

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

6:30 – 8:30 pm, September 27, 2023

Hybrid Meeting at Redesign Office and via ZOOM

### **ATTENDANCE**

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

***Board Members Absent:*** Ron Schlatter

***Others in attendance:*** Michael Jon Olson (SNG Executive Director), Jasmine Epps-Flower (SNG Community Organizer), Patrice Koelsch, Dan Turner

### **PRELIMINARIES AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Consent agenda: approval of agenda, confirmation of Andy Carroll as a Finance Committee member, and approval of minutes of August board meeting

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

### **PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

***People's Climate and Equity Plan.*** Long time Seward residents Patrice Koelsch and Dan Turner presented the People's Climate and Equity Plan, put together by a coalition (Just Transition Coalition for Climate Equity) including Isaiah, MN360, and others. Buildings are the number one carbon source in Minneapolis. A primary objective of the PCEP is to weatherize and electrify buildings, reducing and eventually eliminating natural gas as a power source. Mayor Frey has put 10 million dollars to the first year of the plan, which is a very small amount when the estimated cost for Minneapolis is 2 billion dollars. With equity as a goal, this plan aims to start with areas of the city that have suffered the most environmental harms. The first year of the plan would be an intensive retrofit of buildings in the two Green Zones that have been identified, which would serve as pilot projects that would inform how to build out the program in subsequent years. Another arm of the plan involves the renegotiation of the City's franchise contract with Xcel Energy when it comes due for renewal in 2024.

The presenters are asking all the neighborhood groups to sign on to a letter to Mayor Frey. Steve pointed out that electrification has both costs to transition and costs of electricity.

**Motion:** That SNG sign on to the letter to Mayor Frey prepared by the People's Climate and Equity Plan. (Diann moved and Lisa seconded.)

Discussion of the motion focused on whether implementation of the plan would result in higher utility costs for low income people. After discussion, Tami moved and Terry seconded tabling the motion so that board members had time to read the plan document. The motion to table carried.

**Coordinator Search.** Michael Jon reported interviews are set up with three candidates and four new applications were recently received, which Michael Jon is vetting. Diann, Mary and Michael Jon will be the interview committee. The goal is to have someone on board before Michael Jon leaves.

**Seward Small Grant Program.** Only one grant has been completed (the RISE event). The other projects are still in process. Mary suggested that SNG might express its willingness to extend the grant cycle for Soup for You because its need to find a new space has changed its priorities. Finance will have a full report on the grants at the October board meeting.

**Renter Engagement Program.** Jasmine reported that much of her work on renter engagement focused on the Ambassador program. There is an on-going tracking document which has been developed. Jasmine is not recommending doing something with renters that involves door knocking. The flyers that were distributed in apartments did not seem to result in renters actually attending neighborhood events. The issue is what is SNG actually providing to renters. One possible suggestion is information about tenants rights or any program to help with rent assistance. People who have come to the BIPOC shared space, most of whom are renters, have been interested in community gardens/healthy foods. Another issue is the impact of unhoused people in our neighborhood.

## DISCUSSION

**Draft Interview questions.** Michael Jon is interested in any additional questions from board members. Interviews are scheduled to start October 6<sup>th</sup>. The list of questions needs to be culled.

**Draft 2024 Budget.** The only question that was raised was rental space at LCC. Will we need it? This may be determined by the needs of the new coordinator.

## 2024 Work Plan

Renter engagement: Terry is interested in whether a volunteer group could keep this going. Could we host forums on renter's rights? Terry also walked the board through the items from the 2023 work plan that did not seem to come forward into the 2024 work plan.

Printing requests should be forwarded to Andy. Smart Set, owned by Seward resident Kevin Brown, has also moved into the neighborhood.

Mary, Tami and Ron have been working on a matrix of questions for decision making around work plan, events, and initiatives.

Michael Jon reported that Phil Muessig had contacted block leaders and updated the block leaders list. Phil reports that there seem to be only seven blocks in Seward without a block club.

Steve reported on the follow up work he did regarding for-profit drug detoxing/withdrawal centers after the presentation by the proposed facility at 2600 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

Meeting was adjourned around 8:31 p.m.