

SEWARD NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

Board of Directors

Minutes of meeting held February 23, 2022

The Seward Neighborhood Group board of directors met in a regularly scheduled meeting electronically, using Zoom, on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by President Lisa Boehlke.

The following board members were present when the meeting began: Terry Barnes; Lisa Boehlke; Doug Hicks; Mary Pumphrey; Crystal Quinn Ron Schlatter; Donna Ray; Sara Rothholz-Weiner Jim Scheidt; Cheryl Robertson; and Tami Traeger. Paul Landskroener joined the meeting at approximately 6:50 p.m. Lisa Williams-Rolle did not attend.

Also attending was Michael Jon Olson (interim executive director). Guests Mike Trdan and Hamdiya Abdullahi joined while the meeting was in progress

1. **Approval of agenda and minutes.** The board approved the proposed agenda of tonight's meeting with one addition. The board approved minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2022.
2. **Treasurer's report.** Ron Schlatter presented the treasurer's report. Ron referred to documents in the board packet ("SNG Financial Report 2022.1 January" and "SNG Monthly Summary of Accounts FEB") that constitute the treasurer's report.
3. **Community Development Committee report.** Sara Rothholz-Weiner and Michael Jon Olson that the Community Development Committee held a meeting on February 8. Of note was an update on the proposed Agra affordable housing development on the old Perkins site. Wellington Management is now the owner of the site and will work with the Landon Group on completing the development. Becky Landon and representatives of Wellington will be back in touch with SNG in April or May with revised plans for the site.
4. **Executive Director.** Interim executive director Michael Jon Olson reported on (a) the hiring of Jasmine Epps-Flowers as SNG's new Community Organizer. Jasmine is a senior at Augsburg. She will work a few hours a week as a Community Organizer Intern for March 1 – May 31, and will be full-time employee starting June 1; (b) The efforts of the bylaws working group, which has completed its work; (c) The on-going discussions regarding collaboration and resource sharing with Longfellow Community Council.
5. **Approve Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund application with Longfellow Community Council (LCC).** Michael Jon reviewed the Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund (CSRF) application (in the board packet) asking for a grant of \$20,000 over three years from the City of Minneapolis Department of Neighborhood and

Community Relations (NCR). The funds would be used to defray certain planning expenses incurred in exploring opportunities for collaboration between SNG and LCC. Collaboration may include sharing costs, resources, or services between the two organizations. LCC's board approved the application. The application must be filed by February 28, 2022.

Paul moved that SNG to approve submitting the application and authorizing the President to sign a letter of intent to that end. The motion was seconded. During discussion, it was pointed out that the proposed application is a work in progress and can be revised if there changes are needed.

The motion was approved unanimously.

6. **Approval of new bylaws.** Paul Landskroener reported for the bylaws revision committee and the executive committee. He summarized the Board's work to replace its current bylaws. After extensive consultation with the Board and with the community, the bylaws committee presented proposed new bylaws to the executive committee on February 16 which recommended that the Board adopt them. Paul moved that the Board approve a resolution adopting new and restated bylaws. Sara seconded the motion. (The resolution and proposed bylaws are in the board packet.)

The Board discussed a concern with section 4.7 of the proposed bylaws that permits the Board to appoint a director to fill a vacancy until the next regular election. The concern is that, if there were many vacancies at once, permitting the remaining Board to fill vacancies, regardless of when the vacancy occurs, gives the Board too much power for too long.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution and new Bylaws effective March 1, 2022. The Board expressed its appreciation to the bylaws committee for its work.

7. **Update from Councilmember Osman.** Hamdiya Abdullahi, Policy Associate of Councilmember Jamal Osman, gave a brief update. The councilmember is working with the mayor to ban no-knock warrants and is working on a rent stabilization ordinance.
8. **Approval of charter for Elections Committee.** Michael Jon reviewed a proposed charter for the Elections Committee as provided in the board packet. The committee will oversee and administer the election of new Board members in May 2022. A motion to adopt the charter was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

9. **Approval of Board Election Plan and Process for 2022.** Michael Jon reviewed and summarized the proposed Election Plan and Process for 2022 as proposed in the board packet (except for the line in the proposed plan referring to the Board endorsing candidates which has been struck from the proposal). A motion to adopt the plan was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
10. **Letter of support.** Mike Trdan for an informal neighborhood group called Seward Trees Google Group. The members of the group live in the general area along 26th Street between 36th and 37th Avenues . They have learned that the park board is planning to severely trim or remove trees and are concerned that the board may not replace them with appropriate varieties. The group, led by Mark Sulander, is asking SNG to submit a letter of support for the group's goal of ensuring that tree trimming doesn't destroy the tree canopy or conflict with the Minneapolis 2040 plan.

Ron Schlatter moved to ask Mark Sulander to draft a letter indicating SNG's support of the Seward Trees Google Group's request to the park board and to authorize the executive committee to approve (if appropriate) and the president to sign the letter on behalf of SNG. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. It was suggested that we consider ask Park Commissioner Becky Alper to meet with SNG to explain the plan.
11. **Appointment to the Board Development Committee.** The Board appointed the following to the Board Development Committee: Doug Hicks (as vice president and as chair of the committee); Lisa Boehlke; Donna Ray; and Paul Landskroener.
12. **Appointment of the 2022 Elections Committee.** The Board appointed the following to the 2022 Elections Committee: Ron Schlatter; Cheryl Robertson; Mary Pumphrey; Crystal Quinn; Sara Rothholz Weiner.
13. **Adjourn.** A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Paul M Landskroener, secretary

The board packet is available to Board members here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1KLgDJo8Azjnrwl7DsCBhghFPbtOk9LTF>