

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Board meeting minutes - October 14 2021

Attendees Board – Ben Wyatt, Ash Hester, Vincent Dawans, Hannah Wallace, Jessie Maran, Andria Robbins, Matt Lembo

Attendees- Barbara Bushell, Doug Klotz

- Welcome and attendance
 - Ash calls for a review of the October minutes and asks for any comments of suggested changes
 - Jes Maran moves that we approve the September minutes; Vincent seconds; vote taken and minutes are approved.
 - Vincent asks for minutes to be posted directly to the google doc and Ash shares the link
- Discussion - SNA endorsement process
 - Ash introduces the topic of endorsement and goes through the proposed process.
 - Vincent suggest that the president should initiate the process and be the first decision point.
 - Matt suggests we write up a procedure for those who wish to get an SNA endorsement.
 - Hannah asks what other associations are doing; Jes heard that some are just writing up their own endorsement rather than signing on to one provided.
 - Ash asks if we want to do endorsements or be a group that just doesn't; Suggests we have organizations submit a request to the board and meet to review the request.
 - Vincent reminds the group that we cannot discuss it without a meeting. If any board member disagrees with the president's decision whether to endorse or not, we can call an emergency meeting.
 - Matt says we can make these decisions without polling the entire neighborhood. Should come up with a policy that allows us to approve something within two meetings.
 - Hannah suggest way to get the message out to as many people as we can prior to that endorsement.
 - Vincent asks if we should vote on these at the board or general meetings, due to quorum thresholds for general meeting votes (15 people)
 - Some discussion about lowering this number.
 - Ben suggest that we leave the quorum at 15 and try to get that many people to show up.
 - Matt suggests we just make decisions like this in the board meeting for now and then queue up a vote on changing the general meeting quorum.

- Vincent suggests we switch the general meeting time with the board meeting time.
 - Vincent moves we invert the meetings to General then board; Hannah seconds; a vote is held and the change is approved.
- Treasurer report - Vincent
 - Vincent shows the group where the financial document lives. He shares that we often operate in a deficit and we need to stop and reverse that. He walks the group through the spreadsheet.
 - Vincent goes into detail about additions to the spreadsheet to show more detail for restricted funds related to specific committees.
 - Vincent suggests we add advertisers to offset the loss of some income sources.
 - Matt suggests we solicit donations from the community; and shares that digital ads are also easy to do.
- Clarify executive powers vested in the treasurer and other committee chairs
 - Vincent asks if the group would like to allow the committee chairs to make certain spending decisions without approval from the board.
 - Ash sees scenarios where this would be helpful; Jes shares about how the board approved general spending with the committee chairs tracking spending in an effort to not go over. Vincent says the treasurer will always tell you what you have to spend and will never allow a committee to go over what is available.
 - Emily suggest we trust the committee chairs to know what funds are left and how to spend it.
 - Matt moves that the committee chair can make spending decisions within their budget; Andria seconds; a vote is held and the motions passes.
- External communication discussion
 - Jess starts the discussion about members of the board synthesizing the board's position to share when there are requests from the media or others.
 - Matt suggests the chair should feel empowered to give a position if it summarizes the board's position.
 - Vincent says the bylaws say the chair can communicate the position of the board. Hannah says most request from the media are around homelessness. We may want to consider drafting talking points.
 - Vincent suggests we call an emergency meeting if we don't like what the Chair plans to say.
 - Emily suggests we just post our talking points on the website to avoid this whole process.
 - Hannah suggest that any board member should be able to convey the talking points; with some creativity
 - Ben asks if we will be confined to the talking points on the website.
 - Ash cautions about too much creativity but would recommend sticking to the talking points as closely as possible. Suggest highlighting when something is your personal opinion or that of the association.
 - Andria suggest that we do not know the story the media is trying to tell so we should be mindful.
 - Vincent hesitant to talk to the media again until we make a decision.

- Emily and Hannah to draft talking points for the website.
- Board meeting concludes

General meeting minutes - October 14 2021

Attendees Board – Ben Wyatt, Ash Hester, Vincent Dawans, Hannah Wallace, Jessie Maran, Andria Robbins, Matt Lembo

Attendees- Barbara Bushell, Doug Klotz, Joe Cullen, Jay Parasco

- Introduction of members at large
- Committee and Officer reports
 - DEIA – Ash reports
 - Met last Tuesday and had 6 people in attendance. Drafted letters: One to landlords to distribute to tenants. Outreach letter to BIPOC owned businesses in Hawthorne and Belmont districts.
 - SNACC – Emily McCadden and Jes Maran report
 - At last meeting, talked about shower updates and where they are at with funds.
 - Hannah shares about the vaccine event; vaccinated ten neighbors. There were food boxes, they added a new air purifier; Changed the shower schedule to accommodate the unvaccinated; Tuesdays are for unvaccinated people
 - SES PTSA – Andria Robbins reports
 - Looking for volunteers for the Harvest Festival.
 - Happy to bring any talking points back to that group.
 - Matt - Run, Walk, Move fundraiser canceled due to lack of coordinator. If we know anyone who wants to volunteer.
 - Business associations – Andria Robbins
 - Met with Hawthorne BLVD business association. Roger Jones shares that they celebrated national peace day with (peace poles)
 - Hosford Abernathy looking to address railroad issues that have caused long delays.
 - Freddys doing a then and now display for the Sunnyside neighborhood. Asking for submissions.
 - SE Uplift
 - Ash provides updates
- Open discussion – SE UpLift’s endorsement of MSANA letter to the office of civic Life.
 - Jes describes the letter – It is referencing an incident following a meeting, in a smaller breakout room. The breakout was around people of color and participation. When the larger group reconvened, a woman shared that she was harassed. The letter calls out the issue of board member harassment by a neighborhood liaison (Allen Field)
 - Should we come up with a mechanism to remove a neighborhood liaison from a coalition association.

- Vincent asks if there is a mechanism for communicating with other neighborhood associations.
- Matt moves that we approve SE UpLift and MSANA by drafting a letter of support for a change to their bylaws; Andria seconds; A vote is taken and the motion passes. Matt withdraws the motion and discussion is had.
- Matt moves that empower the chair and her resources to write a letter to the MSANA and SE UpLift and civic life with our support for changes to their bylaws; Jes seconds; vote taken and the motion passes.
- Matt moves that we revisit our bylaws in May to reflect similar changes to those of the ones detailed above; Jes seconds; vote taken and the motion passes.
- Return presentation by Inner Southeast Action. to provide an update on Fred Meyer's pedestrian entrance being shuttered.
 - Speakers: Doug Klotz
 - Update – Fred Meyer reopened the doors without saying anything, so they may close them again.
 - Doug shares about the history of the issue, which includes a report from a citizen, a warning from the city, a petition and now a request for SNA to sign the petition.
 - Doug did call the store but has not gotten response.
 - Vincent has asked what comes next? Doug suggests the petition should be considered an effort to “keep” the doors open now, rather than reopen them.
 - Jes suggest that this endorsement got caught in the middle of our process development.
 - Ben moves that we endorse the signing of the petition by the Sunnyside neighborhood association and empower the chair and her resources to draft a letter of support for keeping the door open; Jes seconds.
 - Discussion: Vincent concerned we are endorsing something we have not seen. Ash clarifies that we are writing the letter.
 - A vote is taken and the motion passes.
 - Letter goes to Mayer Ted Wheeler, Commissioner Dan Ryan and Director of Development Services Rebecca Esau.
- Some discussion around how helpful the Workers union for Fred Meyer would be.
- Hannah encourages the group to read a recent article on Beacon Village.
- Matt shares that there is an executive director position posted; Experience in continuum of care, experience with the homeless population; competitive pay.
- Ash provides a quick update about upcoming meetings and events.
- Meeting concludes