

Draft

**SNG Board meeting
March 22, 2017
Matthews Park**

Board Members Present: Marne Zafar, Diann Anders, Peter Fleck, Alexis Troschinetz, Daniel Handeen, Marilyn Matheny, Lauren Kramer

Staff: Doug Wise, Liza Davitch, Faisal Aideed

Guests: Scott Shaffer, Richard Murray, Mai Thor, Cam Gordon, Abdi Warsame

Excused: Abdiasis Hirsi, Ashley Freitag, Bob Friddle, Shell Collins, Tariku Belay, Elina Kolstad (Medical Leave)

7:00PM Introductions and guests. Meeting Convened by Marne Zafar, Board President.

7:10 Pass Minutes from February meeting. Marne moved. Diann seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed.

7:15 Public Discussion Issues and Guests

Abdi Warsame 6th Ward Report

The grand opening of Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center was March 12. Located on the first floor of the new Five15 on the Park building, 515 15th Ave. S., it will serve as a pipeline to job opportunities with the public and private sector with a special focus on the neighborhood's East African community. The opportunity center did not get federal funding. It received funding from Hennepin County.

The Section 8 policy proposal "Protecting Choice in Housing: Prohibiting Discrimination Against Section 8 Voucher Holders" passed at the public hearing today, March 22. Marne asks what exactly were the primary concerns against section 8? There was no testimony against having it from the general public. It was about property owners and bureaucracy. There are 6,000 thousand voucher holders in the city.

Cam Gordon's 2nd Ward Report. Visiting. Not his month to report.

Mai Thor, Outreach Coordinator with the Metropolitan Council

Reporting on "Rethinking I-94", a project partnership with MnDOT. Looking for feedback. The project is focused on the aging infra structure, bridges, tunnels. How do we want to fix it? It has evolved into a study of engagement partnering with the community. What is the cultural significance of living in this corridor, etc. The Metropolitan Council is planning to provide community engagement for "Rethinking I-94 by offering grants to organizations and individuals living in the corridor (for up to \$20,000) for activities not yet clearly designed. Mai is looking for people to be on a review panel to help develop the grant program and ultimately evaluate applications. The review committee will flesh out the process for applying for the grants. \$150,000 of funds available will go to these contracts. The fund is for process and engagement but not exactly brick and mortar expenses.

Faisal Aideed, new Community Facilitator for the Towers. Faisal introduced himself and his charge to provide community facilitation services to the residents of the Towers.

7:46 Discussion Issues & Exec report

- Neighborhoods 2020 Meeting May 4 –Ashley not in attendance.

- Community Connections Conference –April 19 -5 at the Convention Center. About 4 or 5 people from SNG are going.

7:49 No Finance Report this month

7:53 Action Items: from CDC

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) supports the installation of the sign on Seward Tower West and requests that the city allow an exception to the Signage Code for neighborhood branding. (*This motion, tabled at last meeting, was removed from the table*).

Marilyn: how much funding and from where. Diann: About 100K was raised by contractors. If the project doesn't go through, that money will be repurposed to another project to benefit the Towers. Marilyn: I'd rather spend my energy on the crosswalk safety. I would not vote to support this. Diann: The money was given to Seward Towers Corporation. They may decide it should go to something else completely. To protest would require a letter, lobbying with the councilman.

Dan: What are the origins of the concept of the sign? Scott: The sign is about showing community ownership of the Towers; the concept of neighborhood branding.

Alexis: I still don't see that this is what the whole neighborhood wants. I don't feel good about saying yes or no. Do we know where that scale is tipping for neighborhood support; can we poll the neighborhood on this? Marne: It's not up to the public to decide where the money goes. Seward towers group already voted to do the sign. Dan: Our support or not is about if we can change the code terminology, an exception to the code.

Doug: Our support effects both ordinance change and our support or not of the sign.

The original motion failed on a voice vote.

New Motion: Seward Neighborhood Group requests that the city allow an exemption to the signage code for neighborhood branding. Alexis motioned. Dan seconded. All in favor.

The Seward Community Co-op Café plans to open a new outdoor patio at the Café located at 2601 E. Franklin Avenue. The new outdoor patio will be located off of the public right-of-way, next to the entryway of the Creamery building. They plan on serving the current food and beverages menu (including wine and beer) on the patio. They are pursuing an Expansion of Premises of our Wine, on-sales, with Strong Beer, Class C-2 entertainment license to allow up to three acoustic musicians in the restaurant.

Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) recommends approval of the changes requested by the Seward Coop Creamery Cafe.

The Co-op Creamery is asking us for a letter of support. Alexis: There was a lot of support at the CDC meeting. Alexis moves. Dan seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Revised Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) supports the planning process outlined by Seward Redesign, which includes bringing together MNDOT, Hennepin County Public Works, the City of Minneapolis Public Works, and other affected organizations to develop and review proposed changes to the I-94 corridor.

Doug requested that following clarifying sentence be added to the motion. This addition is supported by Redesign “SNG will appoint representatives to the steering committee and CDC will review the progress of the process. CDC will interact on behalf of SNG.”

Revised Motion: The Seward Neighborhood Group (SNG) supports the planning process outlined by Seward Redesign, which includes bringing together MNDOT, Hennepin County Public Works, the City of Minneapolis Public Works, and other affected organizations to develop and review proposed changes to the I-94 corridor. SNG will appoint representatives to the Steering committee and CDC will review the progress of the process. CDC will interact on behalf of SNG.

8:15 History Committee Marilyn Matheny and Dick Westby

Nodun press will print and publish the History book but the History Committee is responsible is providing camera-ready text & photos. The book will have a possible February 2018 release date. Everyone was encouraged to attend the History Talks in April.

8:50 Staff reports

Community Coordinator: Peter is working with Sara on the #WeAreSeward project. Marne and Sara are working on the sign.

Rick Murray made announcement about earth day clean ups. There will be pizza and pop for volunteers. They have arranged additional trash pickups before the regular scheduled day so the trash doesn't sit around all week.

9:00 Adjourn and clean up