

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

August 2021

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SunnysidePortland.org

board@sunnysideportland.org

SNA July Notes and August Plans

By Dave Boush, SNA President

Board Election Results, Hybrid Meetings Starting in September

The Annual SNA Board Election was held as planned on July 8th, in the Southeast Uplift parking lot at 3435 SE Main St. The candidate pool was strong and competitive, with many more excellent candidates than open positions. Please keep in mind that you can fully participate in SNA efforts without joining the Board.

Andria Robbins was elected for one year, finishing the term for Board position 5. Matt Lembo, Hannah Wallace, Vincent Dawans, and Ben Wyatt were elected to two-year terms for Board positions 6-9. Sincere thanks to departing Board members Christy Portman, K.C. Hoffert, and Lorraine Henriques. We hope to still see a lot of you at SNA meetings and events. Welcome new Board members Andria, Ben, and Hannah. As always, thanks to returning members Matt and Vincent.

A big shout-out of appreciation is due to Matchu Williams, SEUL Neighborhood Association Liaison, for conducting the election and tallying results.

Beginning in September we hope to hold the General SNA meetings both in person at 3534 SE Main St. (SEUL) and online via Zoom.

The officers, chosen by the board, will be announced next month.

Civic Engagement

By Francine Chinitz, CCL Volunteer, Portland Chapter Co-leader

One of the things I love about Sunnyside is the way so many of us have stepped up to support a sustainable future. We ride our bikes. We recycle. We plant backyard gardens. We install solar panels. We shop at farmers markets. While all these are important, I know it's not enough. That's why I also volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) to try to make a real impact on climate change.

I build political will around the importance of carbon pricing by asking members of Congress to support the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This bipartisan policy places an increasing price on fossil fuels at the source, and returns net proceeds to all households. Every month you would receive a dividend check to spend as you choose.

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are being held virtually.

Check sunnysideportland.org one week in advance for a Zoom link and agenda.

DEIA Committee meeting

6:30pm - 7:30pm
(August 3rd)

SNA General and Board Meeting

Second Thursday of the month
7pm - 9pm
(No meeting in August due to Summer Recess, meetings resume September 9th)

Community Safety & Livability Committee

Third Thursday of the month
6:30pm - 7:30pm
(August 19th, September 16th)

Why put a price on carbon? It is the single most effective solution we can implement to curb emissions. In fact, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen said, "We cannot solve the climate crisis without effective carbon pricing." Why am I asking you to help me pass a price on carbon at the national level? We are running out of time and this policy would reduce carbon emissions by 50% in just 10 years and help us get to net zero by 2050. For our livable future, let's all work for change on the local and federal level. For more CCL information, contact me at fcchinitz@hotmail.com. I hope to see you at our next CCL meeting on August 14th.

Sunnyside Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Committee

By Ash Hester, SNA Board Member

The DEIA Committee has reached out to the Belmont Business Association to see how we can partner together for the upcoming Belmont Street Fair held on Saturday, September 11th, 2021. The DEIA Committee's initiative is to help support local BIPOC businesses who would like to participate by providing financial aid for booth participation. The committee plans to help build a stronger awareness of the different Black and Brown owned businesses that support the thriving Belmont strip. We like how the Hawthorne Business Association has developed a cultural calendar to host events for the businesses along the Hawthorne strip and we want to create something similar for Belmont. The DEIA committee would appreciate any suggestions on actions we can take as a developing committee to help uplift and support our BIPOC community. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Virtual meeting details will be posted on the SNA website on July 30th.

Getting to Know Your Neighbors

By Devin Browne, SNA Member At Large

Q&A with Shari Dunn

Shari Dunn was raised in a working-class, blue-collar, African-American neighborhood in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and has lived in Sunnyside for the last six years. The former CEO of Dress for Success Oregon, she's the founder and CEO of ITBOM Consulting. ITBOM stands for I'm the Boss of Me—where she does strategic equity work.

How have you liked living in Sunnyside?

Shari: For the last six years, I have loved living in Sunnyside. I could actually walk to my previous job. I love being within walking distance to a park. It's just this last year since I've been in my condo that it's been hard, because of crime.

We don't have mailboxes anymore. We had to take them out of our lobby because someone was breaking in weekly to steal our mail, so now I have to go to the post office to get mail. Then they escalated—they tried to break into the elevator to take metal out. We've had our storage units broken into. We've had cars stolen. We've had someone camping in our boiler area who keeps turning on and off our boiler, which is where our hot water comes from. At the height of the winter storm, we had our heat turned off because [the camper] was hot and didn't like the noise. When our storage area got broken into, the trail of stuff led from the storage units to the [Sunnyside] camp.

Have you interacted with the police at all?

Shari: We call the police all the time and that's pretty much it. I mean, what are you going to do? The person is gone. Over the Memorial Day holiday, we hired a security firm and the security guy saw someone, but he did not feel safe getting out of his car because there was a car with the thief and he couldn't tell how many people were in it. By the time backup came, they had left. I guess for me, if a professional doesn't feel safe.... But I'm in the building with these people and that is stressful. We're at the point where we are trying to figure out what to do next.

Is everyone in the building concerned?

Shari: Everyone's concerned. There's no one that's saying "How dare you be mad at a houseless person!" or "You're lucky to



even get mail!" But I encountered that at the Sunnyside Association Neighborhood meeting. Someone was like that. I went to the meeting because I was curious as to what was going on. There was this narrative – I don't know if the Association put out or that The Oregonian put out – but in the winter it was like: "Oh, the neighbors don't want a sweep of this camp. The neighbors all support this camp." And I was like, do you know what's going on in our building?

Did they?

Shari: Well, I told them. I think people take this a little bit like Israel and Palestine where whatever you say about one it means you hate the other, which is not true. I know people who have experienced homelessness. My nephew has experienced homelessness. He has been kicked out of a shelter for his behavior and lives with my mother in Wisconsin. So I feel like a lot of people are telling me what they don't know about, which gets a little weird.

The issue with homelessness is about humanity and what is our obligation to each other. And I just don't think our obligation is to turn people out in this heat. Or in the winter. And yet people were advocating that they have the right to stay out. That's not a civilized society.

You're a consultant, a professional problem solver. What do you think we should do?

Shari: Number one, this idea about opening up more space for people to camp is a good idea. I think we need to think about things that are not in use right now, like the Lloyd Center. You could set up facilities, showers—there's a lot of potential in that space. And then set about proper triage. In most emergencies, you go from who is less injured to who is most injured, and you design your solutions based on that. But in this case, you do a bit of a reverse triage—you want to find the people who are going to work every day who are homeless, and prioritize them for housing. Then—and this is probably a state issue—we need more beds for drug and alcohol treatment and more beds for mental health treatment. And then there's a group of people who are not competent to make decisions, and we as a society are going to have to decide, are we going to provide inpatient care for some period of time? Like this African-American woman in downtown Portland I've seen walking around in underwear, screaming. That is not an answer. There is no housing that's going to help that. What she needs is somebody to say "I need to help you because you cannot help yourself at this moment." That's what I was doing. But no one asked me.

What do you mean? The Sunnyside Newsletter is asking you right now!

Shari: Thank you!

Devin Browne is a freelance journalist currently working on a story about mail theft in Portland. Please email her with any stories, tips, or info at devin.e.browne@gmail.com.

Sunnyside Piazza Update

By Ash Hester, SNA Board Member

We are introducing a new member to the Sunnyside Piazza Committee, Will Grimm, who is going to help us with the restoration project. Will successfully completed a mural design and painting project at the intersection of Lincoln St. and 30th Ave. and we plan to use the same collaborative design strategy for the intersection on Yamhill St. and 34th Ave. He has helped Sunnyside launch a design board for our community to submit ideas for the next Piazza mural. You can follow along and share your creative input at <https://tinyurl.com/xpfjcfb6>. We'll be tracking design submissions through the month of July and early August and selecting the top 5 designs for an in-person vote at SE Uplift on August 31st at 6:30PM. We will be sure to include the original sunflower

artwork as one of the top 5 designs. Submission guidelines are posted on the design board, and we encourage the community to participate and take action in helping us restore the 20 year old landmark. The painting of the mural will take place in late September; we'll share more details in the September newsletter, on the Sunnyside website and Facebook Page.

You can contribute towards the restoration of this beloved landmark by donating to the campaign's GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/sunnyside-piazza> or via the SNA website homepage. We're trying to raise \$1,500 to cover our expenses. Follow the Sunnyside Piazza Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/sunnysidepiazza>) for up-to-date details and ways to get involved.

Adopt One Block in the Sunnyside Neighborhood

By Vincent Dawans, SNA Board Member

As of July 22nd, over 80% of the blocks in Sunnyside have been adopted through Adopt One Block. We have 132 blocks adopted and only 28 blocks still seeking adoption. This is more than three times as many blocks adopted than when we started our neighborhood outreach in early April. We had 43 adopted blocks then. The areas marked in grey on the map have been adopted; areas in black still need adoption.

More information about Adopt One Block (including an updated map as well as information about how to adopt a block) is available at sunnysideportland.org under the Volunteer menu.

If you have adopted a block, please let our Cleanup Coordinator know so we can improve collaboration and coordination among block ambassadors as well as offer local support. So far, block ambassadors covering about 50 blocks have made themselves known. Those blocks are identified with a thin white line on the map. Your contact information will not be shared publicly, but knowing about you will allow our Cleanup Coordinator to privately connect adopters of neighboring blocks if they both choose.

To make yourself known to the SNA as a block ambassador, or if you ever need help with disposing of excess trash, dealing with larger items that have been dumped, needles or biohazard cleanup, please contact Vincent Dawans, SNA Cleanup Coordinator at dawansv@gmail.com.

Sunnyside Litter Cleanup AdoptOneBlock Map

Live near any of the areas marked in black on the map?

We need volunteers for litter cleanup in these areas.

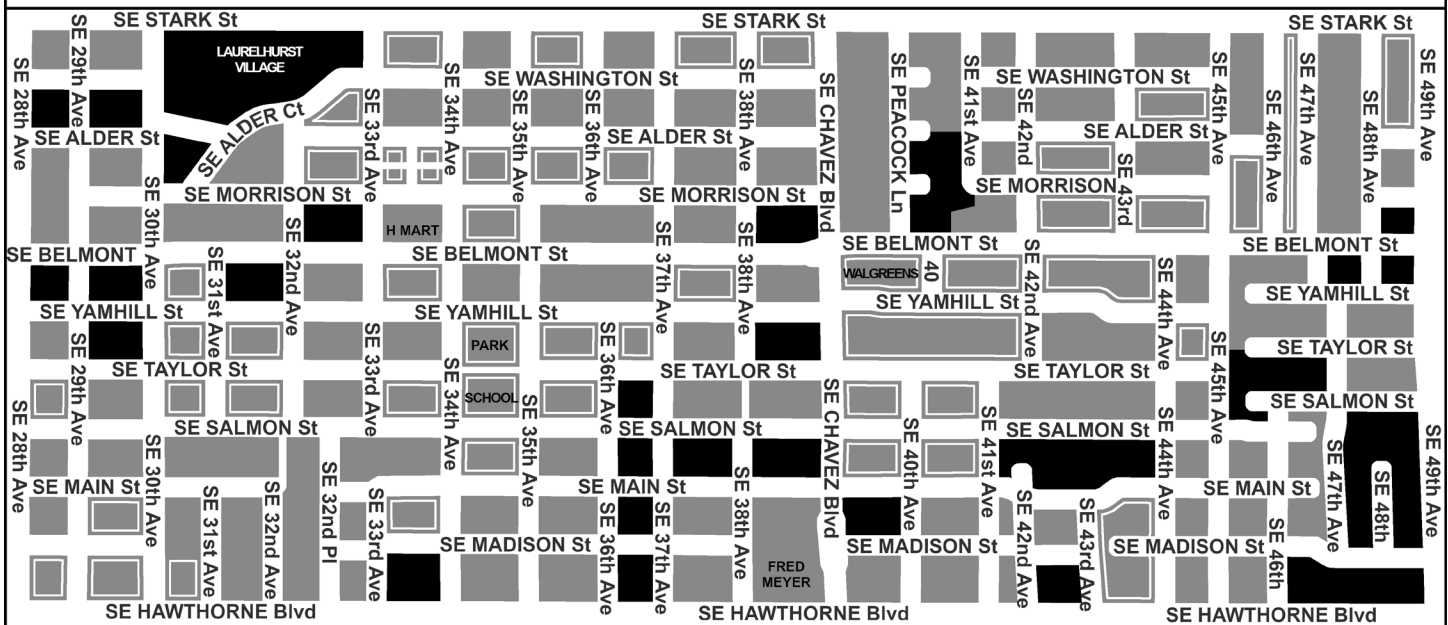
Have adopted a block marked in gray already?

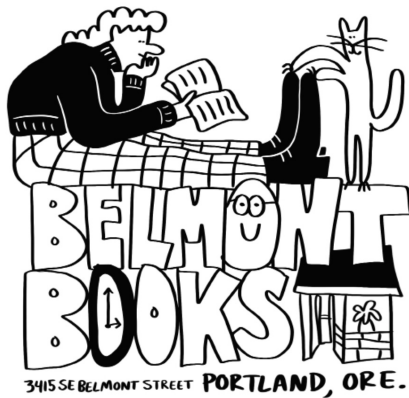
Please give us your contact info so we can keep in touch.

More info: SunnysidePortland.org/AdoptOneBlock or email our cleanup coordinator at dawansv@gmail.com

As of July 22, 2021

- Areas needing adoption
- Blocks already adopted
- Known ambassadors





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Any opinions expressed, unless
specified, are not necessarily those
of the Sunnyside Neighborhood
Association or its board. **Sunnyside
residents are welcome to submit
articles for consideration that concern
neighborhood issues, by emailing
newsletter@sunnysideportland.org.**
Many wonderful volunteer Sunnyside
residents distribute the Neighborhood
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Sunnyside Neighborhood 'Gap Map'

Live near any of the blocks marked in black below? We need your help!
Contact dianadeumling@gmail.com to volunteer for our delivery service.

Delivery help
needed here

