**SNG Board Meeting Minutes**

6:30 – 8:30 pm, February 28, 2024

Hybrid Meeting at Redesign Office and via ZOOM

**Board Members** present: Mary Pumphrey, Andy Carroll, Tami Traeger, Steve McCauley, Diann Anders, Terry Barnes, Ron Schlatter, Lisa Boehlke, Farah Habad

**Board Members** absent: Ryan Morgan

* NRP Policy Board District 3 Neighborhood Representative election
* Welcome - Representative from Councilmember Osman

Thanks for update on activities related to Seward

**PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

**Finance Committee/Treasurer (Ron)**

Financial report is in the board folder. The Finance Committee has done a great deal of work on the Financial Policies and Procedures which are on the agenda tonight. The 1099s for 2023 are being distributed and end of the year numbers are ready for the 2023 IRS-990.

**Asset Management and Fundraising (Andy)**

Andy reported that SNG is currently in a good position. Our $150,000 reserve will be put into a high interest CD. This will leave SNG the necessary cushion for operating expenses.

To be better stewards of SNG’s funds, the Finance Committee is proposing the following **Asset Management** philosophy:

Keep adequate operating funds on-hand (e.g. - operating budget, pre-approved programs, payment SNG fronts with delays to reimbursement - NRP, Tower Coordinator Position, & a reserve safety factor) and place the bulk of our reserve funds win safe instruments (CDs) at a higher interest rate (currently around 5%).  Interest earned can then be added to the general unrestricted fund for activities the board chooses.

We'll monitor our spending patterns over the next few months for when our current CD comes due (May) to see if the reserve fund can be increased.

Our **fundraising** approach for this year will entail the following tactics:

1. Be prepared to accept donations through any potential method (cash, check, square, PayPal/venmo, Apple/google pay) and promote fundraising at every event
2. Take advantage of existing communications and events to remind the community what we have accomplished, and ask for their financial support in recognition of it
3. boldly communicate the programming we aspire to provide to the community, and ask for their support to execute it
4. solicit personal/commercial donations of goods/services to create a community auction to benefit SNG

**Introduction of the Coordinator (Tami)**

Tami introduced Ella Quainton, SNG’s new Community Coordinator. Ella has office hours Monday and Wednesday, 10 – 2 at the Redesign Office.

Ella reported that a big part of her initial few weeks in the job has been making connections with the community. She has also fielded requests for partnering with SNG from outside organization. She is becoming familiar the SNG Google drive and its contents and works with Andrea, SNG’s Communications staff, to get content into the electronic newsletter.

**Council Member Osman**

Council Member Osman introduced Khalid Mohamed, his recently hired aide. Jamal is asking for input from the neighborhood on traffic and safety, particularly on Franklin. The Public Works department has increased staffing and should be available to help with traffic calming. A business organization is being formed on the West side of Franklin so that businesses there can have access to City grant programs. The City is responding only to 311 complaints. Our area makes the fewest 311 calls. He has worked with Council Member Wonsley to ensure a Community Safety Center is part of the new 3rd Precinct building. The fate of the old 3rd Precinct site (3600 Minnehaha) is still undecided. The City wants to put Voter Services there. Council Member Osman is holding community meetings the first and last Wednesday of the month at the Seward Co-op, 3 to 4:30.

Ron reminded Jamal of the work of the CDC, particularly in regard to safety. Sara noted that CDC does maintain a running report on troublesome intersections and traffic safety. Farah asked about the methodology being used for dealing with graffiti. Is it just to clean up or are attempts being made to engage the perpetrators? Is there any work being done on engaging youth? Osman reported that the City has some funding for youth engagement, particularly in relation to drug use. The focus has been on the Cedar Riverside area through the Brian Coyle Center.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Motion: Approve revisions to the Environment motion to remove reference to UNIDOS and approve January minutes as amended.** (Motion comes from Executive Committee, Lisa seconded. Motion passed with Ron abstaining.)

**Motion: Approve SNG Financial Policies and Procedures** (Motion comes from Finance and Executive Committees, Lisa seconded. Motion passed unanimously)

**Motion: Approve SNG Equitable Engagement Report 2023 (NCR)** (Motion from Executive Committee and Steve seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)

Steve asked whether the EE report is a way for the City to evaluate SNG. Ron responded that SNG receives $29,000 a year for both 2023 and 2024 from the City for EE. An annual report is a requirement of the program. SNG’s EE efforts in 2024 will be volunteer driven efforts.

**Sign Conflict of Interest Form - see Policy statement in materials**

Members attending in person received copies of the Conflict of Interest Policy and signed Conflict of Interest forms.

**DISCUSSION**

Identifying Leadership for upcoming scheduled events -

* Annual Meeting   
  One thought is to ask Small Grant recipients from 2023 to be part of the program. Andy, Diann and Farah will work on Annual Meeting planning. Terry is interested in getting Small Grant recipients as presenters at the Annual Meeting. Mary and Ron brought up the idea of using the city-wide neighborhood day for the Annual Meeting. An alternate idea is to have a fun, family-oriented event on Saturday, May 11 (probably in the Park) and then have the Annual Meeting the next Wednesday. Roll out of neighborhood survey would happen at the Saturday event.
* Board Candidate Search / Election Planning Tami and Mary volunteered to work on candidate search.

Choosing 2024 Programs - Development of Program Budget

Some suggestions to date:

* Small Grants Program- need to move the due date earlier, perhaps April 8 or 15.  Diann asked about support for Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice. Andy pointed out that the approved 2024 budget does not include the Small Grants program. Finance’s idea is to use the small grant requests as targets for fund raising. Andy and Tami will work on this along with Finance.

Discussion of reforming the Environment Committee along with action on CDC motions were postponed due to lack of time. The secretary will craft an electronic vote for the motions from CDC and also the proposal to hold a family friendly Seward Neighborhood Day on May 11 with the Annual Meeting and election to be held on May 15.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.