

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2018

Southeast Uplift Fireside Room
3534 SE Main St

Board Present:

Maggie McGann, Eric Solorzano, Sean Watkins, Reuben Deumling, Matt Lembo, Pat Schweibert

Board Excused:

Russell Rinaldi

Guests:

Bethany Sakowitz, Bible Church Fellowship
Eric
Jeanette

Called to order 7:05am

Introductions

Agenda amended to include short discussion of replacing Chelsea and Communications Committee Goals. Unanimously approved as amended.

August minutes approved unanimously.

Announcements

- Quick discussion of posting draft minutes. Can't do that!
- Sean observes the Belmont Street fair felt much more well attended than last year
- Hawthorne Bridget North sidewalk closed Sunday 9/16 8pm - 12am
- Public comments sought on Burnside Bridge seismic preparedness
- No police officer update - Crime & Livability chair to reach out if they would like to see more frequent Officer reports

Committee Reports

- Preparedness

- No report
- Land Use & Transportation
 - Working on a safety survey focusing on problem areas and suggested solutions
 - Short term rental enforcement support
 - Draft a statement out of committee to bring to SNA Board
- Treasurer's Report
 - To be emailed for inclusion in minutes
 - Projecting approximately \$2k in revenue from Belmont Street Fair
- Crime & Livability
 - Committee Meeting @ Community House meeting on 9/4
 - Approximately 30 neighbors attending
 - Concerns were voiced, some in anger
 - Going to be a monthly meeting for now
 - Next meeting to include breakout into work groups to address specific concerns
 - Safety of Sunnyside School students
 - Viability of transferring Park to PPS
 - PPS not interested in taking over the Park
 - Concern is Police can't clear property inside the park boundary, Park Rangers can't clear property on the sidewalk outside the park.
 - City of Portland Park Watch training program now on offer including a Reporting Tool Kit
 - [Maggie] Did the meeting focus mostly on the park and the Community House?
 - [Tabled till 8pm agenda item]
- Southeast Uplift
 - Metro representative Bob Stacy spoke about Transportation, Housing and Parks as areas requiring voter approval of funding
 - Momentum Alliance to train SE Uplift board on racial relations, conflict de-escalation and general leadership skills in response to increased tension at meetings. How can SEUL board leadership be more attuned to under represented constituencies
 - 50th Anniversary celebration last month fun and well attended
- SEUL Land Use
 - No August meeting
- Business Associations
 - BABA
 - Looking for help to promote "Shop Small Saturday" - encouraging folks to get out into their communities and patronize local businesses the day after Black Friday

- “Trinkets & Treats” event where Belmont businesses are open for trick or treating from 4-6pm scheduled for Halloween. **SNA to run a newsletter article in the October newsletter.**
 - Valerie Hunter at Belmont Pub (new building next to Straight From New York) to install mural in alley.
 - Vernoica from Blackheart to help organize a BABA volunteer event (possibly recurring) at the Community House. Matt to assist.
 - HBBA
 - Crime & Safety Report, Officer Matt Jacobsen, PPD
 - Summer Hawthorne mission (7/7 - 8/31) post-mortem
 - 58% reduction in calls for service and unwanted calls (71 calls compared to 170 last year)
 - Goal was 10%
 - A lot of walking patrols in the first third of the mission
 - Shifted to maintenance role in the middle third
 - Increase in animal problems
 - Moving into winter
 - City wide focus to “Statistical policing” -- focusing on specific corners, spots, etc
 - Burglary investigation from February (doors smashed)
 - 15 indictments on single suspect
 - Chronic high volume offenders program
 - KC Harris, shoplifter
 - Joshua Harris, shoplifting at New Seasons & Plaid Pantry (food??)
 - [Nancy]: Is there an Assistant DA assigned to graffiti problem?
 - Insufficient resources / priority
 - [Matt]: Can you describe interactions on Hawthorne this summer
 - Much calmer compared to last year
 - No destruction of property (3 Doors Down windows breaking last year)
 - **Happy to facilitate conversation at Community House with PPD (March / April?)**
 - [Don]: Wapato shelter conversion?
 - No update
 - [Don]: New electric scooter safety
 - Report concerns to PBOT
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/77294>
 - PPD doesn't have resources for enforcement
 - HBBA not the only group with these concerns
 - Portland requires scooter companies to share all crash, route and other non-personal data (are the companies complying? enforcement?)

- PBOT has a huge interest in shifting folks away from car trips
 - Mayor's office is prioritizing trash cleanup citywide (optics)
 - Smart City Presentation (PBOT), Anne Hill, Clay Baker
- Communications Committee
 - [Tabled until later discussion]

Homelessness / Sunnyside Community House

- Thanks to Pat and John for sticking their necks out on this issue
- [Pat] These are real and important issues, and all the perspectives shared at the CLC Meetings were valid.
- How do we want to shape and move this conversation going forward?
- [Arlene] Can we get data on participation in the County's ADU (Tiny Houses) for the Homeless program?
 - County wide, only four units have been built and occupied at this point
- [Sean] We're going to have to tackle this problem head on ourselves. City agencies have shown that they want folks to work on it at the neighborhood level.
- [Pat] How do we deal with the neighborhood perception that aggressive behavior outside is a result of good work going on inside?
- [John] Community House Executive Director, describing conversations over the next few weeks
 - Patterns
 - Distaste for litter and dog poop
 - Individuals in the park seem scary
 - Distaste for camping in the park
 - Distaste for human waste in the park
 - Responses
 - New dumpster emptied daily
 - Steady supply of dog poop bags
 - Education regarding need for poop scooping
 - Added a porta-potty to the CH property in late August
 - Gets cleaned every Friday, may need to increase frequency
 - Being used and appreciated
 - Example of solutions leading to additional (perceived) problems
 - Allowed some folks to sleep on the porch in response to distaste for campers
 - This was a mistake as the number of campers quickly grew out of control
 - Porch has since been closed and Police are on call to remove folks if necessary
 - Regular reminders at dinners to be good neighbors
 - Actively engaged in outreach with individuals in and around the park
 - Cleaned the park every morning (John, single-handedly)

- Over the past 10 days, 6 have been easy, 2 very hard, 2 took a little extra effort
 - Observations
 - Number of young travelers making camp in Portland has increased this and passed summer
 - They are notably more difficult to enlist in helping to take care of the neighborhood
 - Knowing people's names and having your name known is invaluable. Introduce yourself
 - Improving conditions will require more people helping in small ways.
- There is some momentum in the neighborhood in this direction among a few folks.
- [Maggie] Did people understand they were at an SNA committee meeting?
 - [Matt] Not really.
 - [Dale] How can we get the community involved in solving the problem?
- [Reuben] Can we imagine the SNA, SES and Community House partnering on this issue?
 - [Dale] This will spread the word much faster.
- [John] How can we present solutions to the neighborhood that we can work on together?

Rueben moves to split General and Board meetings beginning next month, the latter to immediately follow the former

- Unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 9:12pm