**SNG Board Meeting Minutes**

6:30 – 8:30pm, April 24, 2024

**ATTENDANCE**

***Board Members Present****:* Diann Anders (Secretary), Ron Schlatter (Treasurer), Tami Traeger (Vice-President), Terry Barnes, Ryan Morgan, Mary Pumphrey (President), Lisa Boehlke, Steve McCauley, Andy Carroll

***Board Members Absent:*** Farah Habad

***Others Attending****:*  Phillip Muessig, Sara Rotholtz Weiner, Khalid Mohamed (Council Member Osman’s policy aid).

**PRELIMINARIES**

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**Consent Agenda**:

* Approve this Agenda
* Approve minutes of March Board Meeting
* Approve 2023 Federal 990 and MN Annual Report
* Confirm Steve, Tami and Mary as members of the 2024 Election Committee

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

**Brief Updates**

* Earth Day Clean-up April 20
Ron reported that the event was successful with 23 adult volunteers and several youngsters. Trash was picked up all along Franklin Ave and South 9th Street. Tami asked that Terry’s work on developing relationships with the management and residents in rental building be documented.
* Financial Report
Ron summarized the written Finance Report. SNG has purchased a Square card reader and will establish a relationship with PayPal and/or Venmo. The request from Finance for program budgets for events in progress was made as a first step in moving program expenses into the annual budget. Data gathered from event expenditures will assist Finance in developing the 2025 budget.
* Fundraising Report
Ron is working on developing a database of individuals who have contributed to SNG in the past. The plan is to have a direct ask in conjunction with the Annual Meeting if possible or later in the year. SNG’s CD is coming due before the next board meeting and will be rolled over. The remaining NRP money is now available to meet SNG’s reimbursement requests. Fundraising will have donation options at both May 11 and May 15. Andy is trying to get the RISE event up and running again. The RISE event is a great story to tell when seeking donations.
* Survey Status/Plan
Mary has developed some survey questions. The LLC survey seemed to produce data that was really useable with four multiple choice questions that also have an open-ended option. The survey will lend itself to a bean counting or dot voting activity. Mary will include some demographic information. Terry suggested having a way to capture the responses electronically during conversations.

Sara and Kahlid stressed the importance of gathering information about public safety. Council Member Osman is exploring how the City can partner with neighborhood groups to work on public safety.
* Neighborhood Day May 11 (see written report)
survey volunteers Terry and Lisa

Ron will handle ice cream. There is need for more volunteers.

* Annual Meeting May 15 (see written report)
Volunteers are needed here as well.
* Garage Sale May 17-18 - Lisa
Lisa reports that 35 people have registered for the garage sale. Mary has worked with Andrea to create a QR code that will go on the yard sale signs. The question was asked if SNG does have the capacity to hold a garage sale. The decision was made not to hold an SNG garage sale this year.
* Small Grant Program
Tami is willing to serve as the small grant program administrator.

**Action Items**

CDC Recommended Actions:

* **Seward Boundary Change**
Phil Muessig explained the boundary change recommendation from CDC. SNG and LCC have compatible boundaries, but the City is operating With out-dated neighborhood boundaries. Consequently, the City has sent notifications about businesses/properties in Seward to Longfellow. Sara reported that boundaries were not considered when the SNG by-laws were revised several years ago. CDC is recommending this change.

**Motion: That the SNG Board change its bylaw definition of Seward to conform to the boundary used by the Longfellow Community Council in its bylaws, and recommends that the City also conform its boundary definition to that used by LCC.** (Ron moved and Andy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
* **Corvidae Club** 2201 Franklin
This motion has been recommended for approval by CDC. **Motion: The Board of Directors of Seward Neighborhood Group approves and endorses the recommendation of its Community Development Committee to support the request of the Corvidae Club (2201 Franklin Avenue East) for a theater license and a license to sell strong beer and wine.** (Diann moved and Terry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)
* **RATAKSC (Holy Trinity)** 2601 Minnehaha Avenue

This motion has been recommended for approval by CDC.
**Motion: The Board of Directors of the Seward Neighborhood Group approves and endorses the recommendation of its Community Development Corporation to support the request of RATAKSC (Holy Trinity), 2601 Minnehaha Avenue, for a variance to increase parking from 100 to 130 spaces and another variance for a decreased FAR (floor area ratio).** (Lisa moved and Tami seconded. Motion passed with Ryan abstaining.)

**Discussion**

SNG has received a request from City staff to gather community input around services that should be part of the proposed Community Safety Center at 2633 Minnehaha. The City’s community process ends at the end of May; however, this request was not received in time to provide City staff a place on the agenda. The issue is should SNG provide input to this process and if so, how should input be provided. The consensus reached was to offer to partner with Community Safety Design and Implementation Director Harrington in holding a community meeting in Seward sometime after the SNG board meeting on May 22.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Next meeting is May 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.