

**SNG Board meeting
September 24, 2014 7-9PM
Matthews Park**

In Attendance: Maia Homstad, Hannah Epstein, Ben Walen, Angie Haeg, Peter Fleck, Tariku Belay, Bruce Johansen, Marne Zafar, Michael Pursell

Excused: Diann Anders

Absent: Bob Friddle, Kidist Gemta, Peter Truax

Staff: Doug Wise, Kate Sheldon, Sheldon Mains, Kerry Cashman

Guests: Abdi Ahmed, Tom Schmidt, Robin Garwood

Introductions

7:03pm

Angie welcomes visitors. Introductions are made.

Consent Agenda

7:06pm

Minutes from July Board Meeting

CDC Motions

- 1. Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group recommends approval of a Conditional Use Permit for HealthPartners' CART Ambulance Service at 2501 Minnehaha Avenue South.** Ken Webb moved and Bob Hain seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

- 2. Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group recommends approval of Seward Redesign's petition to vacate the easement of unused portions of Snelling Avenue & East 22nd Street for the development of Seward Commons Phase III.** Ken Webb moved and Bob Hain seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

- 3. Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group recommends approval of a Conditional Use Permit for the Seward Coop's production and processing facility at 2601 E. Franklin Avenue, and a variance to increase the allowable gross floor area for the production and processing area.** Ken Webb moved and Bob Hain seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

- 4. Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group supports changes to the Zoning Code to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) in the city of Minneapolis.** RyAnne Quirk moved and Ben Walen seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

5. Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group recommends approval of an Interim Use Permit for up to five years, or Land Use Permit, for Fun City Dogs at 2215 South Snelling Avenue. Ben Walen moved and Ken Webb seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

Board Motions

1. Motion: Approve minutes from July and August Board meetings.

Ben moves. Peter seconds. All in favor. Motions pass.

Public Discussion Issues

Cam Gordon's 2nd Ward Report –

Robin Garwood is here to represent Cam. Minnehaha will be reconstructed. They've requested that public work staff come to the CDC meeting to discuss issues regarding the reconstruction. Robin discusses the Alcohol Establishment Ordinance. There is a Clean Energy Partnership on the horizon. Marne brings up the issue of bird-safe glass of the new stadium. There will be a protest on Saturday.

Abdi Warsame 6th Ward Report -

(not in attendance)

Abdirashid Ahmed, East African Community Specialist for the City of Minneapolis -

Abdi has the floor. He lives on 25th Ave. He wanted to be a member prior to getting his position for the city. He thanks SNG for our work. He will be working with us about access issues, how he can help us with engagement with the East African community in the neighborhood and ensuring that the East African community has a say in decision-making. He can serve as a contact for East African communities and will attend some Board meetings.

Ben suggests Abdi reach out to neighbors to run for the Board.

Executive Report and Discussion issues

SPOKES -Finances Motion: SNG give SPOKES \$10,000 immediately to help cover the current budget.

Sheldon hands out a financial report, he says we are already a third of the way to reaching his goal. SPOKES has gotten great press. Sheldon says it is 80-90% women at the Learn-to-Ride program. New people from outside of the cities have heard about SPOKES and have been attending. Sheldon has been talking to companies about sponsorship. SPOKES has a fundraiser coming up: Tuesday, October 7th at Town Hall Brewery 4:30-6:30pm. Next Thursday is the all SPOKES party, starting at 5pm (free, not a fundraiser).

Ben makes a motion to support SPOKES with \$10,000. Marne seconds. Discussion: SNG budgeted a \$30,000 surplus, Ben states we are not in danger. Not an ideal situation, but Ben says it has been an asset to the neighborhood. Marne states that there have been really great articles about SPOKES in a broad context. Sheldon states that SPOKES is looking for city funding. **All in favor. Motion passes.**

Next Meeting Conflict—October 22nd conflict with SLRJP 10th anniversary

Should we move our meeting? SLJRP is 6-8pm. It is the meeting before the Annual Meeting. Ben suggests we move the meeting to the next week (October 29th). The Annual Meeting is November 5th. **The meeting will be changed to October 29th.**

Nominations Committee

Angie encourages everyone to send interested parties to her and she can explain the process. Angie will put info on the e-democracy site as well. We have 10 seats to fill, with many positions up this term and with the 2 (possibly 3) members resigned. Angie asks people to join the Nominations Committee. Lets keep in mind that we should reach out to represent our neighborhood's diversity.

Annual Meeting

Kerry asks if there is a desire for change in the meeting. Which direction should we go in? Angie likes the idea of having different Committee heads speak. Pat Rosaves is running the silent auction, but unable to run it next year, so keep that in mind. Tariku is wondering about supplying some food, as we ran out last year. Pizza Luce donated pizza the year before last, maybe they can do it this year.

Seward Spread Joy Fund

Ben outlines issues that were discussed last year—logistics mainly. Kerry explains that the goal of the fund is transparency. Peter F. points out that we'd have to reject some for disqualifications. We are not taking an administrative fee. We'd have to check on legalities,

liability waivers, Peter F. asks if there will be a report made from the recipient. Robin suggests a “suggested donation” in order to put your application in the fish bowl. We will also need to check with Diann. Angie suggests the Executive Committee should take it on to get the details and put it together.

Peter F. does not support this, he does not see it supporting our core mission. Angie sees it as a separate thing, the donor came to us. Peter F. sees a greed factor that he is not comfortable with. Kerry feels that this donor has lived in Seward for a long time and Seward has given them joy, and wants to give back to the community. Maya says it sounds like a really happy thing to add to meetings. This person is “paying it forward” and we get to take part in that. Maya feels that is a positive opportunity. Sheldon says that making Seward a better place to live, work and play is our priority, and it sounds kind of fun!

Peter moves that we support to move the Seward Joy Fund forward. Ben seconds. Motion passes. Peter is opposed.

Peter makes a motion to have the Executive Committee explore questions as to whether this is a feasible project by getting information from lawyers, information about liability, talking to the donor and designing the fund and move forward if desired. Marne seconds. Motion passes.

Kerry says that we could have people turn in applications earlier. Peter F. suggests posting all applications. Michael asks if the Executive committee could possibly sit down with the donor.

8:07pm

Robin speaks regarding 2nd Ward (see Public Discussion Issues).

Kings Fair

8:17pm

Kerry asks the Board about how they feel about combining Open Streets and the King’s Fair. Peter F. says if we combine then the open street would need to lead to the fair. Robin states that other Open Streets have moved dates to accommodate pre-existing neighborhood events. Ben agrees to be part of a committee to consider events.

Staff Motion

1. Redo the outside signs for our office and add 2 more signs to the front and side of building. This would help people find our office. We have a grant from Redesign to pay half the cost but our half could run as much as \$1000.

Marne moves to support. Angie seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Environment Committee Motions

8:26pm

1. The EC moves that the SNG Board recommends that its representatives on the Seward Towers board work with the budget and design process for the Seward Towers renovation, to make sure the Towers waste management system can successfully conform with the 2016 statewide recycling mandate.

Diann is worried that the mandate is a difficult topic, Bob is worried that we would be skirting the mandate, if we ignored it, and would need to catch up. Doug states that there are grants available to help fund the recycling program. Ben has no trouble with the motion of the EC and thinks that this is definitely something we should be advocating for.

Environment Committee moves to pass. All in favor. Motion passes. Kerry would like to make sure that the EC will give Diann the information, instead of relying.

Ben moves that the EC works with Diann on this process and in the recoiling education process and funding at the Towers. Michael seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Finance Report-no report for August

Staff Reports

8:32pm

SNG Community Coordinator

o Fundraiser with SPOKES on October 7th at Town Hall Brewery

Kerry reminds everyone that SPOKES tickets are for sale. Kerry has submitted the Headwaters Community Innovation Grant. For the next Community Conversations the group will make injera and the co-op. Kerry met with businesses to discuss the Seward Winter Frolic. Businesses feel that Open Streets was successful and wonder about the timing of the Frolic. We'll need to figure out participation and how to maximize success for artists and businesses. It seems like the artists and businesses will separate.

Kerry listed all the meeting she's been to this month.

SPOKES

(see above)

Housing

Doug will start written reports next month. We still have debt hanging over us from the city. We are encumbered with no source of repayment. Diann and Doug will meet with the city to discuss the issue. Doug is having a meeting about the project on 34th to try to keep it moving forward.

Strategic Plan Progress Reports

8:43pm

Ben has nothing to report. He will re-send the Strategic Plan spreadsheet. Board members can note progress on the spreadsheet.

Committees and projects – reports as available or necessary

8:44pm

Communications--Peter Fleck

Peter has sent out the website survey. It will inform the committee to move forward with the new website.

Community Building-Diann Anders
absent

Community Conversations- Bob Friddle
absent

Community Development Committee-Ken Webb
absent

Crime and Safety –Peter Truax
absent

Environment—Bob Friddle (absent)
absent

Fundraising—Diann Anders

absent

History/Archive-Dick Westby
absent

Profile—Marne Zafar

We need more people to try to get on a rolling schedule for advertisement and articles. However, everyone likes that there are more articles than ads. We are between a rock and a hard place. Marne has caught up on all issues with Peter and they are all archived now.

Restorative Justice--Hannah Epstein

A reminder is going out with for the 10th anniversary invitation. The program has served 15 youth through the county, year-to-date. A volunteer hosted a party and raised nearly \$300.

Seward Online report--Peter Fleck

Check out sewardarts.org. Peter has been working with Deb from ArtiCulture on a new design and Seward Artist pages. Marne says we should add a note about sewardarts.org in the next profile that highlights the Frolic.

Seward Towers-Diann

Diann is absent, but Sheldon will do a quick report. They have selected a contractor to do a detailed review of the towers. HUD has a problem with the fact that there are Tower residents on their Board. Things are moving forward.

Other Business

8:54pm

Ben mentions that we have an opportunity to appoint a new Bike Coalition/Greenway Board member.

8:55pm

Board meeting evaluation

**Maya makes a motion to adjourn. Marne seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.
Adjourn (8:55 PM Time Certain)**