

Board Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2017
Whole Foods, 2nd Floor Conference Room
MINUTES

Meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m.

Board Member Attendees

Adrienne Cohen
Clay Veka
Rachel Lee
Erin Brasell
Shayan Rohani
Jane Zwinger
Henry Moreno
Craig McIntyre
Weina Dinata
Lauren Gross
Kyann Kalin

Guest

Haley Todd (Portland Fruit Tree Project)
Mitch Collins (Sabin neighbor)

Agenda

Revise order of items on the agenda, to delay the Conversation Project topic until after the Sabin Inclusive & Safe Neighborhood topic.

November Minutes

Corrections needed to (1) spelling of Claire's name; (2) addition of Erin as present; (3) correct spelling of Lauren's name; and (4) deletion of typo. Motion by Adrienne, to approve with amendments, seconded by Erin. Unanimous approval, with abstentions by Shayan, Henry, and Jane.

Treasurer's Report

Adrienne presents the January Treasurer's Report. She reports that this year for the first time NECN charged SCA the service fee that we agreed to pay if we had more than 25 transactions in the year. We are typically over that number. NECN has not previously charged us, and this year they did. Adrienne wants to reconcile one amount with the NECN bookkeeper, but it is not a large discrepancy.

Sabin Community Association Newsletter (SCAN) Delivery

Two more delivery routes need volunteers, and Adrienne requests that the Board help spread the word. The SCAN will be delivered in February, April, June, September, November of this year, typically on the first weekend of the month. We also need at least one more volunteer to bundle newsletters for the quadrants of the neighborhood. Clay volunteers to help bundle.

www.SabinPDX.org

Sabin Community Association, c/o NECN, 4815 NE 7th Ave, Portland, OR 97211, SabinPresident@gmail.com

There is discussion of advertisers and collection procedure. Henry summarizes the status of the accounts and asks how we know when advertisers send payment. Adrienne will follow up with NECN, to have Henry cc'd on the emails from NECN when advertisers pay.

Portland Fruit Tree Project

Haley Todd passes out flyer for 2017 Stewards for the Sabin Community Orchard. The training will occur on January 15. She asks the Board to share the flyers with neighbors to recruit possible volunteers. Portland Fruit Tree Project supports 5 community orchards and also has a program doing harvests from trees around the City.

Sabin--Safe & Inclusive Neighborhood for All

Adrienne wants the Board to think about whether we can facilitate ways to demonstrate that Sabin is a welcoming community. We could coordinate a bulk purchase of Black Lives Matter signs, or discuss whether there are signs that Sabin businesses can display. It would be good to have options of different signs. Kyann has information about one that has a welcoming message in several languages. Weina is a graphic designer and offers to help if we want to design our own signs. Beyond signs, we could use the May General Meeting as an event to address inclusiveness or a related topic. Sabin School has had several parent training events recently.

It is suggested that we survey the community to find out if they are interested in signs or another inclusiveness project. There is a discussion about outreach and whether doing a digital newsletter would be a more interactive way to reach the community and get feedback. We used to do an email version of the newsletter, but due to lack of volunteer capacity to produce an email version, that effort was dropped. Henry will look into whether it could be revived. Shayan's comment is that the more physical events are more likely to create community, so those opportunities can both allow us to gather contacts for the emails lists and make personal connections. Kyann recalled that last year's General Meeting had higher attendance due to the new event signs that we purchased last year.

May General Meeting--Second Monday in May

Erin suggests that if we have a separate door hanger or some other separate piece of paper, to promote the May General Meeting. It could be separate from the timing of the SCAN delivery, if the SCAN deliverers or the Board are willing to deliver. Shayan suggests having a good topic, and then potentially hiring a speaker.

Clay points out that Oregon Humanities has created The Conversation Project. The organization chooses a topic and applies, and The Conversation Project sends a facilitator for a 90 minute community discussion. Potential topics:

- (1) Power, Privilege, and Racial Diversity in Oregon.
- (2) Immigrants, Refugees, and Oregon.
- (3) What's In A Label?

There are many other options as well. Criminal justice focus, religion, gender, others. Leadership. Saving & Serving. Vulnerability and Art.

Shayan suggests finding a headliner speaker to draw people in.

NECN also recently did a successful social justice event, and could perhaps help with contacts and advice for organizing a similar panel event.

Ideas for headliners: Blumenauer, Chloe Eudaly

The plan is to come back to this topic at the February meeting. Everyone during the month will put out feelers for a headliner to give perhaps a 15 minute speech, aligned with one of the Conversation Project topics, followed by a group discussion.

Vacant Homes

Mitch and his neighbors are dealing with a vacant home on his block (4406 NE 13th). The owner has about a dozen homes in NE Portland and are now almost all vacant. Owner is not dealing with the squatters, garbage at the house and in the yard, and a mentally ill homeless person sleeping on the porch every week or two. The police have been responsive, but he keeps coming back. The yard is full of needles and sewage. The owner pays the fourth year of unpaid property taxes, to keep it out of foreclosure. Fines are assessed against the property, which has chronic violations. The owner has not responded and appears uninterested in selling. The City did a wellness check on her.

Adrienne suggests that SCA write a letter to the City, pointing out that these vacant homes are a problem. There is also a suggestion to have SCA participate in a meeting with with Commissioner Eudaly, who oversees BDS.

Other cities have success appointing a person or organization to help an owner through the process of getting vacant and problem houses sold.

There is a suggestion to invite Chloe Eudaly to our next Board meeting to discuss it and hear her vision for City Council. We could send a similar letter to other Councilmembers later.

Adrienne moved to have SCA send a letter (Mitch to draft and SCA officers to edit) to Chloe Eudaly, raising the issue and inviting to our next meeting. Motion by Shayan, seconded by Henry. The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.