

**Boise Neighborhood Association General Meeting  
February 8, 2016 7-9 pm – Q Center**

**Attendees:**

**Board members:** Katy Wolf, Stephen Gomez, Kay Newell, Garner Moody, David de la Rocha, JP Castiaux

**Absent:** Sarah Cantine, Ted Buehler, Karis Stoudamire-Phillips

**Non-board:** Stephen Reichard (Rebuilding Center), Suze Riley, Jan Landis, Nichole Morgan (PSU student), Matt Teske, Anna Teske, Robin Franklin (Hughes Memorial Church), Jan Landis, Huey, Chris Davies

**Agenda:**

7:00 Chair's Opening Remarks

7:05 Open Comment

7:20 Guest Speaker: Stephen Reichard of the Rebuilding Center

8:00 Communication Team Report

8:10 Treasurer's Report (Budget)

8:20 LUTC Report

8:50 Adjourn/Discussion

**Public Comment:**

- Chris: Unthank Park is a swamp, and should be treated like that, and made into a natural habitat instead of a sports field. It's below grade and there are no drains. Would be nice if the walkway was above the lawn so it's not underwater. It's empty most of the year because of the weather, and then in summer it's taken over by sports.
  - Kay: We had \$1M set aside from Interstate Urban Renewal, and it was lost over to Dawson Park renovations. All 7 NE park plan funds were combined into Dawson's renewal. There used to be 13 homes on that park, they were removed and never properly compensated. It became the home of the Unthank gang in the 90s. The playground was improved with grants and donations. None of the money from the system development, from the new development going on, comes back to this neighborhood.
  - Chris: Considering how bad it was, it's a pretty positive outcome. But parks are so rare in this neighborhood, and there doesn't seem to be a plan for it yet because there's so few funds.
  - Garner: I wonder if we could talk to Michelle Seward about the displacement.
  - Stephen: 5% of all city budgets are being cut to make room for the new number one priority, affordable housing. Parks has done bond measures successfully, but not all parks are on that capital improvement list. We need a person to do the work.
  - David: I'm happy to look for the old Interstate Urban Renewal plan and see what's documented.

- Chris: I would like to see the neighbors invited to share their vision for the park. I think it reflects the history, being very well lit and open, but it might not be the best for the future. They've done something with the drainage and recently redid the playground.
- Kay: I think if we see that the funds from the developers, 1% stay here for the park, that is our best chance.
- Matt and Anna are on Missouri and Fremont. The dead end by the freeway, you often find a car parked there. They call in a lot of shady stuff on the non-emergency line. Now we're noticing people living in the cars, a variety coming in and out. People camp under the tree. Don't think the intersection - a busy corner in a neighborhood - is a good place for people to camp.
  - BNA is planning already to dedicate April meeting to the homelessness-in-neighborhoods topic. The City is also working on a structure for this too. We'll learn a lot more in April.

### **Stephen Reichard - Director of The Rebuilding Center**

- Started in July. Rebuilding Center began as a social enterprise with the idea that it would generate its own revenue for a program (was called Community Legacy Program, now called Community Outreach). "Our United Villages" as a name is going away, and everything will be simply "The Rebuilding Center" since that's the name people know. We deconstruct houses and put the funds into the community outreach program, which convenes individuals and orgs around community change. They just came out of a year long revisioning process, and we're going to do more of the same, but much deeper. If orgs need legal, HR, facilitation, strategic planning, we're going to be a free consulting to individuals and orgs that are interested in being the change they want to see in the world - with a focus on North and NE Portland. Particularly interested in issues of homelessness, youth, and race. Looking to see how Albina Youth Opportunity School can work with STEM. Goal is to adopt 4 projects this year, so far they're helping with the Historic Black Williams Project. The Community Commons project is underway - a space with a big table, 6 video kiosks (2 for Rebuilding Center, 2 for reuse, 2 for community outreach). The idea behind the kiosks is to virtually create empathy through videos, relating to the past and the present. We'll also have a video booth to record your own videos, which we'll curate and post. We'll also have free coffee.
- Last year, City Council started a deconstruction advisory group. On Feb 17 at 2:30 the group will make a proposal resolution to Council that all homes 100 years or older can only be deconstructed, instead of demolished. They need people to come and support this resolution - comments are limited to 2 minutes and you must sign up by 1:30. Deconstruction creates jobs, and saves carbon and water. They offload materials to Habitat ReStores. They would need to scale up to get people trained to do the deconstruction, could be 40 jobs with benefits, paid vacation, \$15/hour. The idea is to scale incrementally over time, and draw it from 100 years to closer to mid-century over time. The 50s houses started using old growth forest beams again.

- They are also sponsoring the play “York” at Jefferson HS, 3/12 at 7 pm and 3/13 at 2 pm. Tickets and info at [rebuildingcenter.org/york](http://rebuildingcenter.org/york). \$7 adv students, \$12 adv adults, \$15 door.
- They are building a list of people with special skills, volunteer consultants to deploy on various projects.
- Kay asks if the Rebuilding Center can do a survey of homeless people in Boise, and what they need help with. Stephen knows that the City has done this in the past, and it takes training to take on this kind of work. **Stephen will find out how this works.**

### **Report on BNA Board January Retreat**

- Board Chair David de la Rocha reads aloud the proposed amendments and corrections to the BNA Bylaws, which the board discussed at the January retreat.
  - *Amendment to Bylaws Article 5: The January general meeting may, at the board’s discretion, take the form of a planning retreat to map out an agenda for the calendar year. The January retreat may take place on a day and time that is different than the second Monday of the month.*
  - *Amendment to Bylaws Article 9: Treasurer will ensure current signature cards of the treasurer and at least one other board member at the financial institution. Disbursement of BNA funds shall require the signature of any two board members on the signature cards.*
  - *Correction to reference in Bylaws Article 10: Replace “attachment” to “amendment” regarding BNA Board granting the LUTC authority to act on behalf of the entire board for land-use positions.*
  - The process to change bylaws requires reading them at one meeting, and at the meeting after that, we can vote on it.
  - **Katy will include this language with the March agenda/meeting notification.**

### **Treasurer’s Report**

- At the retreat, we reviewed our 2016 budget. We have planned expenses of \$2,190, which is more than our \$1,000 planned income. We did have some good grant writers in the past when we had more grant opportunities. Now we are running a deficit, and it’s not sustainable. We gave feedback to NECN that we can’t afford to support an NECN-wide paper newspaper if it will cost us their \$1,000 grant - which we need.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- March - Fix our Streets campaign (gas tax)
- April - homelessness
- May - natural environment
- June - emergency preparedness. (Jeremy Van Keuren, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management)

**Katy - Communications, Safety and Livability, Emergency Preparedness, etc.**

- **Katy to post about need for help with communications team help on Facebook and Nextdoor**
- Next NECN SALT meeting is a showing of OPB's Unprepared doc and a Map your Neighborhood tabletop exercise, with free door prizes of kit supplies - Feb 22 6:30
- Next Boise Neighborhood Emergency Team meeting - Tues March 8 7-8:30 at Q Center
- Next Last Wednesday Social - Feb 24 7 pm at Lompoc Sidebar
- Stephen moves to approve Jan retreat notes as written. Motion passes.
- Kay makes motion to approve December meeting minutes as written. Motion passes.

#### **Land Use & Transportation Updates - Stephen**

- Met with Solterra about Antelope mixed use building - Stephen posted their plan on the LUTC page on the BNA website. Will go next to Livingscape.
- At the next meeting: Presentation of proposed parking plan and usage study, with City PBOT representation. Interest in implementing it in our community first. The permit system would be on residential zones only. People that live or work in a commercial street would not be allowed into that permit zone.
- Sons of Haiti Lodge - ran into speed bump, but since the issue has gotten so much attention that PICOC (Portland Independent Chamber of Commerce) did a story with great photography and in 48 hours they raised \$8,000 on the GoFundMe. They expect by March 1 the site project will be completed. It will go from 3 to 5 food carts. There will be a grand re-opening sometime in April. To be clear, the building itself is a separate issue. This is just about the exterior landscaping, getting into compliance with code.
- **Stephen will follow up with the City to find out more about notices to neighbors for demolitions near them.**