

SNG Board meeting
April 26, 2017
Matthews Park

7:04 Marne called the meeting to order. Introductions and guests.

Board Members in Attendance: Marilyn Matheny, Diann Anders, Marne Zafar, Peter Fleck, Abdiasis Hirsi, Shell Collins, Ashley Freitag, Dan Handeen

Excused: Bob Friddle, Hanna Epstein, Lauren Kramer, Alexis Troschinetz, Elina Kolstad

Absent: Tariku Belay

Staff: Liza Davitch

Guests: Cam Gordon, Abdi Warsame, Ahmed Artan, Richard Murray, Garrett Peterson,

Marne: Garrett Peterson is interested in becoming a board member. He has submitted a Biography for review.

7:10 Minutes from March meeting. Diann moved to approve. Shell seconded. Marilyn pointed out that the language about the publication of the Seward History book needs clarification. Nodun press will print and publish the book, but the History Committee is responsible for providing camera-ready text/photos. With this revision, the minutes were approved.

7:15 Public Discussion Issues and Guests

- Abdi Warsame 6th Ward Report.

Section 8 Anti-Discrimination Ordinance passed.

420 people have now come to the new Opportunity Center. About 50 people come in everyday from the neighborhood. The focus of the center is jobs training and placement. There is 23% unemployment in the African community of that area. The center is open to everyone and staff speak many languages such as Oromo, Somali, Spanish.

There was a Ground Breaking Ceremony on March 28 of the Phillips Community Aquatics Center. The new pool will be an expansion and upgrade of the current center and will teach young people and women to swim free of charge.

- Cam Gordon's 2nd Ward Report (reporting in April)

The City Council and the Park and Recreation Board passed resolutions related to the use of waste tires on playgrounds and athletic fields. Concerns were raised by Play It Safe Minneapolis.

Capital long range committee recommends a 5 year improvement plan. You can go online to look at proposals they are reviewing. It would be great if people showed up and made requests.

Diann: Cam has been helpful in bringing together the City's Public Works department and the 2nd and 6th Ward offices as part of the Reconnecting Neighborhoods project led by Seward Redesign. The construction of I-94 changed traffic patterns in Seward. The Reconnecting Neighborhoods initiative seeks to include planning for improved pedestrian and bicycle connections across I-94. The initiative is working to impact long-range planning by MNDot for the I-94 corridor through the Twin Cities.

7:35 Discussion issues & Exec report

- Neighborhoods 2020 Meeting on May 4 –Ashley. Several SNG board members will be attending. There are three other Neighborhood 2020 meetings, so if you can't make May 4, you can attend another session. They are open to the public. All meetings will focus on the same issues, just spread out at different locations and times.
- **Motion: SNG approves the 2016 CPP Annual Report for submission to Neighborhoods and Community Relations-NCR.** Diann moved. Ashley seconded. All approved.
- Community Connections Conference –Report. Marne collected information on several opportunities, such as a new program called Target Market Program, Queblo, Habitat for Humanity applications, and the new Landlords and Tenants book. Flyers and more information will be available at SNG office.

- Allocation of Frozen NRP II Funds: Diann: \$44, 639 of Seward's NRP II funding that was frozen several years ago has been thawed. Diann is proposing this allocation of NRP funds which meets the requirements that 70% of the funding be used for housing and that funds be allocated only to strategies which still have some funding and which are part of our on-going work.

Motion: SNG allocates its \$44, 639 of formerly frozen NRP funds as follows: \$11,247.30 (Housing Program Coordinator), \$20,000 (Revolving Loan Fund and CEE contract), \$9,391.70 (Citizen Participation), \$2,000 (Environment Education). Marne moved. Ashley seconded. Motion passed

- Executive Committee approved a grant written by and for the History Committee so that it could be submitted by the April 14th deadline. It's the 3rd grant for their project.

7:55 Finance

- **2016 IRS 990** . There were no questions or discussion on the 2016 IRS 990 filing that had been sent to all board members. **Motion: SNG approves submittal of the 2016 IRS 990.** Diann moved. Marne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Motion: SNG approves submittal of the 2016 Minnesota Charitable Organization Report.** Ashley moved. Marne seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Discussion of the request to order WeAreSeward lawn signs. Ashley argued for ordering only 50 signs as financially responsible. Shell suggested that the cost break for ordering 100 signs now rather than 50 now and 50 later is appealing. **Motion: SNG order 100 lawn signs.** Diann moved. Shell seconded. 6 ayes, 1 nay and one abstention (Marne). Motion passed. Marne asked Ashley to clarify who owns #WeAreSeward logo & project.
- **Motion: SNG approved purchase of a new laptop for the Community Coordinator.** Marne moved. Marilyn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8:10 History Committee Marilyn: We had 48 people attend the first Seward History Talks.

We are starting to talk about Seward Walks for the summer. Diann: We agreed to sponsor two walks. Faisal will have one on immigrant owned businesses.

Marilyn is working with Northern Clay teaching African women to work with clay. A new class starts May 9. Northern Clay is committed to these classes and wants to put the student's work in the window for display.

8:20 Staff reports and Other Business

- (Housing Coordinator and Community Coordinator submitted written reports only.)
- **Motion: The SNG Board of Directors elects Garrett Peterson as a member of the board to fill a current vacancy.** Diann moved. Shell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Earth Day Cleanup report from Richard: There were over 100 volunteers at the event. The attendance was almost triple the amount of volunteers from last year. Everyone picked up at least one bag of garbage. 134 bags of litter was collected. (Note: Alexis also submitted a written report to the board on the clean up.)

8:45 Adjourn and clean up.

Marne moved to adjourn. Shell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.