

**SNG Board meeting**  
**April 22, 2015**  
**Matthews Center**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Ben Walen, Angie Haeg, Diann Anders, Marne Zafar, Tom Schmidt, Hannah Epstein, Bob Friddle, Peter Fleck, Tariku Belay

**Excused:** Bruce Johansen, Genet Burka

**Absent:** Ashley Fairbanks, Ashley Frietag, Peter Truax, Gali Negeri

**Staff:** Doug Wise, Kate Sheldon

**Guests:** Tami Traeger, Nathan Paul, Cam Gordon, Andy Martinson

**7:05 PM**

**Angie calls the meeting to order.**

**Introductions**

**7:06 Consent Agenda**

**Minutes from March Board Meeting**

Minutes were not in Board packet, will save for next meeting.

An informal request from the Communications committee was made to get meeting minutes within 5 days. Kate will post drafts on new website within this timeframe.

**7:08 – 7:40 Public Discussion Issues and Guests**

**Cam Gordon's 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Report**

Cam is working to repeal ordinances that are outdated, vague, and typically are used primarily in the arrest of people of color. Cam is holding a series of meetings about the New Jim Crow and victims of institutionalized racism.

Cam also takes questions about panhandling in the neighborhood and homelessness. There are St. Stephen's cards to give to homeless people or panhandlers available at the SNG office. Diann mentions problems with inebriates in Triangle Park and around the Towers which disrupts residents. Cam suggests we discuss more at the Crime and Safety committee meeting. Kerry has suggested having St. Stephen's come to speak again.

Tariku asks, has Blue Nile's liquor license been revoked? They still have liquor license, but can't have live entertainment, need to restore restaurant on first floor, and attend community meetings quarterly or as requested by SNG!

Cam has met with Cafe Racer and neighbors to work out a plan in order to make sure the neighbors are not disrupted by cafe activity.

### **Tami Traeger Interested in joining the Board**

Tami is interested in joining the SNG Board and works and lives in Seward. She works for Nice Ride and heard about the opening through Sheldon Mains.

**Diann nominates Tami for the Board of Directors. Marne seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Tami will fill the seat until the Annual Meeting, she can run for a two year term after that time.

### **Andy Martinson from the Greenway Coalition**

The Greenway is taking a new focus on fixing up the gardens along the biking and walking paths, people will soon be able to apply to rent and take care of a garden plot.

Greenway Glow on June 20th. Artists are signed up from 8pm-midnight to do light shows and site-specific work. Featured stops are fine arts centers. This year there is a kid component at SooVAC from 6pm-9pm. Kids can make luminaries. You can register on the website.

### **7:41 – 7:49 Executive Report and Discussion issues**

#### **Conflict of Interest Form—Any missing**

We will need one for Tami, otherwise we're all done.

#### **Communications Committee: Profile**

We need to work with the SCCA and businesses about getting more advertising. Ashley Fairbanks will be designing the Housing insert. Kate and Marne are organizing copy for the Summer issue now. Tami may be able to help with an Open Streets connection.

Diann mentions that CPP will eventually dry up, leaving SNG to pay \$6,000/year to produce the Profile. Marne mentions that SNG should look into grants to produce the Profile.

#### **7:49-7:53 Finance Report**

Diann has turned materials in to the auditor. Diann has closed out the 2014 Financial year. Diann and Robin have not yet found a better, easier-to-read report to present to the Board, as they have been closing out the books and there were some complications.

Diann will present the 990 at the June meeting.

#### **7:53 – 7:58 Website**

Launching the website was more difficult than expected (of course), but it is live! Communications is discussing moving email to Google for non-profits, as it is free and hopefully not so complicated. The website costs less than \$100/year.

## **7:58 - 8:10 PM Staff reports**

### **SNG Community Coordinator**

#### **Housing**

Last Saturday was the Housing Fair, it was busy! A lot of positive interest in the 34th Avenue rain gardens as well as the Housing Loans offered by SNG.

There's only about \$2,600 left in the revolving fund. Funds that have been repaid are being frozen by the city until the audit is complete.

### **8:05 – 8:38 Strategic Plan Review & Update—See below for Goal details**

**GOAL D: Community Improvement/Infrastructure** – Seward built infrastructure – housing, commercial and retail properties, roads, parks, bikeways and pedestrian walkways – is well maintained and meets the needs of the community

**Outcome:** As a sustainable urban community, Seward has housing options that meet the needs of its diverse stakeholders.

#### ***Strategies/Activities:***

- In partnership with Redesign and Seward Towers Corporation, maintain the 620 units of affordable housing in the Seward Towers.
- Support housing options for people with special needs such as Seward Square, Success Family Housing, Rising Cedar/Touchstone.
- Continue loan programs for home improvements.
- Develop a tool and expertise library for home repairs, maintenance, and improvement
- Offer workshops on assessing and effecting home repair projects.

#### **Examples of SNG action:**

1. Worked to continue loan programs for home improvements
2. Diann works on affordable housing
3. List of recommended contractors
4. Sponsored classes through community ed course for Housing Fair

#### **Future Action:**

1. Marne and Doug have talked about a Fix-It clinic for Seward residents featuring handy-men and DIY-ers from Seward. Marne will connect with Jim Welna for a list--a core group of people to help teach. Re-wiring, cleaning silverware, security cameras (e-democracy), raised bed gardening, tiling, small projects etc. Tie in to the Hack Factory? Framed conversations and simple workshops.

We could set up SNG sponsored Fix-it tents at Open Streets and King's Fair. Kick off at the King's Fair! Get Welna and staff involved. Seasonal workshops. We could check in with Hennepin county about what people are interested in.

2. Promote Community Ed home repair courses through social media, the website, and the print Profile.

**Outcome:** Seward is a peaceful, safe and just community.

**Strategies/Activities:**

- Continue to support the Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice program
- Continue partnership with CPP/Safe to address public safety issues as they arise
- Support existing block clubs and assist with organizing new clubs where none exist.

**Examples of SNG action:**

1. Continued C&S meetings
2. Still supporting SLRJP

**Future Action:**

1. Better organizing Block Clubs and landlord training (in progress thanks to Kerry)

**Outcome:** Franklin Avenue, Seward's main street, is vibrant, safe, and pedestrian/ bike friendly.

**Strategies/Activities:**

- Work to improve Franklin Avenue safety for pedestrians and bicyclists by calming and/or reducing traffic
- Explore use of light post or way finding banners to promote the avenue and the community
- Collaborate with businesses on special events (Winter Frolic)
- Work with partners Redesign and SCCA to develop and support new and existing businesses
- Collaborate with Phillips neighborhood and NACDI on improving the area surrounding the Franklin LRT station, including the Franklin/Minnehaha/Cedar intersection.
- Explore possibility of public art (gateway art, art installation to address car drive-through issue at Riverside and South 9th Street)

**Examples of SNG action:**

1. Talked about and started plans to close Minnehaha north of Franklin
2. Cedar/Box issue
3. Explored banners on Franklin, but it is costly

**Future action:**

1. Hennepin county postponed the LRT station project. NACDI's portion is done, but the street will take longer.
2. Continue to work on plans to close Minnehaha north of Franklin

3. Difficulty in crossing Franklin, especially for kids. Get more crossing guards?
4. Long-term hope for protected bikeways
5. Meet with traffic engineers, a stop light at 24th Avenue, more pedestrian lights.

### **8:39pm – 8:55pm Committees and Projects Announcements**

#### **1. Communications-Profile & Online**

Making plans for more structured social media posts. Email Communications Committee ideas to promote.

#### **2. Community Building-Diann Anders**

Met last week. Re-visited translations. Kerry and Tom put a letter together for new businesses (particularly immigrant-run) introducing SNG. Ben will put a call-out for interested parties to go to businesses and make introductions. Tariku and Nasra can meet to talk about which resources would be most helpful.

Mosque visit. The mosque didn't know much about SNG, but the mosque gave SNG Board a lot of information about them. The mosque leaders are very interested in fostering communication between SNG.

#### **3. Community Conversations- Bob Friddle (\*\*\*\*TAKE OFF AGENDA, will discuss with Community Building)**

#### **4. Community Development Committee**

Doug needs a chair for the May CDC meeting. Tom volunteers!

5. Crime and Safety –Peter Truax

6. Environment—Bob Friddle

**\*\*\*Check in for minutes**

7. Fundraising—Diann Anders (Meet to plot our events)\*\*\*\***Diann is not on this committee**

8. History/Archive-Dick Westby

#### **9. Restorative Justice-Hannah Epstein**

Restorative processes in Somali. A volunteer nominated SLRJP for a family fund awarded \$4,000

10. Seward Towers-Diann

**8:55 Adjourn**

