

Boise Neighborhood Association Meeting
7-9 pm June 8, 2015, Q Center

ATTENDEES:

Board:

Stephen, Kay, Katy, Ted, Sarah, Karis

Non-Board:

Rebecca Brown, Cheryl Leontina, Ross Danielson, Garner Moody, Vanessa Wilson, JP Castiaux, Adam Lyons (NECN Neighborhood Program Manager and Associate Director), David de la Rocha, Cornelius Swart, Rachel Hall

Agenda

- Introductions
- Minutes approval
- Public Comment
- Sons of Haiti update
- Alley project update
- NE Passage documentary sequel update
- Board elections

7:10 Meeting minutes approval

- Katy makes the motion to approve the April meeting minutes as written, Stephen seconds. Motion passes.
- Katy makes the motion to approve the May meeting minutes as written, Kay seconds. Motion passes.

7:12 Public Comment

- Kay now has the much-loved Lego Star Wars exhibit in her Sunlan Lighting window displays, which will remain up throughout summer.

7:14 Safety concerns

- No police officer was present.
- Garner Moody: A house next to him, 3634 N Michigan (3rd house south of Beech) has been vacant for several years, and has attracted vagrants. Garner has been in periodic communication with the owner, who doesn't have much concern. As the immediate neighbors, Garner said they had enough, and they informed the owners that they would contact the police to do something about it. Kay encourages him to encourage his neighbors to keep calling it in, so the owner gets fined for non-maintenance - you have to be a really squeaky wheel. Ted says you can look on PortlandMaps.com for recent complaints, and in the past police officers have told us that 10 people calling once is way better than 1 person calling 10 times. You can complain about all the broken/missing

things to build the case for non-maintenance. Katy adds that you can connect with neighbors on Nextdoor, who can help call in the complaint.

Communications/Safety and Livability Updates - Katy Wolf

June alleyway events -

- June 13th, 10:30AM - [Goat Walk](#)
 - Pet some adult and baby goats and walk them on leashes as they munch their way along [alleys](#) to get rid of invasives like ivy, blackberry and other weeds. Great for kids! Goat cheese, blackberry jam, and crackers will be provided. Bring your own beverage. Use the opportunity to talk to neighbors about possibilities for cleanup and beautification. We'll also be cutting down weeds as we go.
- June 20th, 10:30AM - [Boise Alley Highlights Tour](#)
 - Take a tour of Boise's ADUs, backyard cottages, and [cool alley features](#). We'll get to go inside several and talk to the owners and/or architects. We'll visit some of Boise's Gold Star alley features on the way.
- June 27th, 1:00PM - [Art in the Alley](#)
 - We're having a painting party! Paint a picture on reclaimed wood from the Rebuilding Center just for fun or to make an [alleyway decoration](#), alley name sign or wayfinding sign. Several professional artists will be painting artsy doors which we'll raffle off for free! And we will have extra doors for kids to paint on and take home to their alleys
- Also, our amazing PSU Neighborhood Sustainability intern Cheryl Leontina was renewed for another 3 months!

LUTC Updates - Stephen Gomez

- Next LUTC meeting is June 22. At that meeting they will cover:
 - PBOT will share the information from the Mississippi parking study. On a related note, PBOT is holding a half day parking symposium on June 29 1-6 pm at the Portland Building Auditorium. Stephen and Kay will attend.
 - Portland is updating the Portland Comp Plan, and part of it is looking at mixed-use corridor zoning changes, merging 4 commercial zones into one. We want to get a better understanding of potential impacts. Stephen will post the Plan information on our website. They're also looking at height bonuses if buildings meet certain criteria, such as affordable housing, affordable businesses, and green features. The Plan would go into effect in 2016. BNA hasn't been very involved in the Plan comment period, but we want to be aware of implications.
 - Rich Newlands will talk about the proposed Rodney Greenway, and some issues we may want to advocate on.

- N/NE Housing Strategy \$20M Update - There is an opportunity for people at 80% of median income or lower, to apply for grants for home repairs. This Weds at the Urban League there will be a presentation about how a person could apply for this assistance.
- Home demolitions - At the last LUTC meeting, they reviewed the new demolition code, which makes it much harder for neighborhoods to request an delay extension. Stephen reached out to Restore Oregon, who will come to the meeting.
- SolTerra Systems's design for the project at Vancouver and Failing (next to Livingscape) - a 55 unit apt bldg - is kicking off.
- Sons of Haiti update - Stephen has been talking to John Bryant, the Grand Master of the Sons of Haiti Masonic Lodge, a 501c3, and trying to help him work through the City code citations. The Lodge is comprised of the Sons of Haiti (the men's group) and the Order of the Eastern Stars (the women's group). Stephen and Sarah have been working through the issues, and putting together a plan to bring resources to bear to make changes at the lot that will resolve the citations and give the Sons of Haiti a nice place to run their business. Everything they're doing is with John's support. John is interested in having more food carts on site. Something will have to change to keep the food carts there, expand and be competitive with the other food carts. In 2011 they had a site plan design from an architect, and part of it was from a PDC feasibility grant. The permit has been open for four years, but some things have been done out of code. Stephen's approach has been to resolve all the out of code issues, and then work with John on the liens/fines against the building. Sarah Cantine, who is an architect, has been working on the project plan, and talking to the planner from Development Center who has been overseeing this for the past four years. Stephen said the PDC is interested in helping, and within a week, they will have a meeting onsite. They have also talked to a general contractor to give an inspection and give cost estimates. They also had contact with Commissioner Fritz's office and Mississippi Business Association, which is also interested in helping. Stephen also talked to Marathon Development, which owns the site caddy-corner from the Lodge. Marathon is open to the carts operating at their site while work is being done at the Lodge. Work that needs to be done: pave/grade the parking lot with stormwater management, create space for 4 carts instead of 2. The structures currently there aren't permitted, so bring them back to code. The landscaping would have to match up to the parking lot code. Stephen also says that the building needs better stormwater management because the basement is quite wet. Ultimately this is going to lead to a project plan, which can include the community, leaving a nicely improved site, and continue to work with John on the lien issues.

Ross asks what the interest is in the stormwater problem. Sarah says that the issue is that all food carts must be on the parking lot, and parking lots must be paved and have stormwater management and landscaping (to code). Ross says that other food carts on gravel, not parking lots. Sarah says the big difference is that the site is not on the books as a parking lot.

NECN Update from Adam Lyons, the new Neighborhoods Program Manager. Adam is a new staff member, filling the role previously held by Katy Asher. Adam is born and raised in

Irvington. He has been for the last 7 years working on poverty, homelessness and social work. NECN is now fully staffed; the new Communications person is Lockee Au (sp?). NECN elections will be next Tuesday the 16th; they are looking for two delegates from each neighborhood. Neighborhoods are encouraged to nominate an NECN rep, and the NECN board accepts the nominations. The meetings are every third Tuesday at the NECN office. NECN has a hired consultant who is creating a very structured board program. Stephen served as an NECN rep for over a year, and says that neighborhoods struggle to have a voice on large issues, so there's an opportunity to work with the NECN board and staff to make positive impact on larger issues. Anti-displacement, affordability and sustainable growth are the main focus right now at NECN. Kay was an NECN rep for many years, and the NECN has in the past been a big agent for change, and it can be again what it was when she was involved. Garner Moody says he is interested in being an NECN rep, because he's lived here a long time and he's a builder.

8:08 Cornelius Swart

Eliot Neighborhood resident Cornelius Swart is currently producing a documentary on gentrification and affordable housing. The film is a sequel to his 2002 documentary on the same subject, entitled NorthEast Passage: The Inner City and the American Dream. Both films center on North and Northeast Portland. Boise resident Nikki Williams and the Boise Neighborhood Association both played central roles in the first film.

Cornelius used to be an activist in Earth First and Greenpeace, and has worked at many local newspapers, and used to be on many neighborhood boards. Between 1997 and 2002, a friend and he made a documentary on affordable housing, which was released on OPB in 2002. Now they are revisiting the film and doing a sequel.

The new film will reconnect with the residents and activists featured in the first film to see what's happened to the neighborhood and find out what will happen next as the community continues to struggle with its identity and its place in the American Dream.

More information about the film, including a link to watch the first documentary, can be found at www.portlandgentrificationdocumentary.com. You can watch the film on Amazon for \$1.99.

Kay asks if Cornelius got a list of all the housing non-profits in the neighborhood, because she remembers that percentage being high. Cornelius remembers PCRI absorbing almost everybody, which was done by the City. PCRI dropped a lot of property and sold them on the open market, and are planning to sell more soon. Kay wants to know how the percentage of low income housing has changed. Cornelius will investigate what the City failed to do that they promised to do. Karis says that when she came back from college in 1998, she saw the changes in the neighborhood and wanted to get involved, which is why she joined the board.

Cornelius' timeline would like to have the film done by the fall. He will also be putting out a Kickstarter soon. He's shooting now, and would like anyone interested to be involved.

8:24 Board Elections

Ted reviews the board membership eligibility requirements and commitments.

Sarah nominates Stephen, Stephen nominates Sarah. They both accept. David nominates JP, and JP nominates David, who both accept. Stephen nominates Karis, Vanessa nominates Garner, Kay nominates Ted, JP nominates Garner. All accept.

Ted requests that everyone who wants to be on the board give a 2 minute summary of their interests/day job/other involvements.

- Ted has lived here for 5 years, and been board chair for 3 of those years. He likes serving in the position, facilitating making things happen. He runs a boarding house. His other interests are transportation infrastructure and bicycling, and he's an active volunteer in some of those orgs.
- Karis has lived here for about 30 years, and lived around the corner from Rachel Hall. She's served as Treasurer for many years. She moved back to the neighborhood after college and wanted to get involved when she saw all the changes happening. She works at Moda Health, running communications/corporate giving.
- Garner Moody grew up near Rosa Parks and Mallory. He's a builder in the neighborhood (Lloyd Development). He's a volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club. He and his wife have been living here 7 years, on Michigan and Beech.
- Vanessa Wilson has lived in Boise for over a year, and half a block outside of Boise for 7 years prior. She's seen the neighborhood changing, and wants to be a part of what's going on. She works at OHSU in research labs.
- Kay Newell owns Sunlan Lighting, and has lived here for 25 years. She's been a board member for 24 years, and has held every position on the board except chair.
- John Paul Castiaux moved here from the Bay Area two years ago, been in Portland for 8 years. He's volunteered for Bike Loud, and recently finished his MBA. His interests are mostly land use, parking, and transportation. He was in Zambia for Peace Corps teaching permaculture, and has worked for Inside Track (life coaching for students) for two years.
- David de la Rocha came to Portland in 1991 and recently came from Beaumont Wilshire neighborhood in a large communal house. He realized that living in a communal house separated him from the larger community. He now lives at Ivy and Commercial, which is also in Eliot neighborhood (dual citizenship). He is excited to be here because he likes the way this neighborhood debates and discusses the issues in front of it. He's interested in land use, and growth in a way that meets our needs. He works for the US Dept of Justice, and has a Masters in Urban Planning.
- Katy Wolf has lived here for 3 years as a renter. She's been on the board for a year and a half. Her degree in English from U of O work for energy efficiency consulting firm. She is most interested in community building, event planning, fundraising, projects, and sustainability.
- Sarah Cantine lives on Rodney and Failing, is an architect. She graduated from U of O in 1995 and has been here ever since, and has owned her house here since 2003. She is most interested in land use and transportation. She's been surprised at the rate of change, and feels a sense of loss for the people that have left or are gone.

- Stephen grew up in NY and came here to work with Nike, and has been here for 17 years. Outside of Boise, he's on the board for Open Meadow (a North Portland alternative school). The school is moving to the border of Portland and Gresham. Many of Boise's displaced residents have moved to East Portland. The board is hoping to close fundraising and move the school there. He's also on the board of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. His general philosophy in the realm of transportation and land use is not about fighting change and more about shaping it.

Rebecca Brown has been here for about 8 months, and lived in the Miss/iss/Sippi building. She moved here from Boston, she does data management/database design remotely for an education non-profit. She moved back to be closer to family. She was in the Peace Corps. Her interests are equitable opportunity for all kids. She started attending board meetings and since she's so passionate about education, and wanted to be involved in something local. She has a Masters in Statistics, so her passion in operations and logistics. She's active in the Communications Team.

Rachel Hall is a native Oregonian, her mom attended Boise-Eliot. Her children have attended Boise-Eliot and SEI. She works for a non-profit called Innovative Changes, as the Financial Capabilities Coordinator, which has opportunities for low income families and clients. She started working for Home Forward in property management. She has a passion for giving people the tools to make changes. She has been attending other board meetings, such as the recent presentation on the State of Black Oregon and another Economic Symposium. She learned that the East part of Portland has the highest percentage of poverty, and that made her want to get more involved. She was displaced into East Portland for 10 years, and it was miserable because all the services and schools are far away. Now she's back and wants to be involved.

Kay makes the motion that we vote by "slate", which Stephen seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Kay makes the motion that we vote on the entire slate, yea or nay. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Welcome to our new board members: David, JP, Vanessa, and Garner.

Ted will act as the chair for the July meeting and put together the agenda. We'll vote on the board member positions at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned.