

**Boise Neighborhood Association General Meeting
November 9, 2015 7-9 pm – Q Center**

Attendees:

Board members: Sarah Cantine (meeting chair), Stephen Gomez, JP Castiaux, Katy Wolf, Garner Moody, Ted Buehler, Kay Newell, David de la Rocha

Absent: Karis Stoudamire-Phillips

Non-board: Linda Hunter (Our United Villages), Brenda Mikota (Williams and Fremont), Arva Carlson (Missouri and Beech), Ashley Green (Commercial and Mason), Matt Barnham (Tupelo Alley)

Notes:

7:05 Introductions

7:07 Public Comment

- Sarah: A 27 year old African American man was found murdered on Saturday evening near Rodney and Fremont, single gunshot to the head. The Hughes Memorial church has a small memorial outside. The neighbors heard the shot but didn't see anything, and didn't know what had happened, so didn't call it in. The man was known to have drug issues and lived nearby. Sarah lives about 100 feet from where it happened.
- Ted: Rodney greenway stop signs now go north/south instead of east/west. The stop signs are hidden by trees, so Ted trimmed them and told Rich Newlands to have them trimmed as a matter of course.
- Kay: City Stakeholder Parking Advisory Committee update: The committee is having another meeting because the toolbox they've been working on isn't complete yet. Neighborhoods would get to pick 'tools' from the toolbox that apply to them, create a plan, and take it back to the City. They are talking about creating smaller zones, that don't need to be 12 blocks minimum. Kay requested that business associations be involved, and she has been asking business owners to get involved. After the City approves the toolbox, Boise will get to play with those tools and apply them to our neighborhood.

7:15 Updates -- Katy Wolf:

- No Communications or Safety & Livability updates.
- Alley Project update:
 - New PSU Neighborhood Sustainability intern: Samuel Garcia
 - Priorities and goals: Helping neighbors who have already participated in something with support in applying for City and County environmental mini-grants for alley projects, working with City Repair on Dec 7 "2016 planning" workshop at NECN.
- Emergency Team:
 - Three Boise neighbors are currently certified or in the process of getting certified, including Katy.

- Others are interested in getting together to talk about prep (Brenda and Ted).
- Arva: Is a certified NET. There was an active Boise-Eliot team three years ago. They had two meetings, then it died out. Can maybe dig up the email addresses.
- Katy will organize a first meeting in early December, and communicate it out on the regular communications channels (Email newsletter, Facebook and Nextdoor)
- WVBA Trash Can Committee:
 - First meeting with members (Stacey Wion, Shelda Holmes and Dax) on Nov 12 at 9 am at Ristretto.
 - Katy's draft trash can plan is on the website sustainablemississippi.com
 - Stephen: We have three major developers on Williams– Solterra, Marathon , Security. They can be really good contributors and sourcing of funding. They'll be adding about 600 units/1,000 people. They've proven they're good to work with, and they'll all be managing the same properties after construction.

7:30 Land Use and Transportation Updates – Stephen Gomez:

- Stephen puts forth the motion to add David de la Rocha as a committee member. Sarah seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
- Marathon project on Cook and Albina: We should expect construction to start around the end of the year.
- 12-unit townhome on Ivy: The committee thinks the design is pretty average. They did incorporate off-street parking.
- Affordable housing: Boise supported Marathon's MULTE grant proposal for all four buildings (two projects) in our neighborhood. Stephen will testify to the Housing Bureau in support. We're optimistic based on the recent increased focus from City Council on this issue. The grant would apply for 60 units, for the period of 10 years.
- The LUTC has made some general comments on the Mixed Use Zoning changes that are part of the Comprehensive Plan. Stephen will run them by the committee before submitting them to the City by the deadline of 11/16. Usually LUTC meets every fourth Monday of the month (7-9 pm at the Q Center). However, because of the holidays, there will be no regular November or December LUTC meeting. There may either be a special LUTC meeting on 12/7, or if there are not enough items, they will combine with the Boise meeting on 12/14.

7:45 Discuss changing the BNA general meeting to an every other month cadence in lieu of the current every month – Stephen Gomez

- Bylaws currently require us to have a general meeting every month, except August
- David: I think it would be a more effective use of our time to meet every other month.
- Sarah: What about people that don't keep track of when we meet
- The non-board members said that they knew to come either from Googling it, or the email newsletter. In the past people have also found out about our meetings or our existence from the A-boards.

- David Edwards, a former board member had created the two glass bulletin boards on Mississippi, but one fell off and one is covered by other fliers. Katy took the broken one to David's house and he said he would fix it, but it hasn't happened yet.
- Kay: If you move to alternate months, use the off-months to do one of the other committee or project issues, like alleys, safety, or emergency. Working meeting, no other topics.
- Linda will put a flyer for BNA in the Our United Villages window
 - Katy: Give Linda a flier and add the Last Wednesday Social (done)
- David came from Beaumont Wilshire neighborhood, which met four times a year, and each time had a specific topic and expert speaker from the City or community organization. The fifth meeting of the year was elections with free food from neighborhood restaurant owners. About two people a year would plan one meeting a year.
- Board members will consider the options and bring it up again in December.
- Put on website: Encourage students, non-board members to bring up a topic and spearhead it, lead it.
- Arva: Has been to this meeting four times before and wasn't spoken to. Other people she's spoken to have also felt like they're ignored at the meeting, and the meeting is just for board members. Layout of the room isn't conducive. At a meeting three years ago, she volunteered to start a community garden and no one took her up on it. She is a founding board member of Vancouver, WA community garden, is interested in starting a community garden.
- Linda: Our United Villages gave some free consulting to Eliot Neighborhood Association. They had three gatherings and had incredible turnout with diversity and different generations. People put their names next to things. We could check in with Eliot, see how things went after that. They put images from their neighborhood on door hangers, and went door to door.
- David will be chairing the next meeting.
 - Sarah and Katy will work with him to make the December meeting more focused on community outreach and engagement, and get a speaker that can draw people in and address some of our core values. Potentially have Commissioner Novick come in.

8:10 Donation for the Q Center – Stephen Gomez

- We've been meeting here at least two years, and they let us meet here twice a month for free.
- David makes the motion to make an annual donation to the Q Center for \$250. Stephen seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

8:15 Sons of Haiti – Stephen Gomez

- Stephen, Sarah and Karis have been helping the Sons of Haiti, as private citizens not board members, work through the City code violations related to their food cart permit. Right now they have a contractor bid on the project, seeking a second bid. Getting bids

was a much bigger challenge than anticipated. In the meantime, they have been talking to the City and PDC. Verbally the PDC has committed \$40,000 to the project through their Community Livability grant. The project will take about \$50,000-55,000. Stephen is working on fundraising from organizations, including the Rebuilding Center. To round out the effort, there will be a community effort. Stephen will ask for a donation from the BNA and HMBA. There will be a fundraising event at the Rebuilding Center. It won't be an issue to raise the funding. The long term goals are to fulfill the permit and resolve the lien and fines, and also to get Sons of Haiti a more robust operating facility where they can add more food carts as revenue. There will be more opportunities to get involved soon.

- Matt Burman is interested in helping.

8:30 Discussion of topic interest from non-board members

- Matt Burman (Tupelo Alley) - Developments and how they are affecting the neighborhood. How to find the positives, not just negatives. Transportation. Learning cultural aspect as new Oregonian. Learning what the community expects from the developers. Looking to plug into LUTC and diverse community. Block parties. Host a party at Tupelo Alley.
- Brenda – Want to find out what's important to the community. Interested in emergency preparedness. Wanted to find out about the community gardens.
- Ashley – Is a social worker on mental health side. More passionate about communities knowing each other. Interested in citizen participation, justice, history of the people here. Want to know how to balance being involved with being aware of the history. Wanted to find out about the pulse of the neighborhood. Have been here for two months.
- Arva – Was Assistant Principal of Evergreen HS in Vancouver. Lived in Alaska for 23 years. Likes that Portland is one of the few places in the country that has real neighborhoods. Still works full time, flexible hours. Looking for ways to participate: community garden, would be willing to open up backyard to alley for party, hospital healing garden, NET and Incident Response.
 - Katy: Send survey results to Ashley. (done)

8:45 Residential Infill Stakeholder Advisory Committee – Sarah Cantine

- The committee is starting to learn about how code relates to infill issues. They'll then make recommendations to the City to increase density and livability, avoid displacement, keep neighborhoods strong.
- All meeting notes are on the City website.

8:50 Discuss letter asking for deconstruction rather than demolition – Sarah Cantine

- The BNA wants to send a letter to all developers to reconsider demolition and look at demolition. Ted started it a year ago, and Sarah has picked it up again. Sarah will send that to Katy to post on website/Facebook for feedback. There were revision suggestions in the meeting a year ago, so we should dig up those from the meeting minutes, make the revisions, then post it for feedback.

9:00 Meeting Adjourned