**SNG Board Meeting Minutes**

6:30 – 8:30pm, May 22, 2024

**ATTENDANCE**

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

***Board Members Absent:*** Ron Schlatter, Greg Smalley

***Others Attending****:*  Diann Anders (acting as Secretary), Sara Rotholtz Weiner.

**PRELIMINARIES**

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The meeting began with welcoming newly elected/re-elected board members and thanking outgoing board members. Tami, Terry and Ryan were re-elected and Greg Smalley was also elected to the two year term created by Diann’s resignation. Mary suggested that the remaining candidate, Jim Lovold, who is a disability advocate and also a renter in Seward, become an appointed board member. This appointment will be considered at the June meeting.

**Consent Agenda**:

* Approve this Agenda
* Approve minutes of April Board Meeting
* Approve record of Annual Meeting
* Financial Report

**Motion: The consent agenda is adopted**. ( Motion passed unanimously.)

In order to avoid confusion, a decision has been made that the terms of one year appointed seats expire at the time of the Annual meeting and are renewable at the board meeting following the Annual Meeting. Consequently, Farah’s appointment needs to be renewed.

***Motion: To appoint Farah Habad to a second one-year term Appointment of Farah for a second year***. (Lisa moved and Ryan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)

***Motion: To amend the by-laws to clarify that appointed board members are eligible to serve as officers.***  (Tami moved and Mary seconded. Motion passed with Steve abstaining.)

**Declaration of Intent to Run for Officer Positions**

In preparation for June meeting’s  Election of Officers, candidates have been asked to declare their intention to run for officer positions. Declarations received are as follows:

* President Andy Carroll
* Vice President Farah Habad
* Secretary             Mary Pumphrey
* Treasurer.            Ron Schlatter

**Updates**

* The IRS 990 and Attorney General’s Charitable Report for 2023 have been filed/
* The possibility of The Hub of Heaven becoming a permanent greenspace under the auspices of the MPRB is being investigated with cooperation from the City. Tami will be the board representative in this process. Farah also expressed interest in attending.
* Letters of recommendation for Corvidae Club and RATAKSC Church, as approved by the board last month, have been submitted and a protocol established for how requests for support are to be handled.
* Somali Museum/Bethany Church building discussion. Discussed current plan for site, which is that Augsburg University plans to sell the building to the Somali Museum but the museum does not yet have the funds. They are actively fundraising.
* Update on establishing a system using Google forms for receipt and distribution of requests made of SNG. Zeke has offered to create a guide for SNG’s use of its Google drive. Mary is willing to facilitate in person training.

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* Permissions for SNG Google Drive Committees

Lisa asked that the board formally thank Ron for all his efforts in bridging the gap between having an Executive Director and not having staff. Lisa committed to getting an appropriate card. Mary suggested board members take shifts in monitoring the SNG Admin mailbox. Andy suggested taking down public access to SNG Admin and making all inquiries go through the Google form. Discussion will continue at the Executive Committee.

**Reports**

* Neighborhood Day – Andy  
  Great event!
* Annual Meeting – Mary  
  There are still problems with SNG’s election process. Dan Pederson is willing to help work on improving this process. Meeting organizers need to be prepared to deal with politically slanted speeches. Flag contest was a success. There are ideas for use of the Seward flag, either as recognition of service to the neighborhood or as a fundraiser. Terry, Mary, Ryan and Andy will work on using the flag.
* Yard Sales – Lisa  
  The 50 new signs were well received. There were above 70 sites. Traffic was okay, but not outstanding. There were a few glitches with the QR code and the website. Lisa thanked Steve for delivering signs, and Lisa had a volunteer seller help as well. Steve volunteered to assist Lisa with yard sales next year. Printing the signs and maps is quite expensive and Lisa recommends having a fee for sellers. Steve suggested SNG budgets money for the cost of the sales. Andy noted that the printing costs could be charged to the Equitable Engagement Fund. Ryan offered to help
* Seward Tower Facilitation – Mahamoud  
  postponed until June meeting
* Formation of Environment Committee – Terry  
  Terry reported 22 people attended the first meeting of the reconstituted Environment Committee. Second meeting is tomorrow at Matthews. Work is underway on a charter.
* Small Grant Program – Andy  
  Because of the high volume of applicants, the grant committee is trying to distribute the money equitably across as many applications meeting the criteria as possible. This involved working with the applicants as well as determining of some of the requests could be funded outside of the Small Grant program.

**Action Items**

CDC Recommended Actions:

**MOTION: *that the SNG board support the Indian Health Board’s Menaandawiwe Wellness Campus project and its variance request for a 3-story building on the south side of Franklin Ave. between Minnehaha & 21st Avenues, and that (1) to a maximal extent existing trees are saved/replaced on the site, and that (2) vigilance between the IHB and the City prevents any homeless encampment  / drug dealing on the site***. (Lisa seconded, motion passed with Ryan abstaining.)

**MOTION: *that the SNG board support the Darling Cafe’s liquor license request at 3301 E. 25th St.***(Tami seconded and motion passed unanimously.)

**MOTION: *that the SNG board support the Evergreen Dr. street art project in its request for Minneapolis Arts Commission approval and SNG small grants funding.*** This motion was reviewed by the SNG Executive Committee and amended as follows to remove the recommendation about the small grants funding which has its own process***: MOTION: that the SNG board support the Evergreen Drive street art project in its request for Minneapolis Arts Commission approval.*** (Ryan seconded and the amended motion passed unanimously.)

Other Actions:

**MOTION: *that SNG use funds raised from 2023 Garden Tour to make $2500 sponsor donation to the Somali Independence Day event and hire an interpreter to survey Seward residents at our table at the event.***

This motion was made by Tami. Discussion on the motion included clarifying SNG’s participation would be limited to the Cedar Riverside Somali Independence Day event and that the issue of the source of funding be determined by the Finance Committee. After discussion the motion was amended as follows:

**Motion: *that SNG make a sponsoring donation of $1000 to host a table provided that an interpreter and volunteers to staff the table are secured****.* (Tami moved and Lisa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.)

The Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice program was begun at SNG, who acted as its fiscal sponsor for many years. Annual support for SLRJ was removed from SNG’s 2024 and SLRJ was directed to apply to the Small Grants Program. However, it was determined that providing annual funding at some level to SLRJ did not fit into the criteria for the grant program. Moreover, support for this much needed program and its director Michele Braley is strong in the neighborhood. Finance will explore whether the Equitable Engagement program is an appropriate source for funding SLRJ.

**Motion: that SNG allocates $5000 annually to support Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice.**

(Andy made and Terry seconded. Motion passed with Mary and Steve abstaining.)

**Discussion**

* RISE event  
  Andy has been working with Andrea on this event and reported that Jasmine is willing and able to assist in pulling off this event again this summer.
* Community Outreach Planning - survey, office hours  
  Brief discussion. Executive Committee will identify the tasks that need volunteer and/or paid support.
* Board Introductory Orientation and Training - mentor system  
  Postponed to next month. Executive Committee will do some preliminary work.

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Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Next meeting is June 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.