

SNG Board meeting

March 25, 2015

Matthews Center

7:06

Ben calls the meeting to order

Introductions

Attending

Board: Ben Whalen, Diann Anders, Marne Zafar, Peter Fleck, Angie Haeg, Hannah , Ganet Burka, Tom Schmidt, Tariku Belay, Ashley Fairbanks, Ashley Frietag

Guests: Abdi Warsame, Matthew Hendricks

Staff: Doug Wise, Kate Sheldon

Excused: Gali Negeri, Bob Friddle

Absent: Peter Truax, Bruce Johansen

7:08 Consent Agenda

Minutes from February Board Meeting

Approval of the Community Facilitation Contract 2015/16 with the Seward Towers

Community Participation Plan Annual Report—Board Approval

Diann moves to approve consent agenda. Marne seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

7:10 – 7:25 Public Discussion Issues and Guests

a) Abdi Warsame 6th Ward Report (reporting in March)

Abdi distributes a handout. Abdi has been in Washington D.C. At a conference organized by Andrew Luger, about creation of jobs in Ward 6 and North Minneapolis for young people. Met with the President and members of Federal government. Has set up a date to speak with the police department about issues of security and break-ins in the neighborhood, how to create more resources and be proactive about break-in issues.

Diann asks to coordinate with Kerry for break-in issues meeting. Diann also mentions issues with inebriates in Triangle Park. Tariku asks about pilot programs for young people and how it will discourage involvement with ISIS. Training programs, education, jobs for young immigrants, integrating young people and encouraging them to be part of a positive community here.

Ashley asks about translation resources from Abdi's office. There is no real city policy for translation, but Abdi will follow up.

7:29 Executive Report and Discussion issues

Conflict of Interest Form—Any missing

7:31 Finance Report

Budget Approval

Diann describes the budget. It is a conservative budget with hopes that the budget will look better by the middle of the year. Fund-raising will be very important this year.

Finance committee makes a motion to approve 2015 Budget. All in Favor. Motion passes.

7:41 Community Development Committee Motion

There is outside storage being used by Cedar Box and Ambles it has overflowed onto city land. The city has not addressed this. At the committee Brian from Seward Redesign mentioned that he would like to do something with that space. The committee focused on the city addressing this problem. Part of the motion encouraged residents to use 311 to formalize complaints which was controversial to neighbors on the e-democracy forum. Peter F. thinks we should send the issue back to the CDC and possibly amend the motion and hear more background from Brian at Redesign and someone should speak to these companies before taking a bigger step with the city. Ashley Fairbanks speaks to what NACDI would like to do with the space. Diann mentions that it's important to make the lightrail area friendly and that context was lost on-line. Diann supports sending this back to CDC and fill in the background. Maybe SNG and Ventura Village can go together to speak to Cedar Box and Ambles. Ashley suggests that Andy from NACDI should be involved in discussion.

Diann moves that we table the existing motion until we have more information. Peter F. seconds. All in favor. Motion tabled.

This motion will be discussed at the next CDC meeting to get more background information.

7:49 Staff reports

SNG Community Coordinator

Housing

-South Minneapolis Housing Fair Saturday, April 18th, 10am-3pm. The Fair is at the YWCA and has many vendors representing contractors and other businesses about doing work on homes. Doug needs two volunteers.

Ashley Frietag is available to volunteer tentatively, Marne also tentatively for the morning.

-Temporary closing of 29th Avenue. Call 3-1-1 to comment.

-April 2nd Cafe Racer hearing at Matthews.

-Redesign and Augsburg are working to possibly replace the pedestrian bridge, hoping for a “land-bridge” with extra land to sort of continue the park (however there were budget constraints).

Restorative Justice

-Raised almost \$5,000 at latest fundraiser

-Have established a partnership with a similar organization that serves East African youth.

They've served 3 families since January. RJ has been working with teachers at South High to train students.

Diann mentions:

Discussion about the recent conference. The group talks about creative engagement and workshops.

April 13th Community Building meeting.

8:08 Matthew Hendricks- Seward Montessori Safe Routes to School

SNG safe routes planning subcommittee focused on 29th Ave and 24th St as potential bike boulevards. The state has provided funding to take a closer look at these streets. They are pursuing county funding. Matthew is looking for an updated letter of support from SNG for county funding.

Diann moves that we support the request for funding from Hennepin county and provide an updated letter. Angie seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

8:25 Strategic Plan Review & Update—See below for Goal details

GOAL C: Sustainability – SNG, as a sustainable community-building organization itself, supports neighborhood efforts to develop an urban community that is environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable.

Outcome: SNG has identified its core functions and has spun off non-core programs.

Strategies/Activities:

- Develop a model for fostering programs/projects that allows individuals or groups within the community to use SNG's key assets (established non-profit, connections to government, other non-profits, other neighborhoods, ability to communicate with Seward stakeholders, etc.) to grow programs/projects that become self-standing and self-sufficient within a few years
- Ensure core citizen participation work defined in SNG's CPP contract with Minneapolis is accomplished.

Example of SNG Action:

1. Growing SPOKES and then getting rid of it
2. Hub of Heaven Garden
3. Rain garden on 34th

Future Action:

Promote ourselves as incubators for neighborhood projects. Have organizations agree to an administrative fee. Promote on the website?: Ideas and Proposals section. Do we have the resources to provide community building? How do we make it feasible? Maybe we build towards it, create funding for admin time. Maybe this is something we could write it into the McKnight grant? Being able to link people with organizations to develop business skills. Let's make this a function of the Community Building Committee.

Outcome: SNG is staffed, housed, and administered in a way and at a level that is sustainable in terms of both financial and volunteer resources.

Strategies/Activities:

- Secure a lease for the office at 2323 E. Franklin
- Determine the type and level of staff and volunteers needed both to sustain SNG and to achieve its strategic goal

Example of SNG Action:

1. Doug and Ben are working on a lease for the office. Diann points out that other renters are not paying utilities etc. and that needs to be tackled.
2. Hiring Kate. What can we sustain in future years?

Future Action:

What do we need as far as volunteers? How can we increase participation?

Outcome: Seward is a green, environmentally sustainable community.

Strategies/Activities:

- Bike and walk-friendly community – Spokes, other biking promotion
- Promote increased, positive interaction with the natural world through activities such as habitat restoration, flora/fauna surveys, river trails/parkway maintenance
- Provide education and programs around green projects such as rain gardens, composting, recycling, gray water storage, alternative energy.
- Continue work with 34th Ave. residents on storm water plans
- Support increased energy efficiency – loans for solar water heaters, insulation, new high efficiency refrigerators/freezers and other appliances,
- Continue support of home and community gardens
- Advocate for city-wide green policies.

Examples of SNG Action:

1. Solar gardens (getting more information)

Future Action:

Meeting on March 28th 10-12:30 about stopping the industrialization around Hiawatha at the Neighborhood Early Learning Center with East Phillips and Ventura Village.

8:48 Committees and Projects Announcements

1. Communications-Profile & Online
2. Community Building-Diann Anders
3. Community Conversations- Bob Friddle
4. Community Development Committee- see resolution
5. Crime and Safety –Peter Truax
6. Environment—Bob Friddle
7. Fundraising—Diann Anders (Meet to plot our events)
8. History/Archive-Dick Westby
9. Restorative Justice-Hannah Epstein
10. Seward Towers-Diann

8:54 Adjourn

