

Boise Neighborhood Association Meeting

7-9 pm May 11, 2015, Q Center

ATTENDEES:

Board:

Stephen, Kay, Ted, Katy, Karis
(excused absence: Sarah Cantine, Ed Shiang)

Non-Board:

Rebecca Brown, JP Castiaux, Cleo and Kayin Davis (mural artists and also Williams business owners), Fito Roberts, Dayrol Griffin, Peter Sheridan, Ethan, Will Bennett, Ross and Annie Danielson, Kristen Calhoun

Agenda

7:00 Introductions

7:11 Report from newly assigned Neighborhood Response Officer Matt McAllister. Office McAllister is part of team of six officers assigned to this neighborhood area.

Contact info:

Officer McAllister: North Precinct Office 449 NE Emerson Portland OR 97211
(503) 823-5818 Tue-Fri – 7:00a to 5pm matthew.mcallister@portlandoregon.gov.

He has been a Portland officer for 10 years, and for last 8 years in North Precinct. He is our point person, we can email him to talk about any and all kinds of crime issues. Stephen asks if the model of community policing on commercial districts in SE will come to the other precincts and having police come out to community meetings, and making local relationships will happen in other commercial districts. Officer McAllister thinks that within this year we should see more community policing coming from North Precinct. Stephen recommends that it would be cheap and easy to have police take breaks at local coffee shops, which provides visible presence and makes them approachable.

7:22 Announcements: PCC Campus e-waste recycling event - May 18 19, and 20th. SC Building PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N Killingsworth. 10 am - 12 (18th and 20th) and 2-8 pm (19th). More info: www.facebook.com/ecyclecascade

7:23 Land Use and Transportation Updates

- Next meeting is 5/18. Topics will include: 1. Ben Kaiser/Carbon 12 development for Williams/Fremont SE corner 2. New city demo policy 3. City-owned surplus property proposal 4. Boise Design Guidelines: proposed Ground-Floor Employment policy
- Sons of Haiti Lodge Update - Stephen met with John, the leader of the Lodge, did a walk around, looked at the City notices on violations which came up when

the food carts went in. Then did another walk through with Sarah Cantine (a board member who is an architect). They're going to meet with John later this week. Some other people in the neighborhood are interested in helping, but ultimately it's up to the Lodge leaders to provide a plan. They are learning, and focusing on helping the Lodge, and might do outreach to the larger group (LUTC) if they figure out specific ways others can help.

- Ross Danielson thanks Stephen for taking an interest as he requested at our last meeting. It's a complicated issue and would take a lawyer hours to sort through it all. Ross is going to petition the City, from Friends of the Corner, but he does not represent the Sons of Haiti.

7:35 - Livability Update - Litter pickup walk - this Saturday at 10 am, Fresh Pot. Neighbors will take a walk together around the neighborhood and pick up litter as we go. We might make it into a regular thing. It was organized by Marlena Olveda, a Master Recycler, through Nextdoor.com.

7:37 Ethan, volunteer - Our Oregon <http://ouroregon.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/OurOregon?fref=ts>

Our Oregon is a non-profit coalition of advocacy groups promoting economic justice and improvements to schools and community services. There are two recently published reports, the High Cost of Low Wages Report and A Better Oregon, which show why we need their plan to improve the lives of working families by holding big out-of-state corporations accountable to do their fair share in the community: a 2016 ballot measure to raise taxes on largest out of state corporations, to fund money for our schools and other needs. Ethan wants to make sure that young people who don't have the same advantages he had, have better opportunities for school and services. The coalition is seeing that the economy is getting better for well-off folks but not for working families. Corporate tax structure here in Oregon: OR has lowest in the country. OR has third largest class sizes in the country. Home Forward has a lottery for affordable housing; they had 20,000 applicants for 3,000 units two years ago. The coalition is looking at several ballot measures, which are in different phases, and they're testing out different methods. Even if we raised our taxes by \$3B, we'd still be competitive to bring business to OR. They are looking for 500 groups to talk to by the fall.

7:51 Presentation from Regional Arts and Culture Council about the upcoming "North Williams Honoring History" project - Kristin Calhoun, RACC, and potentially one or both of the project artists.

The upcoming "North Williams Honoring History" project will be installed along the entirety of N Williams this summer. This project is an outgrowth of the reconfiguration of

N Williams and will acknowledge the changes along the street which have impacted the African-American community over decades of displacement and targeted demolitions by the City of Portland.

PBOT had done some outreach work with the community and reached out to RACC to highlight the history of the neighborhood as part of the work being done on Williams. Cleo and Kayin Davis were the artists selected. Kayin grew up in Irvington, her family has been part of the Boise and Eliot neighborhoods since the 40s. Cleo's family has also been part of the neighborhood since the 90s. Their business was at 3940 N Williams between Failing and Shaver - graphic design and printing.

RACC put out a Call to Artists about a year ago through announcements to community groups. Five applied, and three presented, and Kayin and Cleo were selected. The Call to Artists asked the artist to share the history, be educational not just about the history, but also show how emotional the history and project are.

They are looking at doing three main pieces. One is embedded sidewalk murals which would highlight past African American owned businesses. The second is signage to go with each tile, also on porcelain enamel. The third component is a kiosk at Cook and Williams, across the street and one block south from New Seasons, with interviews and information. The interviews will also go into a short documentary. All the project information will also go into a website, which will also show a map of all the locations.

The tiles/signs will go from Broadway to Killingsworth. The initial funding came from the Williams Bikeway project (PBOT). They would like to open up an opportunity for future phases to local African American artists. The installation will be this summer, and there will be some kind of celebration, which RACC and PBOT will collaborate on.

They decided to focus on highlighting the positive image of the past, rather than focusing on the negative feelings. They wanted to use the positive image to provoke people to think "what happened here?".

Stephen compliments the artists on the project. They will let us know when the opening is so we can promote it. Ted thanks Karis for serving on the PBOT subcommittee to make this art project happen, among other PBOT initiatives in our neighborhood.

8:15: Budget discussion: How should we allocate our limited funding toward committee, specific project needs, or events. As a board, our goal will be to create a budget proposal for the following fiscal year that we can vote on in June or July.

Karis estimates we have about \$5,000, which are unrestricted funds we got through grant writing.

Ideas:

- Kay - use communications funds for mailings. Mailings are about \$1,000.

- Karis - we should budget for the same we spent last year on communications, which was \$900. Last year we spent our communications funds on website, printing, and supplies.
- Rebecca - the board members could have business cards with the BNA info on it to hand out to people
- Katy - create parameters for small projects, such as 5 small projects can have up to \$100 a year

No consensus was met, so the conversation will have to continue with the new board. Next month (June) are board elections.

8:30 Breakout sessions for new and ongoing projects

9:00: Adjourn