



Minutes
SCA General Meeting
June 8, 2020
meeting via Zoom call

In attendance

Don Rouzie
Adrienne Cohen
Sean Green
Vanessa Renwick
Maria Hein
Claire Bollinger
Shayan Rohani
Jessica Rojas (NECN)
Thomas Hudson (King resident)

Vanessa mentions that Genna Golden (12th and Mason) is not able to be with us tonight, but is interested in joining the board.

There is a discussion of recruiting more board members. Vanessa stated that SCA needs to work on getting more black and indigenous people of color members, including possibly by putting up fliers or other methods to recruit people of color to the board. The bylaws allow us to add more board members at other points during the year.

Meeting officially begins at 7:10 PM.

- 1. Announcements.** Sean is stepping up to become chair of NECN this month.
- 2. Election.** Jessica Rojas from NECN runs the elections.

President

First call: Don Rouzie nominated as President.
Second and third call: no additional nominations.

Vice President

First call, second call, and third call: no nominations.

Secretary

First call: Rachel Lee nominated.
Second and third call: no additional nominations.

Treasurer

First call: Maria Hein nominated.
Second and third call: no additional nominations.

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



Slate of officers elected unanimously.

Members at large

Genna Golden
Vanessa Renwick
Claire Bollinger
Shayan Rohani
Sean Green

Slate of at-large members elected unanimously.

For future elections, Jessica mentions that many groups are using Survey Monkey.

Our former chair, Clay Veka, will be returning to Portland this summer, but we do not know if she will be rejoining the SCA in any capacity.

3. Giant Sequoia Status.

As an update, Claire and Shayan received a letter from Mayor Wheeler in support of exploring options to support the tree, and a similar letter was written to the neighboring landowner. Before that letter, Urban Forestry denied their appeal of the tree code violation. On Friday, they met with the Mayor's office, and they are appealing Urban Forestry's decision to the Code Hearing Officer. There will be a hearing after they do that. Any future decision from the Code Hearing Officer could be appealed to circuit court. The neighboring owner is considering selling the property to the City. There is a lot of community support for the tree. The City is discussing the possibility of a conservation easement, and another option would be a tract. The owner previously insisted that the only solution was to remove the foundation and replace it in the same place. The house is currently on temporary shoring, but without a permit to do so. BDS was not sure if a permit was necessary and decided to do an internal structural review instead. To save the tree, the house will need to be moved or demolished. The damage to the foundation was already present in 1994, and the house has been yellow tagged since 2017.

A question is raised whether a letter would be helpful at this point, and to whom, and what key points. Vanessa points out that in an analogous situation in SE Portland, it was helpful to write to the mayor. She suggests the SCA write to **(1) the mayor, cc'ing his liaison Sam Diaz; (2) the two bureaus (BDS and Urban Forestry), and (3) the City ombudsman, Tony Green,** arguing that we are interested in saving the tree. Don asks whether the letter could be addressed to the Code Hearing Officer. The Mayor oversees BDS and Urban Forestry. Jen Kairo, the forester, should also be included. Sam Diaz is the liaison in the Mayor's office and should be included. There is no point person at BDS.

West of 15th is a low-canopy neighborhood, and this is a healthy tree with a long life-span and which offers significant ecological benefits. It's a signature tree and important to the neighborhood. The Tree Code is being amended, and this could be an illustration of the City working positively.

Sean moves to authorize the chair to submit a letter to the City in support of saving the tree and to comment on the process if deemed worthwhile. Maria seconded. Approved unanimously. Motion passes.

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4. NECN Representative

Don nominates Sean Green as our representative to NECN, Vanessa seconds. Approved unanimously, with no abstentions. Motion passes.

5. Clean-up.

This year's clean-up was cancelled due to COVID, and we understand that there will be no City funding for clean-ups in the future. The City both provided funding in the past and helped negotiate a favorable rate with the hauler. SCA's current balance is around \$11,000.

6. City Issues

Sean asks if there is interest in taking a position on the situation in the City. There is a discussion about renegotiating the police union contract. Commissioner Hardesty issued a call for several items today, including defunding the gun violence reduction team, eliminating positions from the special emergency reaction team, defunding school resource officers, and other subjects. Other organizations are asking to cut the police budget by \$50 million next year.

A letter requesting that the City renegotiate the police union contract is proposed.

Sean moves to authorize the SCA chair to send a letter to the City asking that the City not extend the police contract and instead start to renegotiate it and involve the community. Vanessa seconds. Approved unanimously, with no abstentions. Motion passes.

7. Houselessness.

NECN has been advocating on behalf of Right 2 Dream to expand in light of the COVID situation. There has been a group trying to formalize alternative shelters and villages as a medium-term response. Sean has been attending the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty. They'll have a forum on June 27 about how to promote managed or self-managed sites.

On June 16, a group of neighborhood associations are going to do a group call to discuss the issue.

Longer-term affordable housing is not meeting the needs of the entire unsheltered population. Sean thinks that there need to be additional options and tools in the toolbox.

Vanessa points out that there are multiple vacant PCRI homes and other buildings in the area. Don notes that PCRI had a leadership transition during the last year, but it does have an executive director now.

This could be a controversial topic with some Sabin community members opposed in incorporating houseless people into our neighborhood. But there is interest in continuing to discuss and work on this as a neighborhood association.



Sean and Don discuss that it is easier to contemplate getting involved as a person if there is a structure to identify with and needs that the neighborhoods can contribute to. Don recounts that there was a mobile neighborhood watch in Sabin decades ago.

We expect a larger unsheltered population because (1) the economic problems are going to force more people out of their homes; and (2) the traditional shelters will be operating at reduced capacity in order to protect people by social distancing.

Maria proposes drafting a mission statement about SCA's position. She is willing to work on drafting it before our next meeting.

Claire points out that information about available resources to help people with needs would be helpful. Shy says that in Salt Lake, there is a resource card that volunteers distribute downtown.

One of the issues when you are homeless is safe storage for your belongings when you leave the campsite to get services. The Wapato Jail project may be useful in that regard. Vanessa suggests SCA might do a donation drive for wheeled suitcases.

8. Farewell to Adrienne. We are grateful for her many years of faithful service.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm.