

**SNG Board meeting
October 28, 2015
Matthews Center**

7:04pm

Ben calls meeting to order.

In Attendance: Ben Walen, Diann Anders, Shell Collins, Ashley Frietag, Marne Zafar, Trish Kirk, Hannah Epstein, Peter Fleck, Angie Haeg, Bob Friddle

Excused: Tariku Belay, Bruce Johansen, Tami Traeger

Absent: Ashley Fairbanks, Peter Truax

Guests: Laura Murphy

Staff: Kate Sheldon, Doug Wise

Introductions and Guests

Visitor and Board candidate Laura Murphy would like to join the Board after attending several Board meetings.

Diann moves that SNG elect Laura Murphy to the Board of Directors. Marne seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

7:09 Consent Agenda

Minutes from September Board Meeting

CDC Motion: The SNG Community Development Committee asked Council Member Cam Gordon with the residents on 26th Street to find a solution to truck parking on 26th St across from residential properties. Bob Hain moved and Sheldon Mains seconded. Motion passed.

Diann moves to pass the consent agenda. Angie seconds. All in favor. Consent agenda passes.

7:11 Public Discussion and Guests

Cam could not be here—he will send on his report via email in the morning.

7:11 Executive Report and Discussion Issues

Seward Towers Corporation—Diann Anders

Diann gives the history of the Towers. Diann is asking for SNG's approval of the Sponsor Agreement.

“WHEREAS, in connection with the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Project, the Corporation must enter into that certain Agreement Among Project Sponsors by and among the Corporation, CBC, Seward Redesign, Inc., a Minnesota nonprofit corporation (“Redesign”), and The Seward Neighborhood Group, Inc., a Minnesota nonprofit corporation (“SNG”), in order to memorialize each parties’ respective responsibilities in connection with the rehabilitation and operation of the Project (the “Sponsor Agreement”);

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Seward Neighborhood Group, Inc. has determined it to be in the best interest of the Corporation and SNG to enter into the Sponsor Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Seward Neighborhood Group authorize and approve the Corporation's execution of the Sponsor Agreement and the execution of the same.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any one officer of the Seward Neighborhood Group, including Diann Anders, its Treasurer, is authorized and directed to approve, execute, and deliver the Sponsor Agreement."

Angie moves that SNG approve the Sponsor Agreement. Marne seconds. All in favor. Ashley Frietag and Diann Anders abstain.

7:29 Nominations Committee

10 Board Members up for election this year. Ben, Peter T. and Ashley Fairbanks are not running, so 7 Board Members, 3 empty seats. SNG will have ballots at the Annual Meeting. Co-President position is open as Ben is not running. Please let Angie or Kerry know of anyone interested.

Annual Board donations

Ben reminds the Board that it is beneficial for SNG if all Board members donate in order to demonstrate that the Board financially contributes to SNG.

Redesign

Kerry and Diann met with Redesign. SNG and Redesign would like to get better connected.

December Meeting

December 9th. Ben suggests that SNG elect officers at this meeting.

7:54 Staff Reports

SSJF Volunteers—Ashley and Diann. Sonja Casey, last year's winner will be at the Taste of Seward to draw this year's winner.

Housing

No Board members at the CDC meetings lately. Doug asks for more participation from the Board. November 10th is the next meeting. Low-interest loan programs are good to go again!

8:02 Committee and Projects Announcements

SLRJP

Abdi Ali hired as temporary employee to work with Somali youth. Most referrals have been shoplifting at Target.

Environment

Last meeting of the year was last week. They welcome any newcomers or people with interest in environmental projects.

8:11—Strategic Plan Review and Update

Goal C: Sustainability

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

Actions: SNG should keep its eyes and ears open to look out for people who may want to do projects through a non-profit. Ashley mentions Evan from Minneapolis Renters Coalition—would that be something SNG could be interested in?

Maybe SNG should clarify non-core programs and the intention of this outcome.

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.

Actions: Lease—is SNG still pursuing that? SNG is currently still renting on a month-to-month basis. The lease issue needs to be addressed. Discussion best pursued within the Executive Committee.

Loss of McKnight and CPP end-of-contract funding has increased financial unknowns. Laura would like to know if anyone has any bullet points to look for grant-writers and fund-raiser volunteers. Ashley has been doing research for Powderhorn Park through a school internship. She's putting together lists of grants and will pass that information on. The City has been giving "Community Innovation" funding, which is worth looking into.

Outcome: Seward is a green, environmentally sustainable community.

Actions: Seward Summer walks. 34th Ave stormwater project died. Loans and Energy audits. Continued support of the Hub of Heaven. Being intentional about the connection to the river. Kerry set up a birding hike along the river which was successful. Garden Tours. Metroblooms workshop, Lake Street Energy Challenge, Environment Committee work. Diann mentions that maybe Redesign would be interested in connecting in regards to environmental projects.

8:38 Financials

Diann is working with the accountants and figuring out how to account for the NRP liability/forgiveness .

8:40 Adjourn

Bob moves. Trish seconds.