



**NORTHEAST COALITION  
OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

**NECN Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
NECN Office – Conference Room  
Approved Minutes**

**Meeting Attendees**

**Board**

Alan Silver, At-Large, President  
Katie Ugolini, Concordia Rep., Recorder  
Robert Bowles, At-Large, Treasurer  
Dave Johansen, Alameda Rep., Exec. At-Large  
Joan Ivan, Eliot Representative, absent  
Rachel Lee, Sabin Representative  
Brendan “Mort” Mortimer, Vernon Rep.  
Shirley Minor, Woodlawn Representative

**Staff**

Damon Isiah Turner, Executive Director  
Anjala Ehelebe, Board Assistant  
Lokyee Au, Committees and Public Affairs Coordinator

**Guests**

Sergeant Greg Stewart, Portland Police Bureau

**Meeting called to order by Alan Silver at 6:42 p.m.**

**Review and Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Alan makes motion, seconded by Dave to table Finance and Personnel committee reports until next month. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Announcements**

Shirley says that Grimm was filming in Woodlawn neighborhood and gave financial boosts to neighbors and businesses.

Garner says they have a substantial parking study begun on Mississippi, first thing the City will be adding meters on Mississippi. Each home will have an assigned parking spot, and apartments will have no assigned spots. This is a multi-year test project. Right now, people park there all day, multiple days.

Katie says Concordia will have annual Spring Egg hunt in Fernhill Park on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 am.

Cerimon house will have a free event as part of “the Color of Now” March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm.

**Unfinished Business**

Alan says the Executive Committee didn’t have a quorum so it will be meeting next Tuesday. Have received grievances numbers 4 and 5 from Margaret O’Hartigan against King Neighborhood Association (KNA), and these will be discussed at this meeting.

Sgt. Greg Stewart introduces himself as head of Portland Police’s Crime Analysis unit, which is using its resources to work on Crime preventive efforts. They have a partnership with PSU and a grant from the Federal government to do more community policing efforts. An experiment begun last November revealed that they have been doing a poor job communicating with neighborhoods. Now they are in a “trial” to first find a timely and cost effective method of determining what community wants done about certain crimes before doing any policing, and second, they want to spend more time finding out what policing actions the community will support.

The recently done survey of King neighbors revealed that people want more police presence, less enforcement. This survey was significantly flawed in its design, but the department got three hundred responses and 200 emails and are pleased with this response. They realize what their mistakes have been. They're trying to develop a playbook of things to do that the community will accept and welcome. This was not a classic survey, like ones they did in the past using oversampling, which tends to make sure demographics are accurate. This was an inexpensive survey, done for under \$1000, with no oversampling.

He says for the planned Humboldt survey they brought another person on the team, a professor with experience in targeting underrepresented communities. They plan to use focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders. Down the way, they want to build an engagement infrastructure. Providing everyone in the neighborhood a chance to provide input is a highly desirable goal. They want to empower the neighbors, not alienate them.

One of the key findings of the King survey was do make traffic improvements, so Portland Police Bureau (PPB) has reached out the city Department of Transportation.

Another goal is to create a two-way communication. In the past, a person could call the PPB and request more patrols to address a concern, but the person or their community wouldn't be told that such extra patrols were being done.

Rachel says that at our last meeting we decided that the volunteers at this table (NECN Board members) didn't know how to improve the response rate and deferred to the experts at PSU. We did think, however, that contacting everyone by mail was a good step, but requiring computerized responses was weak.

Sgt. Stewart says right, they know this is an issue. They have certain personnel with certain expertise in outreach to underrepresented communities, and they have key partnerships with community and health organizations. They want to get these specialty officers aligned with specialty communities. A problem is expense. Typical surveys cost \$9 for each response received. So they are hosting an event and inviting community in. They are reaching out to churches and so forth.

Suggestion given to Sgt. Stewart to have multiple public participation opportunities at different days and times, rather than pin all hopes on one public meeting. Suggestion also given not to see Nextdoor users as a good representation of neighbors. Suggestion given: Meet folks in local coffee shops. Suggestion given, you're trying to solve the problem with people who aren't the problem.

Sgt. Stewart says, they will remove the NECN logo from the survey results if we want, no problem. They are putting the Humboldt survey on hold for a while. Sgt. Stewart leaves.

Discussion: Do we wish to keep the NECN logo on the survey? NECN name on the results? NECN name on the next survey? Alan thinks this has already gone out. Maybe we should ask them to brief us before the next survey. No, maybe not... we don't have the expertise. Did we say everything we wanted to say? Mostly. They seem to be doing the best they can with the few resources they have. How can they make good decisions if they don't have good data? How can they act if they don't have the resources? Does anyone really care about our name? Mort says he doesn't see NECN adding any legitimacy that PSU doesn't. Damon says he doesn't think taking the logo off is necessary, but there is disagreement among staff about this.

We don't do that much outreach ourselves. We used to. Does the police want us to deliver surveys to people, or deliver eyes and ears to them? Damon says they want us to work together to come up with ideas as what to do. Lokye says if they are already working with limited resources, what more can they do?

Consensus: suggested by Garner - we're glad they're doing outreach, they could continue to use NECN name for their next polling but we want to see the process improve to include all members of the community, and if they do so in their next engagement, they can use NECN logo on the results. Straw poll supports that idea, with one abstention: Mort.

**Robert moves that we let PPB use the NECN name on the next survey and we want to see the methodology, demographics and results before we put our name on the final report. Seconded by Garner.** Discussion. The results are subjective. If the results are not representative, we won't put our name on it. We'll have to figure out what's good enough. We can ask the PSU people what's good enough. Alan said another officer told him that it's not survey people at PSU developing the survey, it's psychologists and the like. We should be talking (they should be talking) with the census people at PSU. **Vote, two opposed (Alan and Mort) and the rest in favor of the motion. The motion passes.** Maybe this should be added to the March SALT meeting agenda.

### **Board composition**

We removed two Sullivan's Gulch members for non-attendance at five meetings, got an obscene reply from one of them upon notifying them. Eric Foley from Vernon resigned his position officially by email. Alan asked KNA about sending a representative, and they have no one to send. Grant Park has not yet been contacted by Paul. Dave Johansen says there's a common traffic speeding issue between Grant Park and Alameda and he'll reach out. Damon asks if someone else will reach out to Irvington. Dave says that Irvington said they'll not be attending NECN meetings. Alan says the Broadway Improvement/Business district needs to have some outreach from us to them and vice versa. Garner says he'll reach out to them.

### **Committees: internally staffed and community ones**

Programmatic committees: Adam and Lokyee have been talking about staffing and facilitating committees that are community-driven. They would be different in structure, without top-down leadership from NECN Board members. They could do community advocacy and organizing without the dependency on the Board. Frees up busy Board members. Could increase participation by neighbors. Another difference would be that there would be no cap on participant numbers the way Board committees are limited. The staff facilitating these committees would check in with the Board. The Executive Director (ED) would have control on these.

Examples: North/Northeast Neighbors for Housing Affordability (NNNHA) arose from NECN activities, and have asked if NECN could help them continue, become more effective, give them a space to work from. Houselessness/homelessness issues could be a good internally staffed committee. Environmental stewardship another (Portland harbor superfund, air toxics).

Alan asks what's the maximum number of committees the staff could manage. Will review and get back to you, said Lokyee. She would be the main staffer. About two per staffer, thinks Paul. Include this as part of the strategic vision, says Dave, but what would be the impact on the budget? Could this be done with the newsletter too? NE Action Teams (NEAT) would be what they would be called. (Shirley leaves at 8 pm.) Letter-writing and advocacy is more like LUTC output. These NEAT groups would be doing outreach, more likely. In response to Alan's question, Rachel says that the Board can direct the ED to direct the staff to set these up.

We want to hear about what these committees are doing each month in the ED's report, says Mort. **Mort moves to direct the staff to create NEATs at their discretion and report back to us. The ED is delegated the authority to approve the actions and decisions of the NEATs. Seconded by Dave.** Discussion. ONI contract with NECN requires us to do such outreach in a major way. This is a more active way of engaging the community than a passive newspaper. **Vote is unanimous in favor.**

### **Rules Committee**

Rachel says, this meeting tonight is the first reading of the new bylaws. Second reading in March. Final adoption will be in June. There have been a couple of proposed changes and the Rules committee favors a few of the changes.

1. In article 9 (Committees) section 1, the ED is mentioned as approving decisions of executive committees. Rules committee supports adding "The ED shall not have the authority to approve the recommendations or decisions of an Executive Committee."

2. Damon brought up that the names of the Board officers are President, Vice President and Recorder. Substitute Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. These are the terms used by other coalitions. Also then delete the clause that says the Recorder shall act as Secretary.
3. Subsection F limits membership to maximum 12 At-Large members, and it has been suggested to remove that cap. Delete the phrase "up to twelve (12)". Makes it more challenging to get a quorum the more who are on the committee.
4. Section 2B and 2C: The Executive Committee consists of the officers (current wording). Shall we allow At-Large members on Executive Committee? This might reduce the pool of active Board Members for other committees. Discussion.

Alan asks for a timeline from the Rules committee for the changes that would need to be made over the next few months so we can report to our member associations.

**Rachel makes the motion that globally we substitute chair for president, vice chair for vice president and secretary for recorder, also**

**In article 6 section 5 delete the first sentence.**

**In article 9 section 1 add sentence above.**

**In article 9 section 3 sub-section f delete "up to 12"**

**Alan seconds, no opposed or abstaining, unanimous support of the motion.**

### **Executive Director's Report**

Damon says, there's a lot of hot topics now: houselessness, and the city plan, which isn't widely supported by citizens and coalitions. Air toxics: Senators Wyden and Merkley are having a Thursday meeting at Tubman school on this issue.

Demolition issues meeting tomorrow, Wednesday daytime. NECN has been partnering with Resolutions NW and Portland Playhouse. This Saturday, from 1-5 is the Race and Gentrification discussion. March 12-13 Jeff High School is putting on a play there. Portland harbor superfund team has asked NECN to engage the neighborhoods.

Take to your Neighborhood Associations (NAs) the list of guidelines for what the candidates can and can't do at NA meetings. No Campaign Speeches.

### **Strategic planning**

Do we want the Executive Committee to work on this or for the Board to work on later this year? **Rachel moves the Executive Committee develop a Strategic Plan and bring it to the Board, Dave seconds. All in favor unanimously.**

### **Minutes of January meeting**

**Katie makes the motion and Dave seconds that the minutes be approved as presented. Unanimous support. Motion passes.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.**

Minutes taken by Anjala Ehelebe, for Katie Ugolini, NECN Board Recorder.