

**2/26/17 BNA Board Retreat
2-4 pm @ Rebuilding Center**

Attendees: David de la Rocha, Howard Patterson, JP Castiaux, Katy Wolf, Karis Stoudamire-Phillips (quorum: yes)

2:11 Approve BNA meeting minutes for last few months.

- JP makes motion to accept Nov, Dec and Feb minutes. Howard seconds, carried unanimously.

2:15 Discussion of last year's accomplishments - David de la Rocha

- We talked about homelessness, that went really well. We wanted to talk about environmental issues but never got to it. We talked about ways to improve communications, and decided we're not staffed to expand. We got opportunities for joining in with NECN quarterly newsletter. We can talk about things we'd like to put into that this year here.
 - We can promote a design charette, doc screening.
- We had a big land use controversy and mediation. Glad that those are here are still here, though we lost some board members. Glad that Howard has joined us. Became a lesson that there are still wounds that are still raw, and that serving in the BNA is an act of service.
 - JP: We were caught off guard with that land use issue, and hope that if it happens again we can navigate it better.
 - David: I'm committed to mending fences with next door neighbor Liberty Hall owner Alem G.
 - JP: Sometimes when two "alpha males" are arguing it can be intimidating, so if we notice it again, we need to check the tone and de-escalate.
 - David: It's all of our responsibility to interject if we need to.
 - Katy: We can all step up when we see something getting too heated, and be a voice for neutrality, even reminding the board moderator to not get too contentious.
 - Karis: Sometimes we've had people from NECN step in to moderate, if we have enough time.
- The national election has impacted us all emotionally and psychologically and increased our sense of service to our community. People in our households are spending time learning more about those that are impacted, and not just cognitively but feeling it too.

2:30 Discussion of BNA values

- We have these posted on our About BNA page. On the last bullet, it says we welcome new faces, and David sees a gulf between us and the new apartment dwellers. One of Karis' new neighbors invited two blocks of neighbors to meet them. One of her other neighbors also invited neighbors over, in person, to a sign making party before the Women's March. She also has new alley neighbors with a little garden they see often. JP was recently invited to the 70th birthday party of a black neighbor at Matt Dishman where he realized that the connections of that community were so strong, yet we don't

usually see that in our neighborhood, and wonders how we can bring more diversity, more people that have been here longer, to the BNA. Howard sees this too and has been thinking about it, especially after going to equity marches. If we went to some of the churches, what would we offer. Churches are so vital to getting people back on their feet, and giving them strength to overcome addiction. Karis is really big on Movies in the Park because this is where we see more of a reunion of the people that have dispersed, like birthday parties, basketball games. Today SEI is having their Gospel Brunch, maybe next year we can get a table there. Their annual gala is at the end of Sept. Albina Ministerial does some things together at different churches. The pastor at New Hope has gotten really involved in the neighborhood. Good in the Hood is a good opportunity - parade or booth.

- David makes motion to rename Sustainability Policy to Value Statement on the website.

2:51 Proposals received from others

- Humboldt Chair reached out to ask if we'd like to combine forces on Spring Cleanup. At same time, Venture Portland and Williams/Vancouver Business Association Chair reached out to see if we wanted to participate in their Clean Sweep event. At our last meeting we decided not to do a Spring Cleanup, but to join w/Venture and WVBA. Graffiti has to be limited to one business corridor, but we can have a litter pickup event on both Williams and Mississippi. They have not yet reached out to Mississippi. They're leaning toward moving it to April 29. What can we do to support?
 - David will reach out to Lily, HMBA Chair, to float the idea.
- Humboldt floated the idea over email and phone to merge with us. They gave a litany of problems, and didn't make a case for us to want to do that. We can collaborate on the WVBA Clean Sweep and other ways in the future.
 - Katy: Two ways we're already collaborating with Humboldt: We're going to promote and get volunteers pointed to the Spring Cleanup for Eliot and Humboldt, and we have a joint BEH Neighborhood Emergency Team, and spoke a few months ago at Humboldt NA on emergency prep.
 - David makes motion to decline offer to merge with Humboldt NA. Katy seconds, motion carries unanimously.

3:05 Proposals for adopting public lands

- Howard: Vacated area of Gantenbein space between new townhome development and Red Cross is maintained/mowed by PBOT on regular basis. His household wants to plant a range of native plants and trees. Hoping to get buy-in from the townhomes, since that would be their view. A chunk in the corner belongs to Legacy Emanuel, which was a recorded error. Haven't succeeded in finding someone at PBOT to talk to about this yet. Will coordinate with EMSCWD on grants, and getting volunteers involved. Howard worked for WMSCWD but have taken some classes at EMSCWD.
- Katy: We should do this at the same time as the Fargo lot, which is ODOT property that failed to move to PBOT because Google Fiber deal failed.
- Howard: The Red Cross parking lot has islands with invasives and bushes, and maybe the Gantenbein space could be extended to them.

- Katy: Can reach out to neighbor that works at Red Cross to find out their long term plans for the site.

3:16 Strategies for outreach to community resources (SEI, BEH PTA, etc)

- Brainstorm who can reach out to each, be a liaison.
- Karis: Tony Hopkins (SEI) is interested in having a BNA person be a liaison. Karis will find out more about when meetings are, and what kind of person they want involved.
- Katy is interested in being SEI liaison, since Spring Cleanup is usually held there and used to volunteer at SEI for three years.
- Karis: Knows someone on the BEH PTA. One thing they do is create food and toy baskets, which is something we could get involved in, probably packing the baskets.
- David gave a presentation to the WVBA on developments.
- Churches can be tough to get in touch with sometimes, office hours. David will keep trying to make contact with New Hope, his household already has a good relationship with Open Door.

3:38 Discussion of BNA small grant

- Last meeting had Treasurer's report, our balance is \$8,000.
- We used to have a grant application for green space. People could then present at BNA. Was \$500 increments.
- David: Would be a great force multiplier to say we'll provide the plants, or match somehow. Could also do an event, like block party.
- JP: Physical improvements and bringing people together, which we can pull from our value statement.
- Karis: Let's leave it open on criteria.
- JP will work on guiding criteria to discuss at next meeting. Karis will send the old application as template.
- David: Propose a total of \$2,000 grant money available in four \$500 increments. Will revisit in next meeting

3:43 Meeting topic proposals for next year

- David: Would really like to screen the new Cornelius Swart document. How much can we pay for the screening?
 - JP: We could use that as a BNA event, give out swag and remind people of our values.
 - Karis: We could host at SEI's theater.
 - David: After screening, could have a discussion about understanding your place in history. Cornelius has done this before with guest panelists.
- David: Will try to meet with Renee Strand from Holst Architecture to try and plan a design charette later this year for their green space.
- JP: Know Your City does their Albina tours. We could say "free tours" on us.
- Katy: We promote their Albina and Vanport tours in our newsletters.
- Present small grant info at March meeting, then after winners selected in April, we can have presentations for the plans in May.

3:58 Miscellaneous

- Karis just joined PBOT Vision Zero committee, and they've identified 11 areas that have a lot of collisions. Fremont is on there, but nowhere in our neighborhood area in it. They layer the collision areas over communities of concern, an equity lens. They meet every other month, more to come.