

Boise Neighborhood Association Meeting
7-9 pm October 12, 2015, Q Center

ATTENDEES

Board: Stephen Gomez, Katy Wolf, David de la Rocha, Kay Newell, Karis Stoudamire-Phillips

Absent: Garner Moody, Sarah Cantine, JP Castiaux

Non-Board: Rebecca Brown, Brenda Mikota, MaryEllen MacMahon

AGENDA

7:00 Introductions

7:05 Public Comment

7:20 Committee updates

7:45 Discussion of neighborhood meeting purpose, topics and schedule

Public Comment

- Emergency prep
 - David - OPB Special on the Big One tonight at 9 pm.
 - Katy is getting trained to be NET in November
 - Kay - Emergency prep could be a topic for every meeting.
 - We could ask for Novick to come to a meeting.
 - David and Katy interested in talking further
- Mary Ellen - NxNE Community Health Center recently lost their space. They're in the Garlington building. They need a really large space if anyone knows of anything.

Committee Updates

- Communications - no updates
- SALT (Safety and Livability Team)
 - new neighborhood intern hired w/start date of 10/26. Samuel Garcia.
 - Sustainability project ideas welcome
 - Stephen - opportunity to get business associations involved. They profit from the community. We should have an expectation they reinvest in the community. At most basic level of trash management. Alley project has only served the residents so far.
 - Trash can discussion - could Mississippi Ave. become a "Main Street" that receives additional services from the city like trash pick up (like St. Johns and Alberta for example)? Stephen and Katy will look into this.
- Land Use & Transportation (Stephen Gomez, Committee Chair)
 - Transportation - Wednesday morning at 9AM the traffic light on Cook will start working. Stephen will attend the opening ceremony. Sometime in 2016 the Vancouver bikeway area will be improved-- the entire bike lane will be painted

green with sidewalk bump-outs at Ivy for increased pedestrian visibility and safety.

- Sept LUTC (Land Use & Transportation Committee) meeting - Reviewed Solterra project "The Antelope" at Vancouver and Failing. Could break ground in Spring 2016.
- Next LUTC meeting
 - proposed townhome development at Ivy.
 - Marathon Development will present revision of Cook Street Apartment design - expansion (behind Spin Laundry Lounge).
 - Letter of support for [MULTE grant](#) for Marathon's project on Williams/Vancouver. Low-income application.
- Kay has been participating in the City parking committee, which is looking at new parking options for several areas including Mississippi. Stephen met with Grant Morehead (Portland Bureau of Transportation, Transportation Planner) to get a better understanding. There will probably be a recommendation from the committee to City Council toward the end of the year, which they will act upon Q1 2016. He thought that in Summer 2016 he would come to BNA. Changes in parking will likely be a very long process. Kay says that the recommendation will be a toolbox that can be applied to each neighborhood's different issues-- there is no one-size-fits-all solution.
- Affordable housing - tomorrow night is a really important meeting organized by N/NE Neighbors for Housing Affordability and NECN (Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods). There is a proposal to expand housing opportunity through set-asides around urban renewal dollars. Recommending that the City increase funding up to \$80M. They want to make sure there's as much representation as possible at City Hall at the end of October when the Council reviews the recommendation. Commissioners Fish and Saltzman have already said they are in favor of it.
- Q Center mural
 - If we are asked for a letter of support, would we like them to present at one of our meetings (as opposed to us coming to the RACC proposal meeting)?
 - The BNA has supported murals and other neighborhood artistic endeavors in the past, but has never supported financially.
 - We are generally supportive of the mural, but would like to be informed, and see the proposal. Katy may send a general letter of support.
- Budget (Karis Stoudamire-Phillips, BNA Treasurer)
 - We should be on target to get Movies in the Park - around \$650
 - We budget for miscellaneous supplies and the Spring Cleanup.
 - David de la Rocha proposes \$250 honorarium to the Q Center for hosting us. Stephen would second.

- NECN is giving us \$500 twice a year up front instead of as a reimbursement. They are also hoping to have grant application for anything.
- Karis will send out a draft budget for review, and when it is finalized we can put it on the website.

Discussion of neighborhood meeting purpose, topics and schedule

- Stephen emailed the board to bring up: What is the purpose of the association? Are the meetings serving the purpose and serving the neighbors? Why low attendance?
- Our bylaws emphasize: livability, communications, liaison, facilitating involvement
- Stephen looked at other nearby neighborhood bylaws for comparison
- Neighborhood meeting structure - there is a lot going on, but it's happening outside this meeting. Lots of members are working on projects or committees outside of this meeting, so general meeting is often just a rundown of updates.
- David - there should be something that brings people in, like speakers on a topic people are interested in. We should do this twice a year or quarterly.
- Mary Ellen - we have contentious issues like parking and housing and maybe people are too scared of a brawl. Would like to see discussion, or parsing through the issue to try and think of creative solutions.
- Stephen - with affordable housing, we couldn't do it alone. We needed to work with other neighborhoods which is now an affordable housing coalition.
- Provide a place for people to discuss the hot topics right now. Get a sense of what people want. Sort through a lot of stuff to get it.
- Kay - we have three types of topics:
 - There are some things you can do nothing about. We can disseminate info so people are aware and provide a forum for people to discuss. We need to be transparent about what we can't do anything about. We need to listen to their voices. Make it clear people can't vote if they're not on the board, but we want to hear their opinion.
 - Sometimes *individuals* can do something, but we can't.
 - We can do something about some things like parking, trash cans on Miss. and Williams. Those will be contentious meetings. Not everyone will be happy, but it will be better overall. We've come together to do a lot of things, like the Design Guidelines.
- Stephen - we consistently hear about development, parking. Not much about crime anymore.
- Projects can hit several areas of livability. Some impact residents, some impact businesses, and some impact both.
- Mary Ellen - Board shouldn't suggest immediately that people who have an opinion should immediately take it up as a cause and/or join the board.
- Rebecca - Board knows a lot about how things work, context, but newcomers don't. Meeting should tell people more about the context of the neighborhood, orgs that exist that deal with X, Y, Z. Empower individuals by connecting them with resources or other groups that are already doing the kind of work they are interested in.

- Mary Ellen - Offering help negotiating with unsafe demolition concerns, dealing with the City. When you call the City, you get the runaround. Nothing ever happens, they let it go.
 - We could offer to address demolition safety during public comment.
 - Stephen - LUTC takes on demolitions as a topic. There have been around 16 in the last 3-4 years. No one on LUTC has taken leadership on that topic. We brought in a guy from Restore Oregon at a BNA meeting.
- Give people a direction to take with their concern, such as going to the LUTC meeting.
- Implement an alternating months structure where board business happens every other month in shorter meetings and general meetings happen every other month in between. General meetings can be for discussions and presentations. Take more time to do context-setting, unpacking topics, explaining acronyms and what organizations and City departments do.
- Stephen - committees focus on what people are passionate about. More effective in getting people in those groups, let them run, check back in occasionally.
- Mary Ellen - Make the BNA meeting more about an introduction to committee work, or show where to get involved. Empower them.

David makes motion approve September meeting minutes. Stephen seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.