

**SNG Board meeting
October 29, 2014 7-9PM
Matthews Park**

7:06 PM

Ben calls the meeting to order

Introductions

In Attendance: Ben Walen, Marne Zafar, Diann Anders, Maia Homstad, Peter Truax, Bruce Johansen, Angie Haeg, Hannah Epstein, Michael Pursell

Guests: Andy Martinson, Cam Gordon, Tom Schmidt?

Excused: Peter Fleck, Tariku Belay, Bob Friddle

Absent:

Consent Agenda

CDC Motions:

1. **Motion The Seward Neighborhood Group strongly encourages reconstruction of the 24th Street and Minnehaha 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.

2. **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 to pass Consent Agenda. Angie seconds. All in favor. Consent agenda passed.

7:09pm

Executive Report and Discussion issues

- Appoint a representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition Board. Current volunteers: Andy Martinson. Any others?

Greenway Coalition Board member acts as a liaison between the Greenway and the neighborhood. Andy is interested, especially to get involved in the improvement of crossings.

Diann moves that we appoint Andy as our Seward Greenway Board representative. Angie seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

- December meeting dinner at the SNG office

Co-presidents prefer December 10th.

Diann moves that SNG meets on the 10th. Marne seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

7:13pm

Public Discussion Issues

a) Cam Gordon's 2nd Ward Report –

Working on the budget, passed the clean energy partnership. Working on funding for neighborhoods, extra revenue through CPP. By 2020, this won't exist, or will exist with more strings attached. They will meet to discuss more Nov. 17th.

Angie asks about the increase in violent crime in South Minneapolis she heard about in the Star Tribune, around Nokomis. How is the city combatting that, why is it happening? Cam will look into it.

Diann points out that we are running into difficulties refinancing the Seward Towers. Diann will get the details, and will talk more with Cam.

Cam suggests he and Abdi alternate when they come to SNG Board meetings.

b) Abdi Warsame 6th Ward Report

Not present.

7:32pm

Annual meeting and board nominations

Nomination Committee report. Angie plans to run again, Michael will run again, Maia is unable to, Bob will run again, Diann will run again. Tom Schmidt, a new candidate, would like to run. Please help spread the word to more potential candidates.

Please be prepared for a 2-3 minute report at the Annual Meeting for any committee you chair, or info about yourself if you are running.

Ben will contact Peter Fleck (Communications), and Bob (Community Conversations) to talk about their Committees. Peter T. will look into speaking about Crime and Safety. Dick will most likely speak for History, Michele for Restorative Justice, Doug for Housing. Maybe Nasra would like to speak, Sheldon for SPOKES.

Marne requests some Profiles at the meeting (we are running low though...)

Notes from Kerry:

- Don't forget to bring something for the potluck, it would help if the board can bring a little extra we have been a tad low the past few years
- If you have any connections or ideas for Silent Auction donations please email Kerry
- If anyone can come early (5:30pm) to set up that would be great. Marne and Angie volunteer.
- If anyone is interested in Silent Auction shadowing Pat as it's her last year (Marne is interested)

7:40pm

Motion passed by Exec:

- In consideration of the potential for harm from invasive carp if introduced in the river gorge, and in order to protect Seward residents' recreational enjoyment of the Mississippi River (for rowing, paddling, boating, hiking, etc), the **Seward Neighborhood Group requests the lowest possible Level of Service be provided at Lock & Dam #1**. Each use of the lock is an opportunity for invasive carp (now found in Pool 2 immediately below Lock and Dam #1) to enter the river gorge.

Seward Spread Joy Fund

The executive committee agrees that we should do it. The committee discussed the guidelines that Diann and the donor had put together. It won't be workable to award a grant at this meeting, but we will talk about it at this meeting. Marne and Angie will be the two board members to review applications before they are drawn at the next Annual Meeting. Grantees will write a brief report after they fulfill their .

7:46pm

Finance Report

Adoption of the new SNG financial procedures. Finance committee recommends that SNG formally adopt the procedures.

Diann moves that the Board adopt SNG financial procedures. Peter T. seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

The Finance Committee is working really hard to clean up finances, meaning that everything is being charged to the right funds. Talking about getting new, easier-to-read finance reports. Working on trying to come up with a cleaner format for reports.

7:49pm

Staff reports

- SNG Community Coordinator

Please bring a dish to share to annual meeting and if possible come 45 minutes early to set up.

Town Hall Fundraiser was well-received. Wants to talk more about fundraising to make it more worthwhile \$\$

Community Conversations was at the Seward Co-op to make Somali injera. It was very well-received. The co-op wants Nasra to teach regularly!

- Housing

Andy or Cam could update on 34th Ave project between 24th and 25th St. Public Works is interested in managing the contract, in order to proceed more efficiently. But how does SNG come into play here financially? We need to straighten that out.

- SPOKES (see below)

Quick update. A bike class happening now 4-week Bike maintenance. Had a great ride 2 weeks ago. 25 people starting at All My Relations, biked over to the Weissman for the exhibition there. Worked well!

7:59pm

Strategic Plan Progress Reports

Ben will send Google Doc, to re-examine in this next year. We are on track, but will re-focus our attention.

8:00pm

Committees and projects – reports as available or necessary

1. Communications-Peter Fleck

Michael reports. Poll regarding website results in consistent feedback. Peter has started a draft on a new site and will be working with staff to be put together outlines of how content will be presented. Marne is working on images. Hoping to get the new website up and running in the next few months.

2. Community Building-Diann Anders
3. Community Conversations- Bob Friddle
4. Community Development Committee-Ken Webb
5. Crime and Safety –Peter Truax
6. Environment—Bob Friddle
7. Fundraising—Diann Anders
8. History/Archive-Dick Westby
9. Profile—Marne Zafar

10. Restorative Justice-Hannah Epstein

Thank you for pushing back the meeting! We were able to raise money at the 10th Anniversary. It was a great event. Referrals have started again from the Minneapolis PD.

11. Seward Online report-Peter Fleck

12. Seward Towers-Diann

Seward Towers did not get the full amount of money the Towers had applied for. We will need to bring political pressure for HUD, who thinks the structure is not right. Redesign does not feel that it is there place to put pressure on HUD, but the Board will start to talk to elected officials. HUD is objecting to having residents on the Towers Board. Marne asks: Has that ever happened with other HUD projects? Have people who are in HUD housing had a say

ever? Diann says Seward Towers works because there are residents on the Board. The loan market is why HUD is having problems with residents being on the Board.

8:09

Executive Session begins

(no notes)

8:09 – 8:55 SPOKES

8:55 Adjourn