

Boise Neighborhood Association Meeting
7-9 pm April 13, 2015, Q Center

ATTENDEES:

Board: Ted Buehler, Stephen Gomez, Katy Wolf, Kay Newell, Sarah Cantine

Non-Board: Wendy Nuzzo, Robin Franklin, Cheryl Leontina, Howard Patterson, Andrine de la Rocha, Vanessa Wilson, Aquiles Montas, Brandon Vickery, Caitlin McKee, Brian Barnett, Chris, Ted Pearson, Emily Baratta, Bonnie MaClaine, Fito Roberts, Ross Danielson
Sons of Haiti Lodge representatives: Leslie Green, Curtis Hicks, Fred Jackson

Agenda:

7:00 – Introductions

7:05 – Public Comment

7:10 – Police Report and General Safety – possible introduction of new designated neighborhood police officer

7:20 – Committee updates

* Social (Ed Shiang)

* Land Use and Transportation Update (Stephen Gomez)

* Neighborhood Cleanup report (Katy Wolf)

* Communications (Katy Wolf and Rebecca)

* Finance (Karis Stoudameyer Phillips)

* Board – board recruitment updates? Elections are in June (Ted Buehler)

7:45 – Proposal: adoption of Affordable Housing Policy. (Stephen Gomez)

7:55 – 2015 Alleyway Project (Katy Wolf)

8:05 – Mississippi Farmers Market, summer 2015 (Rachel Elizabeth)

8:15 Introduction, Sons of Haiti Masonic Lodge

8:30 – Breakout groups

9:00 – Wrapup and Adjourn

Minutes:

7:00 – Introductions

7:05 – Public Comment

Robin Franklin is a pastor at Hughes Memorial Church in King neighborhood at 111 NE Failing at Mallory. They are partnering with Hands of Favor, working with homeless youth, people living on the streets. They will offer haircuts, grooming and cosmetics at the church. All services are done by retired professionals, and they do all types of hair. Everyone is welcome, no one is turned away. Outreach is every third Saturday from 11-1 and lunch is provided

<https://www.facebook.com/HughesMemorialUnitedMethodistChurch?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/HANDSofFAVOR>.

7:13 – Committee updates

- Social: Our April social will be at Ecliptic Brewing at the bar or at an outside picnic table if it is sunny on Tuesday April 28th at 7pm. We will continue discussion of the tire swing mural party and goat walk!
- Land Use and Transportation Update (Stephen Gomez)
 - Next meeting: April 27 7-9 - Agenda topics: proposed lot subdivision on N Ivy to 12 lots with developers present, hearing from artist doing a mural through RACC on Shaver and Williams, and other items.
 - Affordable Housing - BNA supported a grant submission of a large apartment building on Vancouver/Shaver to have 20% affordable units, which Portland Housing Bureau turned down. They want to look again at NWSBE contractors and some other things. This project will now be market rate, which is a loss.
 - Affordable Housing - Stephen Gomez attended City meetings around land banking as a use for the \$20M affordable housing fund. \$3M is for land banking - purchasing land and holding on to it until a decision can be made to build. BNA among others in a coalition are pressing the Housing Bureau to act fast to enact this recommendation.
 - Affordable housing in Portland is based on 60% of median family income.
 - Ted attended the Rodney Greenway Open House recently. This will make it much easier for people on bikes to get downtown.
- Neighborhood Cleanup report (Katy Wolf)
 - About 75 neighbors came, and we made about \$750 before fees. We filled 4 dumpsters, 4 large boxes of styrofoam and 4 large boxes of e-waste. Habitat for Humanity took a truckload of items, and a lot of stuff got taken from the free pile as well.
- Communications (Katy Wolf and Rebecca) - Nextdoor.com report
 - Good news: This time last year we had 50 people on Nextdoor, and now we have 200.
 - Bad news: Those 200 members are about 7% of our total population. We have the fewest number of members in our area. Eliot has 215, Humboldt has 300, King has 400, Sabin has 376, Piedmont has 421.

- Good news: All Nextdoor members can request that Nextdoor send 5 postcards a month to addresses that they choose, to invite them to join.
- Katy wrote City Council to request an increase in neighborhood association communications funds so we can afford to do paper mailings several times a year.
- Finance (Karis Stoudamire-Phillips)
 - Karis was absent.
- Board – board recruitment updates? Elections are in June (Ted Buehler)
 - Ted tells everyone about the bylaws which refer to board eligibility, which can be found on our website www.bnapdx.com.

7:40 – Proposal: adoption of Affordable Housing Policy. (Stephen Gomez)

The BNA has created a document that welcomes and encourages affordable housing to be developed in our neighborhood. The full statement is available at

<http://bnapdx.com/land-use-and-transportation-committee>

Discussion: Ross Danielson suggests that the neighborhood could proactively identify land at risk of development and come up with a plan. Chris Davies suggests an idea to allow landlords to keep rents low by having a reduced property tax. Fito comments that people of color in the neighborhood are skeptical; things are moving too fast; parking is the number one issue; wonders where diversity can fit in and whether it's too little too late. Stephen acknowledges that it's appropriate to be skeptical, and essentially this statement will tell the City that Boise neighborhood is open and welcoming to affordable housing strategies. Aguiles comments that landlords are taxed 10% less, and asks if the NA can police/enforce affordable housing unit persistence so that they don't go to market rate after only 1-2 years. Stephen says that with MULTE, after 10 years those units go to market rate, and it might be difficult to enforce with volunteer efforts. Sarah comments that the point of this statement is also to make sure that people who work here can also live here. Ross suggests that we might be living in another bubble, and wonders if maybe university students can study the level of profiteering going on.

Stephen would like to add a sentence about the “work here/live here” statement.

Ted moves to adopt the NNEHA policy statement as written with the above statement. Sarah seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

The BNA will send it to Portland Housing Bureau, Mayor Hales, Commissioner Saltzman, Mult. Co County Deborah Kafoury, County Commissioner Loretta Smith, State Rep Lew Frederick and State Senator Chip Shields.

7:55 – 2015 Alleyway Project - Katy Wolf and Cheryl Leontina, PSU ISS Intern

This project's goal is to help neighbors work together to activate and utilize their alleys. It is a collaboration with the Concordia neighborhood and PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions (who funded an intern). For more information, see: <http://bnapdx.com/>

Ted moves that we ask NECN to be fiscal sponsor and that BNA endorse the Boise Alleyway Project. Sarah seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

8:05 – Mississippi Farmers Market, summer 2015 (Rachel Elizabeth)

The Farmers Market is returning to Lot 13 (next door to Fresh Pot) this summer:

- * Saturday July 25th 4-8 p.m.
- * Saturday August 29, 4-8 p.m.
- * Saturday September 26 4-8 p.m.

There may be opportunities for neighbors to volunteer to promote the market by doing fliering. BNA will promote the farmers market and opportunities to help out with fliering.

<https://www.facebook.com/mississippiFM>

Rachel bought the house to the north of her property and deconstructed the house. She is going to name the green space that will be there for the next 5-6 years after the matriarch of the Bryant family that lived in that house: Bryant Park at Lot 13. Right now the site is a construction site. It will reopen for the farmers market. After that, anyone will be able to use the space like a public park.

8:18 – Revised agenda item - Introduction, Sons of Haiti Masonic Lodge

The Sons of Haiti has long been a fixture on the corner of Mississippi Ave and Fremont St. Leslie Green, Master Mason and Curtis Hicks, Grand Secretary, will tell us a bit about the history of the lodge, current activities, and future plans of the lodge.

For more information, see their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sonsofhaiti>

Fred Jackson: retired from military and school district. What he has found that the members of the lodge have gotten old or perished, and they don't have enough young people. Everything they can do to keep up the Lodge, they are doing.

Curtis: They keep it open for the community, they have had some community events and they hope to have more. They want to be able to offer opportunities for food carts because it increases diversity of the neighborhood. He's here to find out what Boise Neighborhood Association does, and how they can give input on growth. The Lodge is there for the community, and to improve good men and women and make them better.

Leslie Green: A newer member of the Lodge. They notice that they see things around the neighborhood that doesn't meet code, but the City keeps coming back to them and making them change things. One thing after another. The Lodge is part of the community, and everyone who lives in this area has a tie to it. They just want a fair shake to do what they do.

Discussion: Ted offers that the BNA would like to help however we can. Sarah is an architect, and though she doesn't have experience with food carts, and would be happy to sit down and go over the City comments. Leslie says that they have had meetings with people at the City to

go over the changes requested. Sarah says that it's not abnormal for inspectors or departments to override themselves. It's just part of the process to work through the systems. Even big companies can't get the process to get better. Sarah recommends finding the person to work with who is sympathetic to your cause, and to only work with that person. Kay tells a story of the same thing happening to her, and she learned the expensive way to just call the same inspector. Curtis says that it may not seem like targeting to some, but he has lived here long enough to know that it feels like targeting. Curtis also says that he may be a stubborn man but he does know when it's time to ask for help. Ross says that this is an ancient institution with a low profile, and provides more services than almost any in the community. The tae kwon do class serves ethnic minorities from all over the City. Ross also adds that there is confusion, pain and suffering from the wasted money and efforts. Ted asks if the Lodge has ever had an Open House. Curtis says they've never had one but he will think about having one. Ted recommends they get on the Mississippi Art Walk every third Thursday. Several members of the BNA offered to work with the Lodge members, and invited them to the LUTC meeting in two weeks to get more into nuts and bolts of the City's requests and see if others with experience can offer help.

8:45 Board business

Vote: March meeting minutes - Ted makes the motion to approve as written. Motion passes. Stephen abstained since he was absent.

Vote to approve Jessie's resignation, which was submitted over email two weeks prior. Motion passes unanimously.

8:30 – Breakout groups

- Mason Lodge issues
- Board recruitment
- Alleyway projects

9:00 – Meeting adjourned