

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

General Meeting Minutes

Nov. 11, 2021

taken by Hannah Wallace (Ben Wyatt is in Hawaii)

Attendees from the Board: Hannah Wallace, Jes Maran, Ash Hester, Emily McCadden, Matt Lembo, Andria Robbins, Vincent Dawans, Chris Waldmann

Other Attendees: Roger Jones, Babs TK, Ann Kopel + Lee Lancaster, Grace Tunning, Johanna Brenner

- Welcome and attendance

- * Ash brings meeting to order, starts introductions.

- * **Ann Kopel and Lee Lancaster:** We live right down the block from where SEUL is. We are in the neighborhood. We are very interested in hearing what Joanna Brenner has to say.

- * **Roger Jones:** Hails from the HBBA. Andria and I meet monthly if not more. I'm gonna be listening more than talking I hope.

- * **Grace Tunning:** Newer to the neighborhood. This is my first meeting.

- Johanna Brenner:** Professor emerita at PSU in sociology and women, gender + sexuality studies. I've been active in the city for many years and recently have been part of the Portland Metro People's Coalition. Grassroots org interested in building power for people in the city. Thru that got involved in Police Accountability Work.

- * **Babs:** I'm on Peacock Lane.

- Open discussion of what we'd like to see our neighborhood work towards in the last few months of the year.

- * Vincent says we'll probably do a clean-up at 36th before the tree lighting on Nov. 28th. He'll send an email when we're asking for volunteers. [Tree lighting will be near the former homeless camp, which is very messy.]

- * Jes asks for details on the holiday tree lighting. Andria says it's going to be at 2PM on the 28th on 34th Ave. at Hawthorne and there will be some ornament-making. It's to bring everyone together in the neighborhood.

- * Hannah asks if we can do something social. Peacock Lane? A social event to get to know our neighbors in person in a safe way.

- Babs says they're working on the logistics of doing the Peacock Lane show this year. It goes from Dec. 15th-31st. Lights come on at 6PM. Will

not have the cocoa booth because of COVID. May have pedestrian only nights—not sure yet.

* Ash suggests we do a get-together on a Saturday and do it at 3PM on so Emily can join us. [She works in early evening on weekends.] We can then do Peacock Lane after that. We decide on the 18th.

* Matt is curious what all the churches in our neighborhood do. Can we do a coordinated outreach to get to know some of them? Matt would be willing to lead this. Hannah offers to help.

- Johanna Brenner from the Portland Metro's Peoples' Coalition presents about the Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP)'s recommendations to City Council, and to ask for SNA's endorsement.

* She says she thinks we do amazing work as a neighborhood. Especially all the work you've done with houseless people.

* Many of us in the city + even the mayor gave lip service to the idea that we need to re-imagine what is public safety. Like many other cities have relied way too much on policing as the only route to what we think of as keeping ourselves safe. The PCCEP is an interesting group. Appointed by the mayor, comprised of Portland residents, but all volunteer. They have an official function: to provide advice and direction to the PPB. The committee was set up as a result of the Department of Justice suit against PPB for a pattern of extreme discrimination against people suffering from mental illness. Because of that, the DOJ has been watch-dogging Portland. The committee was set up so the police could do a better job of interacting w/ the community.

* Their Core Patrol Services—PCCEP did a thorough engagement with the community. Listening sessions. Did surveys. In May, they submitted a report to the Mayor. Often, though, committees spend a lot of times advising the city, only to be ignored. Which is why they are asking NAs to sign on to the letter. Take it seriously, move on implementing the recommendations. The recommendations are bold + meaningful, but they are backed by a lot of research + discussion here and in other cities. SEUL and five other NAs have signed on to support this.

Here are some of the recommendations:

- Support for expansion of Portland Street Response. PPB has been reluctant to do this, has been putting pressure on Mayor not to expand. The Mayor did finally agree that PSR should go city-wide. The

PCCEP recommends that it should be scaled up to take 20% of all 911 calls.

- Non-sworn officer public safety response, AKA Public Safety Support Specialists (PSSS). PCCEP wants them to be vastly expanded and that they do things that PPB typically do, but with no guns.

- Policy of stopping people driving for minor infractions like a broken tail light be stopped. (There's copious evidence this mostly targets POC—especially Black people.)

- Gun violence through community-based solutions

- More restorative justice work with youth.

- Recommendations on how bureaus deliver calls. What seems to be happening is that the fall-back is to send a cop.

- The Mayor wants to scale up the police by 300 people over the next few years. They continue to fall back on police for every public safety problem that we have. This letter is still very important. It's still a live issue. It's whether or not

Q&A with Johanna Brenner

* **Hannah:** Is there a deadline here?

* **Johanna:** No deadline. They sent it to Council they had a work session on it in July and City Council members said, in essence, "Thank you very much, we're gonna parse this out and let PBOT and others look at traffic, etc. look into issue of PSR."

They appointed Mike Myers as Community Safety director and he spoke to PCCEP and he was supportive of the recommendations.

- **Matt:** asks about the plan to hire retired police officers. Setting aside the big problem of where are we gonna find these people, do you think that that push is displacing the things that PCCEP recommends or are they all happening together? My sense is that it's all happening.

- **Johanna:** Hardesty made the point at the CC meeting yesterday that even tho' all these programs take so long to put in place, the idea of rehiring 50 retired police officers they don't even blink an eye. PCCEP is concerned that we have a direction. Given that there are limited financial resources, coming in on the side of this report keeps the momentum going. The city is moving—but it's moving a lot less quickly than people on PCCEP would like to see.

- **Ash:** Is there any buy-in from any of the Council members? Is Hardesty putting any muscle towards this?

- **Johanna:** She is v. concerned about how the PPB constrains Public Safety Support Specialists. They haven't really allowed them to take up

any of the work that police do now. So I think Commissioner Rubio is also very supportive, in terms of community-based solutions to gun violence and youth programs. Ryan and the mayor have come around to supporting PSR, too.

- **Chris:** Request. I was wondering if you could speak more to the urgency here, given the ongoing contract negotiations with the PPB and how these recommendations would be affected by these negotiations.

- **Johanna:** This is a complicated issue. There is no urgency in that they won't take a vote next week. But this process was very much about public safety and how do we think about public safety in our city. We've seen nothing but mission creep with the Police. It could more effectively be done by other kinds of workers and professionals. I think that's why it's urgent. That's why I continue to organize around it. It's important to continue the struggle!

- **Emily:** Wondering how your group has engaged with the people who are most directly impacted by police in Portland. Black Portlanders and houseless Portlanders. Also: how can we ensure that the PS3s (Public Safety Support Specialists) aren't as violent as the police?

- **Johanna:** What PCCEP recommended was that the PS3s not be in the police department. Everyone agrees that these are unarmed people and that their job is that they be trained in de-escalation. Being knowledgeable about services. If someone steals your car, you don't need someone with a gun to help with that. We worked v. closely with UNITE Oregon which you may know is a POC organization, deeply rooted in BIPOC communities, immigrant communities. We worked with PALF (a Black org), NAACP, and also groups like NW Family Circle (people whose families have been killed by the police). So I think PCCEP did a good job with listening sessions to the affected groups. The restorative justice recs and community-based solutions to violence came out of the Coalitions of Communities of Color, who have long been engaged in this alternative.

- * **Jes:** Makes the motion that we adopt the letter that Johanna has written.

- **Vincent:** A reminder that we need 15 members in a general meeting for a quorum. If we don't have a quorum, then we vote in the Board Meeting.

- * **Ash:** Says we should follow process. And we can do it in the Board Meeting. Does anyone have any concerns? Are we sure that we're hearing the voice of everyone here?

- * **Roger:** I'm not one that wants to hold back on the "peace" officers. They are incredibly important to us in the budget. What's the difference between the Portland Peoples' Coalition position and People4 Portland who have had an outsize voice in the last couple of months? Is there a

consensus that we should be thinking about so we could have a more comprehensive supportive system?

* **Ann:** says that is exactly her concern.

* **Johanna:** We are a grassroots org. We have no paid staff.

People4Portland is a dark money PAC that's deeply funded by downtown businessmen and run by two very slick lobbyists. One good thing that People4Portland supports—they support the expansion of PSR. So on that we are completely aligned.

Second thing: they want sweeps of unauthorized camps. They argue that once there are shelter beds the camps should go. We know that's not good enough. {We know all the reasons congregant shelters aren't good enough.} The County + the City are vastly expanding the amount of \$\$ that's going to houseless people—services, navigation teams. But People4Portland talks about graffiti and trash. 50% of all arrests that PPB do right now are of houseless people! We need an alternative. I would call them an Astroturf rather than a grassroots group. I think it's a shame that they've helped to expand the prejudice and anger of houseless people through their messaging. t's done in a soft way.

Ann: Johanna, I just have one problem in dealing with the houseless issue. They tend to be seen as one huge group, and they're not.

Johanna: that's right.

Ann: there is a huge criminal element and they're preying on us. That is a big issue. But then there's the people who are houseless because of personal drug addiction issues or mental health issues. These two issues are co-mingled. We need to start triaging. And treating people differently. I am all for the PSR being expanded.

- Ash reminds that our next meeting is Dec. 9th—second Thurs. of the month. 7-8 is the General meeting. 8-9 is the Board Meeting. We'll have State Rep Rob Nosse speak with us. It's an open conversation. Meeting is adjourned for the General Meeting.

SNA Board Meeting Minutes {Starts at 8:08}

Attendees from the Board: Hannah Wallace, Jes Maran, Ash Hester, Emily McCadden, Matt Lembo, Andria Robbins, Vincent Dawans, Chris Waldmann

Also Present: Roger Jones and Johanna Brenner

Voted on October meetings Minutes: Chris moved to approve; Vincent seconded. everyone voted to approve.

Emergency Meeting Minutes on sponsoring Peacock Lane for insurance: Vincent moved to pass them; Hannah seconded it. We voted to approve.

Committee & Officer Reports

Committee Reports:

DEIA report from Ash: First Tues. of the month. Two new guests and we helped navigate them. They were immigrants from Vietnam who work in agriculture. We helped connect them with resources. Conversations about language. Working on drafting a presentation to extend the conversation.

SNACC report from Emily: We met for 30 minutes before we entered the South Tabor meeting. We talked about a needs assessment for the shower program to assess how well we are serving folks. We talked about the vaccine clinic that we're operating. And we are doing a Clothing Drive on Dec. 4th!

SES PTSA from Andria: there's a garden raffle fundraiser with great prizes. Also, at the HBBA meeting, they are going to do a DEIA committee. And we also talked about the cleanups to prepare for the tree lighting. There's an overall issue of filling the land use committee roles in all NAs, not just ours. Didn't make it to the Belmont Biz. Assoc. meeting this morning but she will get us minutes.

SE Uplift from Ash: Making better equity of all board members and the removal process. If SEUL feels any board member is creating harm to the assoc. or individuals that they should have the ability to remove that person. Right now, NAs have veto power over this. SEUL is trying to make more equity. That will be voted on by the SEUL board at the Dec. 1st meeting. New ED Nancy led the meeting. She's so wonderful, a wealth of knowledge.

Chris: Wonders if we can direct Ash's vote a certain way, since she's our rep.

Ash: For the most part I'm voting on behalf of the NA. She votes in accordance with what we've been doing /supporting as a NA. And, as a NA we voted to support the letter that MSANA drafted.

Roger: Have you already decided to vote to remove the veto power of NAs of SEUL board members?

Ash: We sort of have-in that we voted to support the MSANA letter.

Rogers: I spent 6 years as a board member at SEUL. But right now I'm here to listen.

Ash: Oh—we also had our officer vote at the SEUL meeting. Tina is sitting chair. Ash is co-charing. Dave Weaver is Vice Chair. Nancy Chaplin is Secretary. Anna is temporarily Treasurer.

Vincent: can we move on voting the PCCEP issue because Johanna is with us?

Jes: moves to adopt the letter Johanna B. presented.

Matt: Seconds it

We vote to endorse the letter, unanimously. [Roger is not a board member.]

Matt says we should probably not let people compare People4Portland and PCCEP. They are very different things—one has been doing community engagement for years. The other has not. Not fair to compare.

Roger offers that we should look at both for them.

Treasurer Report from Vincent: We have just below \$4,000 in the general fund. It's going down. We have \$400 in SNACC. We have \$550 in the Piazza. Don't wait months and months for reimbursements. Every two months is OK, but not longer than that. I need the board to vote on applying for the Comms grant.

H: makes a motion that we vote to apply for the Comms Grant. Chris seconds. We vote in favor.

- **Vincent:** Why don't we ask for donations? We could also apply for the DEIA grant and the DEIA committee could use that \$\$ for communications if we can make the case that we're making a more diverse. Community Grant: shower program could apply for this. Would someone write something to ask for donations? Ash says she'll do it.

- **Chris:** how much are we getting from advertising right now? Vincent says we have six active advertisers. So a total of \$2800. Ads are \$550 per year for 1/12th of a page.

Ash reminds that we need a new newsletter coordinator. She's stopping with the Dec. issue. The work goes from the 15th-27th. That's really kind of it. 5-10 hours. It's rounding up information, reaching out to people and getting it.

- **SEUL bylawys amendment update**

Ash would like us to review our letter of endorsement, which Matt drafted.

Ash shares the letter on the screen.

Roger: he thinks the complaints are unfounded; but Ash points out that that's not what we're here to discuss. We've already decided as an NA to support MSANA's letter to Civic Life.

Ash: this is not taking away the power of the NA. You can still send a rep to SEUL. It's just that NA's wouldn't be able to veto SEUL's decision to expel a board member.

Matt: I've talked to a lot of people about this. More than two hours with Chris Eykamp (Chair of HAND). The thing people keep leaving out of the discussion is SEUL is a nonprofit corporation without membership. We [SNA] have a membership that we can toss decisions to. SEUL is only the board. So, the board of directors right now does not have the ability to remove a director without that director's approval. Sets up an in-actionable bias. Sets it up for the person being expelled to put pressure on his colleagues. It does not remove power from the NA, if anything it gives them more power. Ensures that their business is able to be conducted properly and that SEUL isn't liable for the potentially criminal actions that a board member has undertaken. That particular structural setup puts the org—SEUL—in considerable danger if a director were to act out, because there's no reliable measure for removing them.

Ash: how do we feel about the letter that Matt drafted?

Vincent puts out motion to endorse the letter supporting SEUL's bylaws

Jes seconds it.

We vote in favor of the letter.

Random stuff

- Ash wants someone to work on putting a statement about SNA's new endorsement process on the Website.
- Vincent: wants to talk about the Laurelhurst and Sewell Crest camps have been posted. If we do not get help from HUCIRP, I will not be joining the effort to clean if they don't help. I would like to give them the opportunity to give us the help. Campers are going to be on the move. They may come back to Sunnyside, which is fine, but we want to be ready for it. So I drafted this letter.

-Matt says we should make it tighter.

-Jes agrees that we shouldn't overload the letter with too many asks. Our audience has a short attention span.

-Vincent welcomes the edits and the fact that it might get more succinct.

-Matt says when he and Jes spoke with Hardesty they made clear that we have a finite amount of energy, and if we don't get support we'll lose it.

-Jes proposes we have a deadline on comments on this letter and someone reconciles them. Jes volunteers to reconcile the comments. Deadline

for comments: for us by Friday at midnight. Vincent suggests we send it Sunday night.

Community Events

- Clothing Drive: Hannah. We have a lot of volunteers, though I could use a few more. We need totes (i.e. bins): I can get a few from the community and Ash suggests I buy some
- Red Door Artisan Fair (12/4/21) in the Hollywood District
- Chris is going to try to attend the Charter Review Listening Session
- Ash is going to ask Ben to draft the endorsement process, based on that meeting's minutes.

Meeting Adjourned