

Boise Neighborhood Association General Meeting

7-9 pm December 8, 2014, Q Center

Agenda

7:00 - 7:15...Socializing and introductions

7:15 - 7:30...Committee and project updates and needs, including Historic Mississippi Business Association activities

7:30 - 7:40...History of the Board (Kay)

7:40 - 8:20...Discussion and brainstorming of possible future neighborhood association activities (small groups)

8:20 - 8:40...BNA board business matters and voting

8:40 - 8:50...Discussion of process for voting in new board members

8:50 - 9:00...Socialize and adjourn

Attendees:

Non-Board Members:

1. Rebecca Brown, Mississippi Ave. "Miss" apartments. Member of the Communications Team. Moved here recently from Boston.
2. Belinda Udelman, Michigan St. PSU Grad student studying urban planning and hydrology. interested in civic engagement and community projects. Moved here from SE Portland.
3. Christopher D. Moved from MA recently. Interested in community development and urban planning.
4. Ana Maria, lives in Tupelo Alley apartments. Moved here 2 years ago. Hoping to get involved to make our community more connected.
5. Nate, Albina, lived here for three years. PSU Urban Studies undergrad. Interested in being part of NA.

Board Members:

1. Ted Buehler, Chair
2. Stephen Gomez, LUTC Chair
3. Ed Shiang, Co-Chair and Social Committee Chair.
4. Katy Wolf, Secretary, Safety and Livability Chair, Communications Chair
5. Kay Newell, At-Large. Owns Sunlan Lighting, which is the oldest business on Mississippi Ave.
6. Jessie Blanchard, At-Large. Works at the Maya Angelou Center for Portland Reinvestment Community Initiatives (PCRI).

Police Department Report: Officer Kristen

- Our neighborhood's assigned District Officers: Officer Clary in the day, Officer Leonard at night. They work four 10 hour days per week. We don't have an afternoon district officer at the moment (we don't seem to have had one for at least a year).

- Stephen reports that last month after leaving the BNA meeting he heard shots fired at Unthank Park. Officer Kristen says that the stats on that would be available, you can follow the report online. She isn't familiar with it off the top of her head, because it wasn't an actual shooting, which most police do know about.
- We can get Police Bureau crime stats on our neighborhood on their website. If we want to review these at BNA meetings, we can pull a report from: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/382834>
- Ted had a friend who was riding a bike on Williams and was struck by a car. What are people supposed to do in that situation, and what if they only realize they should file a report days later?
 - There's no mandatory law about reporting hitting a bicyclist. If there are injuries, and you call 911, the police would be automatically dispatched. Bicyclists are considered pedestrians for reporting purposes. Sometimes people don't want police there and want to handle it themselves, so the police will leave it up to them. If someone is thrown off, they should be medically evaluated even if they think they're ok. They should exchange information with the person driving. Anyone in an incident driving a car should exchange information (name, insurance info and contact info). Pedestrians are not required to have their information but they are required to exchange information. That way you can contact them later when you realize you are injured or your vehicle is damaged. If it's 3 days later, they should call the non-emergency line to report it, and their ability to get assistance depends on if they got information from the driver. The police will write up a report depending on how much information they have.

Note: At the last minute, no representative from HMBA could come to the meeting. They'll attend in January and appear to have two initiatives we'll want to know about--one regarding trash/recycling bins and related pick up and another initiative about night time security on Mississippi.

Social Committee Update - Ed Shiang:

- **Our next Last Weds Social will be at Tesoaria on Williams Ave at 7:30 pm.** They are willing to donate 15% that we can use towards a cause or project of our choice. As a board, we will decide what to raise funds for (probably at our January meeting).

Land Use & Transportation (LUTC) Updates - Stephen Gomez:

- PBOT is doing a parking utilization survey in our area. We'll hear results by February with preliminary results which will lead to recommendations for solutions.
- PBOT says by Dec 15, Williams will be at 90% completion. Posted speed limits will go down to 25 mph on the south and north ends and 20 mph in the middle part (it's now 30).
- The LUTC has 11 members. Outside of the regular meetings, members are engaging with developers to get more information and have more input into proposed developments. They are meeting with Marathon Development next week.

- Security Properties will break ground on the new development on the lot caddy-corner from Lardo on Williams in the next month.
- At Failing and Vancouver, Solterra Systems will do about 50-60 unit bldg by Livinglandscape.

Communications Updates - Katy Wolf

- A Community Survey (using Google Forms) will go out this week via all online channels. We'll also send it to the HMBA and Williams business association. We'll use the input to help us decide what initiatives to focus on in 2015.
- The Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) Community Summit moved to Sat Feb 28 at Ambridge Event Center.
- We still need to vote to approve our proposed budget for Communications Funds so we can get NECN reimbursement. We don't have a quorum so we'll postpone.

2014 Communications Funds - \$1,000

Expenses: \$200.70 already spent on swag, \$40 already spent on yard signs

Remaining Budget:

- May 2015 Neighborhood Clean Up flier printing cost estimate: \$300
- August 2015 National Night Out flier printing cost estimate: \$300
- (remainder) Yard signs, additional printing costs, graphic design or other: \$159.30

Note: In General budget, not Communications budget:

- Website annual fee: \$297
- Movies in the Park: \$600

SALT Updates - Katy Wolf

- Katy will begin Trash Can Design Committee recruitment in January. She will post information on this project on the bnapdx.com website soon. She has a proposed timeline, research from interviewing Alberta Main Street Executive Director Sara Wittenberg, draft design requirements, funding ideas, and current map of Mississippi Ave trash cans. She has met with NECN about having them be a fiscal sponsor and providing insurance coverage. Recently she organized a graffiti cleanup on Mississippi to remove graffiti from the cans and other public surfaces. She has tried reaching out (repeatedly) to Shane Endicott, Executive Director of Our United Villages, to get help from the Rebuilding Center to relocate some of the cans and decommission some (with forklift or tools) but hasn't heard back recently.

History of the Board - Kay Newell

Kay moved here in 1990. At that time a black woman and white man were Co-Chairs. Kay started as a benchwarmer and didn't vote because she didn't know what was going on yet. They didn't have a standard meeting time or place, so you had to call the Chair to find out. They met at churches which all opened with a prayer, but that ended with a Jewish board member requesting it stop. Finally they all quit and a new set of board members took over. They had a newsletter which you got only if you came to three meetings, which were mailed out and paid for by State Farm Insurance. A black gentleman became very demanding of the

board supporting his projects, and made such a fuss that the whole board resigned except Martha from Land Use. A third set (still in the early 90s) came on, and Kay became Secretary and Treasurer. She wrote the newsletter for several years. At one point in the mid to late 90s only about six people were showing up to meetings. The house owned by anarchists who came en masse to vote each other in to office. Kay was NECN Rep for about 15 years. They then later walked out en masse after angering a lot of black community members. In the late 90s, Kay and Martha decided to reorganize the board, and went out to the plaza on Mississippi to round up people to be on the board. Ted came on in 2011. Kay was also the signing partner for Mississippi Historical District and on the steering committee, and helped organize the HMBA. She has held about five positions on the BNA. She has also been on City steering committees related to the neighborhood like Save the Failing Street Bridge. One reality that is consistent is that nothing gets done unless someone steps up and does it. She has never done anything all by herself, she has always worked with other people. She has been in charge of lots of events, like Spring Cleaning and National Night Out. The board stands behind the people of the community to get things done.

Discussion and brainstorming of possible future neighborhood association activities - Ed Shiang

Small group discussion - three groups of three or four people. Three iterations.

- Chris -
 - What is the scope of purview of the NA, what do they do?
 - Sustainability initiatives, how to make our community have less of an impact. Gardens, agriculture projects. Create community around food. Energy efficiency.
 - Make small, concrete projects that people will want to join.
 - To what extent can an NA have a social justice and anti-oppression lens in what they do?
 - To what extent can the NA affect broader city issues? What is the political agency of a NA?
- Belinda
 - Also interested in urban ag, green space, trees. Done projects with City Repair and Village Building Convergence.
- Stephen
 - Would like to see NA collaborate with the business associations. This ties into LUTC issues because of density issues. If people aren't working together, issues develop fast. Would like to see more balance over to Williams, which will eventually have way more businesses and density than the Mississippi side. There are a lot of Mississippi business owners who live in the neighborhood too.
- Ana Maria
 - Wants to walk down the street and be able to recognize people.
- Ted

- We used to have our meeting space at AYOS which is now empty and under utilized. We could help them stay in the space by repurposing it as a community center. Ranse (Kay has his number) owns it. He thinks he has a new school that can use it. We may or may not be able to use the space. Someone could reach out to him.
- Rebecca
 - Affordable housing - a place to learn about all the things happening now with this
 - Dog park
- Ed
 - It would be nice to get a community space.

Project Ideas for volunteers to work on with board support

- **Nate will take on leadership of the dog park project.** Lots of people were interested in helping with this. Ideas generated by group:
 - Dog park seems realistic to implement. Nate did a project at a school related to dog parks. Nate's wife worked with Fences for Fido.
 - Alleyways could be used for dog runs.
 - Could organize group dog walks to scope out the good alleyways and places to repurpose as dog parks.
 - The likeliest spot is South of Fargo space owned by City which was used for a while as a garden. They don't want it as a dog park but we can call it a social garden.
 - Get wood from Rebuilding Center for benches, tables and fences. We'd need someone to mow the grass occasionally.
 - Need a BNA/City agreement (board would be responsible) for grass maintenance.
 - Need signs: "If you don't maintain this space, it will go away". "Dogs welcome, please take your dog poop home". "Bring your own dog water and bowl"
 - Could make it a garden if we planted things that don't need to be watered.
 - City won't put water in.
 - Area for small dogs and for large dogs.
- Community art projects and art gallery showings for neighborhood artists.
- NECN has an affordable housing working group is working on inclusionary zoning - OR and TX are the only states that have none. Have a rep from the working group come speak about this (info session) and see if the NA could come up with any actionable items.
- Neighborhood community skills workshop. Could be connected with business, or working on a project to donate the finished product or raise funds to an organization.
- Having high quality entertainment by and for neighbors at an event such as music or juggling.

Board Business

The board does not have quorum (which would be seven) so cannot make any votes.

- Board Retreat: 3 pm, Sun January 18 at Q Center. Katy is seeing if NECN can provide any support to plan or facilitate.
- Approval of November meeting minutes (postpone)
- Process for voting in new board members (did not have time to address, will be postponed to January meeting).

Next meeting: Monday January 26 at the Q Center