

SNG Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 – 8:30pm, October 26, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Diann Anders (Secretary), Terry Barnes, Lisa Boehlke (President), Peter D'Ascoli, Korla Masters, Casey Mock, Ryan Morgan, Tami Traeger (Vice-President).

Board Members Absent: Donna Ray, Ron Schlatter

Others Attending: Sara Rothholz Weiner (CDC Chair), Jasmine Epps-Flowers (Community Organizer), Michael Jon Olson (SNG Executive Director), Mahamoud Wardere (Towers Community Facilitator), Andrea Tritschler (SNG/LCC Communication Manager).

PRELIMINARIES

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Attendees introduced themselves and described a memorable Halloween costume.

The agenda was adopted with the suggestion that someone monitor hands raised during discussions so that everyone who wants to has a chance to speak. Tami volunteered to do this. Motion: The agenda is adopted. (Peter moved and Tami seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)

Motion: The minutes of September 28, 2022 SNG Board Meeting are approved with the clarification that the Seward Arts group was promised a continued presence somehow in SNG , but not necessarily on the new SNG website. (Korla moved, Peter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)

REPORTS

Website: Andrea is working on the website. The new format is now in place and Andrea, in consultation with Michael Jon, is adding and updating website content. Tami voiced the opinion that requests for substantive changes or additions to the website should go through Michael Jon to Andrea. Andrea needs an updated board list with roles and possibly photos of directors. Sara suggested some attention be given to how the website engages viewers. Andrea noted that the Home Page is currently static but will improve once the rest of the web pages are in place.

Community Development Committee (Michael Jon): The major item CDC discussed was the conditional use permit for 2541 24th Avenue S.

Celebrate Seward Recap (Lisa/Terry): Lisa reported on a great event, organized on budget in only two months. The Celebrate Seward committee wonders if the Celebrate Seward event should happen again in 2023, especially with a collaborative event with LCC scheduled for August 2023.

Staff (Jasmine, Mahamoud, Michael Jon): Michael Jon referred people to the written staff report. Ryan asked about the status of the renter engagement program. Jasmine, Mahamoud and Tori are in training this week with CURA. Door-hangers will be distributed in larger apartment buildings beginning next week, and door knocking will take place the following week. Peter commended the collaboration that is growing between LCC, SNG, Redesign, and the Seward and Longfellow Business Associations.

ACTION ITEMS

Neighborhood Network Fund and Equitable Engagement Fund Applications: This year the City is using one application for both programs, which is in the board packet. Lisa noted language she has added to strengthen the application.

Motion: The application for the Neighborhood Network Fund and Equitable Engagement is approved as amended. (Motion was recommended by the Executive Committee for approval and was approved unanimously.)

CDC is recommending approval of a letter of support with some suggestions for the conditional use permit for 2521 24th Avenue South. This is for the former Kaufman Roofing Building to be used by a family-owned auto repair shop. City permitting requires best practices be part of any conditional use permit for auto repair shops.

Motion: SNG supports the conditional use permit for 2521 24th Avenue South with the understanding that the letter of support include our concerns for health of employees and neighborhood and that all negative impacts to the environment are eliminated or mitigated. (Diann moved, Terry seconded. Passed unanimously.)

DISCUSSIONS

Work Plan for 2023: Questions about the draft 2023 Work Plan were raised: Does the work plan include activities that have been approved by the board? What is the board's role in creating a work plan? How might the Community Initiatives Program impact the workplan? Should action items be of similar weight?. For instance, first two action items under Community Engagement are broad/higher level while second two items are specific events. Should the last two items also be broader, expressing a goal rather than a solution?

Michael Jon suggested the board could take a step back and review the goals in the workplan to determine if they are still appropriate. Perhaps the board should have the development of a 5 year strategic plan, scheduled in the 2023 draft work plan, to start soon and shelve approval of a 2023 work plan until we get a better handle on SNG's goals. The question of sustainability, especially with dwindling City funding, is paramount.

Michael Jon indicated that stepping back from the work plan for several months will not impact staff's ability to continue their work.

Michael Jon will bring a pared down 2023 Work Plan for the next meeting. This meeting will center on time for discussion with any action items handled by e-mail vote. An attempt will be made to have an in-person meeting, possibly at Redesign. Ryan and Casey may work with Michael Jon to facilitate this meeting.

The remainder of the agenda was not dealt with due to lack of time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Next meeting is November 30, 2022, 6:30pm