

**SNG Board meeting
December 10, 2014
SNG Office**

7:03 pm

Angie calls the meeting to order

Introductions

The group introduces themselves and we finish the "Seward landmark" icebreaker

In attendance: Ben Whalen, Peter Fleck, Bruce Johansen, Hannah Epstein, Angie Haeg, Gali, Ganet, Sheldon Mains, Bob Friddle, Marne Zafar, Diann Anders, Ashley Freitag

Excused: Tariku Belay, Michael Pursell, Tom Schmidt

Staff: Doug Wise, Kate Sheldon

Guests: Leslie and Jamie from Annie Sullivan, Caitlin from Metro Place

7:09

Consent Agenda

Minutes from September Board Meeting

Executive Session Minutes

CDC Motions:

The Seward Neighborhood Group strongly encourages reconstruction of the 24th Avenue intersection to improve safety for bicycles and pedestrians crossing the intersection. The Seward Neighborhood Group appreciates the removal of the wide turning radius from the northwest corner of the intersection. Sheldon Mains moved and Andy Martinson seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group recommends the Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction plan proposing the elimination of parking on the east side of the street and the installation of wider, buffered bike lanes. Sheldon Mains moved and Tami Traeges seconded. Motion passed. Robin Garwood abstained.

Diann moves. Angie seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

7:10

Public Discussion Issues

a) Cam Gordon's 2nd

b) Abdi Warsame 6th

c) Laura Byard- Anne Sullivan Communication Center

Two members of the Sullivan Carnival committee are here reaching out for support. They do not have a PTA, and therefore a very limited budget. The school is funding a meal for all of the families that come to the carnival. The school is not able to spend their funds on prizes, treats, dunk tank, bounce house and toys for students. They are asking the community to get them started.

Diann asks how many Towers children are in the school. There is funding available for Seward Towers children programming, and we may be able to help. Marne asks, why is there no PTA? They have had four different principals in ten years, and there has been some outreach but they are working to have a carnival and grow interest in forming a PTA.

Diann is fairly certain we have enough to fund, and is willing to propose that we can fund this particular event. It's important that we connect with our neighborhood school and Diann feels comfortable as Treasurer to authorize funds.

Diann moves that we appropriate \$190 to the carnival committee. Marne seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

We could ask Nasra to do outreach in order to get people at the Towers to go to the carnival. SNG could also publicize through e-democracy and email newsletter for volunteers.

7: 27

Executive Report and Discussion issues

• SPOKES transition

SPOKES will be transferring to Cycles for Change. Sheldon has met with SPOKES staff and Cycles for Change. The HUB will be continuing to be a partner. The process has been going very well, and it is time to have a final vote. Cycles for Change board will be voting on Monday, with an official switch on December 31st.

All SPOKES employees will be hired by Cycles for Change and it will keep its name and location. Ana Begej will be the manager. SPOKES will be hoping Cycles for Change on advocacy. SPOKES also is hoping to start working with Little Earth.

Diann moves we approve the transfer. Marne seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

• Conflict of Interest Form

All Board members must sign a Conflict of Interest form.

- **Board Donations**

When SNG applies for grants, they look for how much of the Board has donated (a percentage, not amount). It goes a long way to show that the Board supports the organization. You can write a check or donate online at GiveMN.org.

- Elect a Seward Towers Board Representative**

Every two years an SNG elects a representative for the Seward Towers Board. Diann would like to be reappointed. Ashley is interested in learning more and going to meetings with Diann.

-Angie nominates Diann to be on the Towers Board. Bob seconds. Diann abstains. Motion passes.

Next Board meeting will include board elections for officers

All officer terms are one year. If you are interested, please let Ben, Angie or Kerry know.

7:43

Finance Report

Diann, Sheldon, Ben and Doug had a meeting downtown with the Neighborhood community relations department about NRP debt. Our last piece of debt may be forgiven as long as we come up clean on an audit. We will have an audit early in the new year.

Our fundraising has fallen behind this year. We've made limited income from Fundraising events this fall and the Frolic. We are behind in our Annual Giving. The financials for November should be out sometime next week. The Finance Committee is working on new, more readable reports.

7:49

Staff Reports

- SNG Community Coordinator

- **Housing**

As of the end of October our revolving fund has about \$27,000 and we started with \$100,000+ and by the end of the year we may loan it all out.

- SPOKES (see below)

The transfer has been going well, and SNG will have to provide less than expected.

7:58

Committees and projects – reports as available or necessary

1. Communications-Peter Fleck

Peter's been working on the website. This week will start talking to Kate about content and how we will make the move. The Profile is out! Marne would like to meet with the SCCA about advertising. We've had a limited core group interest in advertising, and SNG needs the support.

2. Community Building-Diann Anders

Have not met.

3. Community Conversations- Bob Friddle

Nothing new, gave report at Annual Meeting. Bob is very happy with how the structure of conversations worked this year.

4. Community Development Committee

Caitlin from Metro Place is here to discuss motions. Peter Fleck explains that Metro Place is having issues with tobacco shop customers parking in their driveway or in front of it. Originally the plans for building were supposed to be in the alley, yet because of neighborhood concerns, the building has only one exit/entrance and that is on Franklin. There are 40 families in the building. It is a safety issue. The residents have done their best to try to improve the situation through meetings and suggestions. They are here to ask for support from SNG when they consult Abdi Warsame.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Sheldon reviews the Cedar/Franklin/Minnehaha Intersection motion and other CDC motions.

All in favor. Motions passed.

5. Crime and Safety –Peter Truax

Next meeting January 12th.

6. Environment—Bob Friddle

No meeting recently, Mike Trdan presented at Annual Meeting.

7. Fundraising—Diann Anders

Kerry has asked the Board to look over events (Community Building/Fundraising) to see what is working for us and what isn't. Diann feels this is something the Community Building committee should take this on.

8. History/Archive-Dick Westby

9. Restorative Justice-Hannah Epstein

Two conferences in November for shoplifting. Over the course of the year the Peacebuilding Institute collaborated with SLRJP through Restorative Justice 101 classes. They are closing in on their goal for the year.

10. Seward Towers-Diann

Still working on funding for renovation. They've got a full Board again. Nasra's class at the co-op in January is full already!

8:33

Strategic Plan Review and Update

Ben reviews how the Strategic Plan was created and we'll review where we are and our next steps. People can add to the google document that Ben has shared.

GOAL A: Inclusiveness

Angie is happy that we have a more diverse board. Nasra is having a cooking class at the co-op. Bob states he'd like to get more men, younger women, and children to the Community Conversations events. Bob would also like to tie in with SPOKES. SPOKES has been successful in inclusiveness and SNG would like to maintain a strong connection with SPOKES after the transfer. Marne will reach out to Sheldon or Ana about maintaining a connection.

GOAL B: Engagement

Angie points out that re-engineering the website will make a huge difference in people's involvement in the neighborhood. Let's connect more with Anne Sullivan and other schools. The Seward Spread Joy Fund is an engagement example.

GOAL C: Sustainability

SPOKES has moved on to another organization which allows us to be sustainable. Debt is being forgiven. The office is very efficient in terms of electricity. Tried to do Zero waste at the Annual Meeting and Frolic Kick-off Benefit.

GOAL D: Community Improvement/Infrastructure

A stop signed switched on 29th Ave and 26th St, which has made it safer. Recent CDC motions for major intersections. School was given "safe routes to school grant". Loan program. We still don't have a written lease for this building...

We should shift our focus from a reporting function, and use our time together to exchange ideas. **Let's add focus to a goal in each agenda.** We will figure out how to approach Goal A for next meeting in January.

9:02

Adjourn