

SNG Board Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

6:30 – 8:30pm, March 22, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Diann Anders (Secretary), Ron Schlatter (Treasurer), Tami Traeger (Vice-President), Terry Barnes, Peter D'Ascoli, Donna Ray, Ryan Morgan, Mary Pumphrey, Lisa Boehlke (President), Peter D'Ascoli

Board Members Absent: Casey Mock

Others Attending: Michael Jon Olson (SNG Executive Director), Michele Braley (Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice), Jasmine Epps-Flowers (SNG Community Organizer), Katie Simon (Cooper Neighborhood), Sean Broom. Mahamoud Wardere (Towers Community Facilitator)

PRELIMINARIES

Tami called the meeting to order at 6:31 when quorum was reached.

Consent Agenda:

- Approve this Agenda
- Approve minutes of February 22 Board Meeting
- Approve record of March 9 board action via e-mail

Motion: The consent agenda is adopted. (Diann moved and Ron seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)

REPORTS

Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice (Michele Braley)

Michele has been at SLRJ for 14 years and a resident of Seward for even longer. After starting off with SNG as its fiscal sponsor, SLRJ has become its own 501(c) 3. SNG supports SLRJ financially. SLRJ receives referrals from the police. Prior to the pandemic, SLRJ dealt primarily with youth. Since the pandemic youth referrals are down with many problems being handled using public school resources. However, there has been an uptick in requests from the community, including referrals from the Civil Rights office when complaints they receive are not civil rights issues. SLRJ is also doing more advocacy work, including lobbying for making the restorative approach available to the wider state, particularly for issues involving youth. The City attorney is interested in being able to offer a restorative justice approach to crime/conflict and the new county attorney has pledged to pursue restorative justice. There is a need for a restorative justice infrastructure to be put in place.

Michele plugged the May 4 SLRJ fundraiser at Hook and Ladder. The financial support from individual donors and SNG/LCC is important because it is flexible. Mary Pumphrey is SNG's liaison to SLRJ.

Renter Engagement Program (Jasmine Epps-Flowers)

The renter engagement program started last fall. Door knocking was halted for safety reasons during the winter. The original plan was to have a VISTA volunteer assist the SNG and LCC community organizers; however, the use of a VISTA has not worked out. The plan now is to use volunteers to help with the door knocking when it resumes in the spring. Katie suggested using the community rooms in larger apartment buildings to have meet and greets. Currently the program is piloting 3 buildings and has resident ambassadors in two of the buildings. In Seward, only the Towers have been door knocked.

Jasmine stressed that the program is still in the early stages. During the winter, Jasmine has been working on a BIPOC shared space in the Ivy Building and also a health-related/healing initiative. She has secured some grants funds for these initiatives. Jasmine is also doing some work on LCC green grants. The BIPOC shared space is being piloted for six months.

Written Reports

The following written reports or notes were presented in the board materials folder

- Strategic Planning - Five Year Outcomes - DRAFT - Version 3
- 36 ART
- Executive Committee
- Financial Report
- Staff Report

ACTION ITEMS

36th ART 4 Directions Project

Motion: SNG's support for the 4 Directions Project developed by 36th ART will be expressed in a letter. (Lisa moved and Donna Ray seconded. Motion passed with Tami abstaining.)

The letter of support is necessary for the permit required to install the 4 Directions mural.

Strategic Planning Five Year Outcomes

Motion: SNG adopts the Strategic Planning Five Year Outcomes with the addition of "community" to 3b. (Diann moved, Peter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)

SNG 2023 Board Election Plan

Motion: The 2023 Board Election Plan and Sample Ballot is approved. (Peter moved, Ron seconded, motion passed unanimously.)

Shut Down the HERC Petition

Motion: SNG asks that this petition be presented to CDC before the board acts. (Terry moved and Ron seconded. Motion passed with 4 ayes, 3 nays and one abstention)

The thrust of the motion is to have the City set a deadline for phasing out the HERC. The Executive Committee is supporting signing on to this petition.

Protecting the Health of East Phillips Residents

Motion: In the absence of a response from the City to SNG's letter requesting an informational meeting about the expansion of the City water department campus, SNG will sign on to the SVEP open letter "Protecting the Health of East Phillips Residents"

(Lisa moved and Terry seconded. Motion passed with 8 ayes and Diann abstained.)

Lisa reported that Robyn's aide Celeste has given her another person in the Mayor's office who might be willing to respond to our letter.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Annual Meeting (May 17)

Diann suggested having a dessert rather than a potluck event. Terry volunteered to make the décor inviting. The consensus was to invite the Council Members to speak briefly. Candidates for Wards 2 and 6 can come but will not be given time to speak. Michael Jon will welcome any ideas about the Annual Meeting, but plans will need to be firmed up by the next board meeting.

Earth Day Clean Up

Friends of the Mississippi are doing their Earth Day clean up (April 22). SNG will publicize. LCC is doing another clean up in July, which we can collaborate on.

Garden Tour Event

Pat Rosaves has offered to head up a Garden Tour event this year. Lisa said the issue is whether this should be a fund raiser or a community building event or both. The idea of having the event be by donation rather than by ticket. Katie suggested that perhaps the Garden Tour could be expanded to Longfellow. Ron will work with Jasmine to research Venmo. Jasmine also suggested Cycling without Age might partner. Tami suggested seeing if Hour Car or other car-share services might assist with transportation.

Motion: SNG thankfully accepts Pat Rosaves' offer to stage a Garden Tour fundraiser this year.

(Lisa moved and Peter second. Motion passed with 7 ayes and 1 nay.)

The discussion of Celebrate Seward was tabled until the next meeting. Board members were reminded of the SNG Financial Planning meeting next Wednesday.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting is April 26, 2023, 6:30 p.m.