

Minutes Sabin Community Association Board meeting, Monday 13 February, Whole Foods Conference Room. Thirteen people present. Gwenn Baldwin, presiding.

Minutes of November 2011 and January 2012 meetings approved.

Martin Schwartz introduced himself as the new owner of Freehouse Bar, along with a business partner who owns Victory, in southwest. Mr. Schwartz says they intend to make the establishment “leaner, cooler, quieter, happier.” They are putting in a kitchen and intend to have “really good food.”

David Sweet asked what they intend to do about noise. Mr. Schwartz answered that they will increase signage, close down the patio at ten promptly and employ some noise abatement measures in the patio, to change the acoustics. Opening in mid March.

Presentations:

David Sweet announced that the new wave of Solarize will offer an early bird discount until Leap Day and is using a fine local contractor.

Agenda discussion:

David Sweet reported that Fresh Exchange, the program that offers SNAP shoppers at Farmers’ Markets matching tokens to extend their buying power will be expanding in the coming season and becoming a 501C3 nonprofit corporation. Over the last three years, “with their SNAP benefits augmented by Fresh Exchange, low-income Oregonians purchased \$145,000 worth of fresh local fruits and vegetables at the markets,” which also benefits the farmers, “often with equally low incomes.”

Diane Benson and Barbara Conable proposed to create a self-guided tour of Sabin front yards for the website. Residents could print out the tour maps to walk at their leisure through Sabin to see its varied and beautiful front yards, which would also be marked with a small sign. The tour would have a focus on bee-friendly (pun duly noted) practices and plants. This endeavor could grow incrementally to eventually become the full blown home and garden tour that some residents hope for in the future. After discussion, Hector moved to “bless” the virtual tour and communicate it broadly. “It

gets people out into Sabin. When you get people onto the street, you get safety....” His motion passed unanimously.

Diane Benson also invited articles for the new website. Hearty thanks to her from Board were expressed for the fine work she has done on the website as part of the Communications Subcommittee.

Hector reported that there have been some meetings with the project manager regarding the Sabin Triangle, resulting in two recommendations: creating a fundraising subcommittee and “chunking the project down,” doing what we can afford bit by bit. Gwenn clarified that this may mean starting with “activating” or “programming” the space to involve more people and create a shared vision of the space for the future.

David reported that the Portland Playhouse at 6th and Prescott is in a church in an area that is zoned residential. Following a resident’s complaint about parking, the Playhouse was charged with a zoning code violation. They petitioned to legalize their use with a Conditional Use Permit for Community Service, which was officially supported by SCA and by King NA. The code hearings officer granted the permit for everything, ironically, except putting on plays on a technicality that, in the zoning code, theatres are called “retail,” a use which is prohibited in a residential zone. There will be an appeal, which the King Neighborhood Association is making for the Playhouse. The appeal will be heard by the city council on Thursday 1 March 3:30 in City Council chambers. Bill Youngren moved that SCA renew its support for Portland Playhouse and ask the NECN Board to endorse the King NA appeal. Passed unanimously. Barbara Conable will be present at the hearing as a representative for the Board.

The Sabin CA general meeting was set for Monday 14 May. The Board approved the program’s being Sabin artists: spoken word, music, art. Consensus was that the business meeting should come before the program, so the schedule will be:

6:30-7. Social hour. Plant exchange.

7-7:30 Business meeting with NECN moderator. Hector will chair the meeting.

7:30-8:30. The program. Bill and Barbara will curate. Sandy Bacharach will join the events subcommittee for this event.

The Clean-up coordinators meeting is Wednesday 15 February at 6:30 at NECN. Barbara will contact Austin to see if he plans to attend and whether he has asked Jerry Channell to attend. Naomi will substitute at the meeting, if necessary.

Flowers will be taken to Rachel Studer after the meeting.

Adjourned 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Conable