can get involved. Trainings available and worth attending.
27. Russell: Would like to invite Dale and everyone to Safety & Livability Committee Meeting.
28. Reuben: Thanks everyone for coming, please continue coming to meetings.
(many people leave)

Treasurer's Report: K.C.

K.C. took on Treasurer role in May. She found out in July that previous treasurer had not billed any of our newsletter advertisers. Advertisers gone. Q: Do we want to continue newsletter every month? "Bleeding money". \$50/month or \$500/year for an ad in newsletter (new prices). Should we go to quarterly? Every other month?

Cash on hand about \$5,000

Colin- how about if neighbors volunteer to donate/ underwrite the newsletter?

Discussion of need to sell ads to fund the newsletter -- fundraising.

Action: A few people committee to trying to sell ads and /or write articles.

Taylor: Suggestion to not have a print newsletter, having digital newsletter only
-- Further discussion on pros and cons of print vs digital.

Mike F: Complaint about Pat and John feeding people in the park. This is illegal-- they don't have proper permits. Wants SNA to write a letter to Pat and John telling them to stop.

Colin: Restrictions against feeding people are unconstitutional -- it's been through 9th Circuit Ct.

Reuben: We are way over time .. need to move on.

Dave: Info from PPB Officer -- person arrested for multiple thefts and fights -- let go --very frustrated about this.

Grievance response

Reuben - Not everyone has retracted but my sense is that we can't hijack process is a few haven't signed retraction.

Russell -- not everyone has signed to retract -- a few have not -- I have tried. ... my understanding is that grievance is withdrawn. Should respond with what actions about being taken to consider their concerns.

Reuben- Need to have board vote on money owed to Shannon cost associated with coordinating panel discussion.

K.C. I thought Matt was paying for that? That's what I heard...

Reben : Matt wanted this on the agenda for tonight

Board could vote to pay all, or half, or ...?

Motion to pay Shannon the entire amount --\$250

Russell: says he would pay half, others also say they will chip in if it's too hard on the SNA Bank...

Several comments from various people that this expenditure should have been brought to the board for approval before it was promised to Shannon. It's never happened that the board has been asked to pay for something that was not approved ahead of time. Dave: I'll pitch in, but I don't think the board should pay for this.

Friendly amendment to motion (from Julia), that SNA pay \$100 of \$250 from their budget and that the three people who offered to help (Julia, Russell and Dave) each put in up to \$50. If we can split it more ways, we might do that.

Russell: I'd like to add to the motion that this should be a "one-time" thing.

Motion passed.

K.C. needs to know how much each person is paying.

Reuben: We need Holiday Party Planning -- usually it's a potluck -- date is Dec. 12th.

Questions about party .. one hour of Board Meeting and then a party.

Reuben, KC both say they can't be here.

Reuben: volunteers to help coordinate?

Julia and Colin volunteer to coordinate together.

Minutes submitted by Julia Peattie