

Wednesday, February 25, 2009 -7 pm
SWNI Board Meeting – DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Brian Russell, Ken Love, Nancy Hand, Will Fuller, Jan Weston, John Gibbon, Jim McLaughlin, Marcia Leslie, Marianne Fitzgerald, Wes McMullen, Janet Hawkins, Jim Gardner, Tom Schaper, Dorothy Gage, Kathy Bambeck, Don Baack, Lee Buhler, Carolyn Raz, Samira Godil, Lynn Troutman, Rich Davidson, Lee Perlman

Staff: Sylvia Bogert, Executive Director

President Brian Russell called the meeting to order. The Board approved the agenda.

February 25th Board Minutes: Marcia requested the word “opposed” be changed to “supported” in the following sentence: “Stefania Hardy, speaking on behalf of her mother, the property owner, ~~opposed~~ **supported** the waiver request because connecting to Barbur would be expensive and would connect property with tenants who include young families to a dangerous street.” The minutes with the amendment passed unanimously.

SW Community Health Center

Samira Godil, executive director of the SW Community Health Center gave an update on the organization. They recently moved out of the Multnomah Center to 7754 SW Capitol Hwy. They have a much larger space of 2000 square feet compared to 700 square feet at the Center. They serve low income residents from all over the city but mostly southwest. Don pointed out that Samira has done an excellent job and it started from her experience at Neighborhood House. Samira said at Neighborhood House she saw many people who were not getting proper medical care and realized there is a great need for this service They will have a walk-a-thon to support the Health Center on April 19th.

SWNI Executive Committee Reports

President’s Report: Brian Russell talked about getting business association members on the SWNI Board. He said Multnomah and Hillsdale business associations partner with SWNI on special events but don't always have a representative position on the board. Southwest Business Association has been inactive for a number of years. Ken said the South Portland Business Assoc may be interested in applying for membership. Brian said the retreat went really well. Sylvia distributed notes from the retreat. Brian suggested we look over the notes to discuss next month. Brian said action plans are due May 15th as well as the volunteer of the year nominations. Sylvia said the theme of this year’s volunteer recognition event is “SWNI’s Garden of Volunteers” and will be held on Tuesday, June 30th.

Treasurer’s Report:

Tom Schaper explained the Treasurer's Report and said things look good except that some outside agencies are paying quite late. He said this has caused a strain on SWNI as we must find a way to pay bills. He said this is also a time waste for SWNI staff who must work to collect these amounts. Sylvia said she has spoken

with the auditor's office and was assured the BES check is in the mail. Ginny is also tracking an overdue check from Metro. Don volunteered to testify at Metro about the problem. Tom said we need to keep applying pressure.

SWNI Executive Director Report

Sylvia Bogert talked about the City's FY 09-10 Budget process and its impact on the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. The ONI BAC is advocating for the "Right Budget," which involves a \$15,839 cut for SWNI (\$6,397 from operations, \$2,595 from neighborhood grants, and \$6,847 from engagement funds). However, the office of management and finance is recommending even steeper cuts (approximately 16% of our budget or \$45,586) so it is important for people to advocate for the "right budget" as soon as possible. The mayor's budget will be out the end of April, it will be much harder to influence changes after that point. Sylvia said SWNI is running on a bare bones budget as it is so there is not much room for cuts. The only possibilities for deep cuts are communications and staff hours. Sylvia said she is looking into ways to raise more money. Negotiations with the Bureau of Environmental Services for next year's grant looks very promising (draft budget reflects a \$73,000 budget, which increases SWNI's fiscal and admin to 13% and includes an extra newsletter insert). Don asked when we have we have to make a decision. Sylvia said by the May board meeting. Tom said we should have more data by then.

Sylvia highlighted the following upcoming events: SW Hope Food Drive- February 22- April 5; TriMet Hearing: Wilson High School Cafeteria, Monday, April 6, 4-7 pm; Volunteer Fair: Monday, April 13, at Wilson High School, 4-7 pm; Next Legislative Forum at City Hall (TBA); SWNI Spring Cleanup: Saturday, May 9, 9 am to 1 pm; Pedestrian Rights Clinic Thursday April, 23, 6:30 pm Multnomah Center; Ready Safe Go: Saturday April 25th.

Brief Standing Committee Reports (written reports provided electronically).

Crime Prevention/Public Safety Committee – Nancy Hand talked about Ready-Safe-Go. The next training will be Saturday April 25th. Nancy is worried it could be the last one due to budget cuts. She talked about the food drive and is suggesting collecting food on National Night Out. This had been done in previous years but was dropped last year. Don suggested they get food drive information out with the permits. Nancy talked about the upcoming Bike Safety event on May 16th at Bridlemile School. Southwest Crime Prevention Crime Prevention Specialist Stefanie Adams would like to have at least one person from each neighborhood on the crime prevention email list. Staff is updating the list, please be sure we have your current neighborhood rep or designated person on the public safety email list.

Parks and Community Centers – Kirky Doblle talked about the strategic plan for parks which is a part of the 2020 vision plan. They are working on managing and protecting assets, outreach, and enhancing services. Kirky said one proposal is to cut entire environmental programs for kids. She said this would be sad as it is a valuable program. April who is on the parks committee has worked very hard on Sylvania Park. The SWNI Parks Committee was featured in an article in Portland Parks & Recreation Spring Guide.

Transportation Committee – Marianne Fitzgerald discussed the following motion from the transportation committee:

“That we write a letter to TriMet, with copies to the Governor, Metro Councilors, Peter Defazio and the TriMet Board. The letter will oppose the proposed cuts in SW Portland bus service.”

Marianne said that since they wrote this motion, TriMet had reduced the service cutback to SW Portland. However, there were still cutbacks and she felt the letter was important. Don amended the motion to email copies to city council as well. He also suggested that the letter be read at the TriMet budget cut meeting and Jim McLaughlin volunteered to present the letter. Brian said on principle we should take a stand against budget cuts citywide. Marcia said we should emphasize salary cuts. John pointed out that TriMet is the only option for high school students. Janet said the cuts affect younger and older people disproportionately and Don added lower income people. Will said we should consider bus service a public utility as it has many benefits.

The motion passed unanimously.

The second motion from the transportation committee reads as follows:

*“Whereas winter storms of significance occur periodically in Portland, and
Whereas the public agencies have very limited resources allocated towards making the transportation systems work in times of these storms, and
Whereas we understand the many priorities facing public agencies and believe that improved planning and cooperation amongst those agencies can increase the effectiveness of those resources,
Be it resolved that SWNI open dialogue with the other Neighborhood Coalitions as well as public agencies including PBOT, TriMet, ODOT, and Multnomah County to secure improvements in winter storm response planning in an effort to facilitate a coordinated effort that provides neighborhoods with improved opportunity for not only vehicle travel during snow times, but enhanced public transit and pedestrian movement opportunities.”*

Brian asked if we could be more specific on what we were asking in terms of action items. Don said it takes months to get the gravel off because they don't have a way remove it efficiently. He said they plow over sidewalks and driveways. For example many people could not get in and out of the Transit center. He said this could be resolved with better coordination. He said all the involved agencies should get together and discuss what could be done better. Jim supports the motion but he said the biggest problem is to get them to focus on getting the TriMet routes clear. Will pointed out this motion only is requesting we initiate a dialogue.

The motion passed unanimously.

Marianne said funding was approved recently for sidewalks in SW. The money is federal money that will come to PBOT. The exact locations are still up in the air and they are scattered over southwest Portland.

Trails Committee – Don Baack talked about the upcoming Pedestrian Rights Clinic scheduled for Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 pm in the Capitol Room of the Multnomah Center. He says it will be an eye-opening presentation and encouraged everyone to attend. Don said Trails will bring a recommendation on liability to the SWNI Board next month. The state is tweaking right of way regulations with participation from the city. He pointed out that there are several trees down on trails in Bridlemile and the adjacent property owners are not removing them even though they are technically responsible. He said the city, with volunteer help could do a much better job.

Schools Committee - Will Fuller said the League of Women voter's forum on April 16th will focus on school board members. He said board members are elected to represent a zone but everyone votes and all zones. There are two contested zones. These positions are important as the board controls a one half billion dollar budget, which impacts many people.

Will said a great deal of school property is under conditional use permits and these are being reviewed by the city at this time. The committee will be tracking this process. John said long term they are trying to move away from conditional permits for schools. Marianne pointed out that a conditional use sites could be sold to developers and it is better to get them zoned as schools. Don pointed out that some schools are not under conditional use. He pointed out that they should all go through design review. Will said this review is part of the Portland Plan process.

Land Use Committee – John Gibbon said land use is recommending a landslide forum to educate people on mass soil movement and drainage. It should give people some practical advice. He said it will be hard to do this forum without being critical of the Bureau of Development service because of developments they have approved that allow storm water retention on site were it is not advisable. Will said we could try to make the criticism positive. Don said the disconnection of downspouts program was a big issue at SWHRL. Brian suggested hosting the forum in the summer rather than the fall so people have time to do improvements.

Operation Committee Reports

Communications Committee – Wes McMullen said the SWNI website has been upgraded to Drupal 6 due to the very hard work by Michael Kaiser. It is now very easy to navigate and is getting better and better all the time. At the SWNI Retreat Don requested the SWNI website include a log or punch list of SWNI correspondence with agencies to track issues and responses to our request for improvements. Wes asked the board to look at www.civiccrm.org and see if it is a good model format for the log. Wes said the committee discussed whether the SWNI news should be electronic. He said they had 3,000 hits on the website last year and we mail out about 10,000 newsletters a month. Wes encouraged every neighborhood to have a web master. Will said that Drupal 6 is much better compared to what we had. He said it was a big job for Michael to get it working. Don suggested a letter of thanks to Michael. Marianne asked if there would be training and Will said there will be. It will start with SWNI staff. Wes said there would be classes and mentors and on-screen tutorials.

Unfinished Business

Bylaw Committee Update: Sylvia (for Susan) handed out bylaw amendment to be voted on in May. (See attachment)

SWNI Nominating Committee Brian said he asked Susan, Janet and Carolyn to be on the committee and they accepted.

Ken made a motion to approve the nominating committee slate. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

Ken said he was contacted by someone about a cell phone tower in Johns Landing and asked about the Council Crest tower project. Sylvia said that Council Crest tower was not a part of the cell tower project; it will send and receive emergency radio communication for police, fire, and other emergency personnel. Sylvia said as part of the public involvement agreement SWNI did an all-household mailing to SWHRL and Hillsdale residents inviting them to an open house presentation on the tower, frequent articles in the SW Newspaper updating residents on the progress of the project, and acting as a contact point for residents impacted by the tower replacement project. Don said a cell tower was installed in Hillsdale and there was no public involvement. Marianne said Amanda Fritz told her cell tower regulations will go to council on April 7th.

Janet talked about the food drive, which is going well but there is a big need.

Announcements/Suggestions for the good of the organization

Nancy said their NET team used Jackson Middle School for a practice search last Friday.

Don said he talked to ODOT about the pedestrian crossing at 4800 and Barbur Blvd.

Will said school visits are continuing and are very enlightening. He encouraged more participation.

Marianne said she serves on several mayoral cabinets and she will keep the board updated and ask people to give her comments on various issues.

Marianne said the rumors light rail on Barbur Blvd. continue. Tigard is lobbying hard to get light rail.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Lee Buhler

Attachments:

Motion regarding 2009 Amendment to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Bylaws

The 2009 Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Bylaw Review Committee hereby moves that that the Bylaws of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. adopted May 28, 2008, be amended so that Article IV, Board of Directors, Section 1, Corporate Powers, Subparagraph b reads,

Contracts, grants, obligations, expenditures, solicitations of funds, standing rules, and policies shall be subject to approval of the Board of Directors.