

## **SNG Board Meeting Minutes - APPROVED**

6:30 – 8:30pm, August 23, 2023

Hybrid Meeting at Redesign Office and via ZOOM

### **ATTENDANCE**

***Board Members Present:*** Mary Pumphrey, Andy Carroll, Ron Schlatter, Tami Traeger, Steve McCauley, Ryan Morgan, Lisa Boehlke, Terry Barnes, Diann Anders

***Board Members Absent:*** None

***Others in attendance:*** Michael Jon Olson (SNG Ex Director)

### **PRELIMINARIES AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:32.

Consent agenda: approval of agenda and approval of minutes of July board meeting

**Motion: to approve consent agenda.** (Diann moved, Andy seconded and motion passed unanimously.)

### **REPORTS**

***NCR and NRP Policy Board.*** Ron reported that while NRP Policy Board politics does not impact SNG directly, it does impact other neighborhoods in the City. Proposed changes include increasing the number of neighborhood representatives from 4 to 8, so that neighborhood representatives will be a majority of the 15 person board. The new draft ordinance has very specific directions for the recruitment of candidates and how the elections will be held. Neighborhoods have not had the opportunity to weigh in on these directions. Board members interested in more information should contact Ron.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

***Coordinator Job Description.*** The Executive Committee is recommending approval of the Coordinator Job Description and the appointment of the Executive Committee as the hiring committee for the coordinator. The possibility of other board members having access to the applications and/or input into the hiring decision was discussed. Board members could also suggest questions for the candidates.

**Motion: To approve the Coordinator Job Description and approve the Executive Committee's acting as the hiring committee for the coordinator.** (Ron moved and Tami seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)

## **DISCUSSION**

**Ward 6 Candidates Forum.** The forum, scheduled for 9/14 from 7 to 8:30 at the Brian Coyle Center, has attracted several more co-sponsors. The League of Women Voters has asked the co-sponsoring organizations to submit questions for the candidates. Terry suggested that the candidate should be asked about his/her/their position on City funding for neighborhood organizations. Another question could focus on Rent Stabilization. Lisa suggested a query about the Truth and Reconciliation initiative: what exactly has been done and how the candidate will move this forward. What is the candidate's strategy for unhoused people? Ron suggested asking the candidates what their top 2 or 3 issues are. Mary suggested a question about climate equity.

**Draft 2024 Work Plan.** Using the approved 2023 Work Plan, the board discussed what the 2024 work Plan should encompass. Ron reported that NCR will be looking for SNG's 2024 Work Plan at the beginning of the year. Lisa suggested that the board should have the results of the renter engagement program including the issues that concern renters. She also felt that a neighborhood wide event should be held. Diann asked that revitalizing block clubs be added to the work plan.

Terry has done her own assessment of how much of the 2023 work plan has been completed. She also suggested forming an Advisory Group of under-served neighborhood residents (renters, BIPOC, etc.). The people who serve on this group would be financially compensated. The meetings would be discussion rather than formal meeting style and would provide SNG with information about what is important for members of these communities in Seward. Terry also suggested SNG develop a database of neighborhood people and organizations including contact information as well as individual interests and willingness to participate.

Tami liked the basic idea of an Advisory Group but wanted more work done on how that group would interact with the board. She talked about a Fish Bowl technique. Another idea was using block clubs to reach out to rental units on their block.

Ryan's list included community engagement, getting data from the community, being able to identify potential volunteers and their interests. How do we become better facilitators in our community? Work on improving communications within the neighborhood.

Andy also liked the Advisory Group as a way to develop a strong bench. Andy's suggestion is a Taste of Seward event. In terms of rental engagement, Andy suggested putting together willing landlords, neighborhood businesses, and volunteers to address maintenance/beautification issues.

Mary expressed interest in getting more data...perhaps doing an intentional neighborhood needs assessments. Also trying one-off events with incentives to engage our under-served residents.

In round two, Tami suggested taking Andy's idea of landlord/donated materials/volunteers and starting it with landlords already approved by the City for a reduction in property tax in exchange for keeping rents affordable. She also suggested that phone calls and texts were the best tools for outreach if SNG has access to phone numbers. Tami also wants to continue the Small Grant program, at least until information about the current grants can be evaluated.

Terry proposed developing an emergency response plan.

Lisa suggested using a limited phone staffed by volunteers as a point of contact for neighbors.

Ron noted that food is a great draw. How about an SNG barbecue at an apartment building. Also an Annual Donor appeal.

Ryan noted that SNG should develop a fund-raising strategy.

Michael Jon noted that at the September meeting there will be a report on the Small Grant program from Finance. He has set up a subfolder in the board folder for 2024 work plan/budget/staffing. The idea of having Andrea come to discuss the current Communications Plan was suggested.

Meeting was adjourned around 8:07 p.m.