

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.  
Board Meeting  
January 26, 2011

## Minutes

Brian Russell (President), Ken Love (1st Vice President), Tom Schaper (Treasurer), Lee Buhler (Secretary), Nancy Hand (Arnold Creek), Dorothy Gage (Ashcreek), Kathy Bambeck (Bridlemile), Steve Beining (Far Southwest), Janet Hawkins (Hayhurst), Caroline Raz (Hillsdale), Lynda Troutman (Marshall Park), Rob Gardner (Multnomah), Jim Gardner (South Portland), Jim McLaughlin (West Portland Park), John Gibbon (Land Use Committee Chair), Kirky Doblle (Parks & Community Center Committee Chair), Don Baack (Trails Committee Chair), Marianne Fitzgerald (Transportation Committee Chair), Will Fuller (Schools Committee Chair), Sharon Keast (Communications Committee Chair)

Guests: Rick Nitti executive director Neighborhood House  
Staff: Sylvia Bogert, Executive Director

Brian called the meeting to order 7:01 pm

Agenda Jim M. made a motion to accept the agenda. Ken seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously

Brian moved the meeting into executive session.

Brian moved the meeting back into regular session about 8:40 pm

In the executive session we passed a motion to move \$25K from employees to materials and services, authorized additional payments to our attorney, authorized our president to reach an agreement with our attorney and authorized the Finance committee to hire additional professional services.

Also during the executive session minutes from the December regular and executive session meetings and minutes from the January 4<sup>th</sup> executive session meetings were approved.

Rick Nitti from Neighborhood House talked about the Neighborhood House's SW Hope food drive. He said Neighborhood House was founded in 1905 in South Portland and moved to Multnomah Center in about 1980. They focus on SW Portland and North Portland. They employ 96 people. They have a budget of about \$5.5 mil. SW Hope is a campaign that deals with hunger in the southwest Portland community. There are many low income people in southwest. He distributed a chart that showed usage of emergency food service in 2010. Demand is growing and they are now serving about 680 households per month. They are sponsoring an upcoming food drive and have a goal of raising 150K pounds of food. An emergency food box is designed to feed a family for at least three days. People can come once a month to get a box. People in severe need can get two. He asked us to try to get neighborhood associations involved in the food drive. They are now about \$45K over budget but they want to make sure that everyone who needs food gets served. The annual food drive will start on March 7<sup>th</sup> with a benefit at Salvador Molly's restaurant. Will asked about the senior food program and Rick said the need for senior assistance was growing. Jim M. said that seniors have different nutrition needs. Rick also said seniors do not like to ask for help. Rob asked what the average was last year and Rick said it was about 450 households served per month. Rick said we he started in the 1980s it was about

60 households per month. Janet said summer months are important because kids are home from school and not getting school lunches. Marianne asked if they would accept garden vegetables and Rick said yes. In fact, they also have a garden for this purpose. He said they also get donations from community gardens and the Hillsdale Farmer's market. Nancy asked why there are not more school partners. Rick said the Food Bank has another food drive at the same time and they do not want to compete. Sharon said they have discussed this at her PTA and decided to go with SW Hope this year. Nancy asked how specifically neighborhood associations could help. Rick said publicize the benefits at restaurants as well as do local food drives and encourage people to bring food to the Neighborhood House. He also said SWNI has a food barrel and it is very productive. Dorothy suggested putting it in the SWNI news and Sylvia said an article will be in the February and March issues. Ken suggested more restaurants in South Portland.

Ken talked about the board retreat that was tentatively scheduled for March 12. Brian asked for a straw poll to see if that was a good date and most people indicated they could make it. Brian said this board retreat will focus inward to make SWNI a stronger organization.

Don asked about the March SWNI board meeting as it was scheduled to be during spring break. The consensus was to move it one week later to March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sylvia talked about the ONI budget session. They discussed what programs should be a priority if more funds become available.

Sylvia said everyone got their final grant reports in.

Land Use:

The Land Use Committee forwarded the following motion to the board:

**That SWNI support City Council approval of the tree policy review and regulatory improvement project and urge its implementation, but with the caveat that we recognize the project recommendations are not perfect and will need revision**

Marianne said there is a cost to trees and we need to discuss how we handle those costs. John said there will be a budgetary impact but there has been a great loss of trees in Portland and something needs to be done. Jim M. asked if there was a staff increase to implement this program and John said there would be small staff increase to man the tree hot line for example.

Yea: Ken Love, Tom Schaper, Lee Buhler, Nancy Hand, Dorothy Gage, Kathy Bambeck, Steve Beining, Janet Hawkins, Caroline Raz, Lynda Troutman, Rob Gardner, Jim Gardner, John Gibbon, Kirky Doblle, Don Baack, Marianne Fitzgerald, Will Fuller, Sharon Keast

Nay: Jim Mclaughlin who stated he voted in opposition because the City does not have the resources to hire additional staff to implement the policy.

Jim G. asked how we should communicate our position and John said he would testify at city council.

Transportation

The Transportation Committee forwarded the following motion to the SWNI Board:

**That SWNI send a letter to PBOT, the Water Bureau, and BES calling for the entire length of Multnomah Blvd. to get a full overlay.**

Marianne discussed the issue and the problems on Multnomah. She is worried that paving means patching and wants to make sure there is a full overlay of asphalt. Rob asked if other Neighborhood Associations should send letters and Marianne said yes

Yea: Ken Love, Tom Schaper, Lee Buhler, Nancy Hand, Dorothy Gage, Kathy Bambeck, Steve Beining, Janet Hawkins, Caroline Raz, Lynda Troutman, Rob Gardner, Jim Gardner, Jim McLaughlin, Kirky Doblle, Don Baack, Marianne Fitzgerald, Will Fuller, Sharon Keast

Abstain: John Gibbon

Schools:

There were two motions forwarded to the SWNI Board from the Schools Committee.

**Motion: Bond Measure Forum**

**SWNI will sponsor an educational forum on the proposed \$548M school bond to be placed on the May 18 ballot. If a school levy renewal is also on the ballot, this will be included in the forum.**

**A volunteer action team, including Schools Committee members and others from NAs, will plan and host the event, to relieve the burden on the short-handed SWNI staff.**

Further information about the forum had been passed out with board materials. Will said it would cost about \$200 - \$250 and they could raise that separately if it wasn't within the SWNI budget. It would be held at the Multnomah Center. Will said the forum would not take a pro or con stance on the bond issue. The date is to be determined but Will suggested late April. A committee will be formed to carry it out. Marianne asked if there are other forms and asked if we should put it on TV. Will said the League of Women Voters will do a forum as well but they are waiting for us to set our date so as not to conflict. Kirky suggested early April as the sooner people are informed the better. Sylvia said it might be hard to get the auditorium. Sharon said she could film it for community cable. Don suggested talking about Tax Increment Financing and what impact it has on school funding.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion: Dialogue on Reducing Fees for NA Use of School Facilities**

**SWNI will initiate a dialogue with Portland Public Schools to expand the waiver of Civic Use of Building (CUB) fees to include more community events than just one Neighborhood Association meeting a month.**

**We will coordinate our efforts with other interested coalitions and NA's.**

**A volunteer action team, including Schools Committee members and others from NAs, will work on furthering the dialogue on fee reductions.**

Will said Neighborhood Associations get one free use of a school per month he thinks it would be a goodwill gesture and garner more support for schools if this were increased

Marianne suggested making a lid for a cluster of schools. Jim M. asked if we knew what other school districts in Portland policies on this were. Don said when they talked about replacing schools they talked about more community use. Nancy said the schools are inconsistent on community use and it would be good to have a policy they can follow.

The motion passed unanimously.

Brian and Sylvia discussed a request from the South Burlingame NA for SWNI to be fiscal agent for a Metro grant. They have someone who would loan the money so SWNI would not be out of money for a period.

Jim G. asked about administrative fee and Sylvia said they would ask for a small amount

**Don made a motion that SWNI act as fiscal agent on the South Burlingame Metro grant as long as we are not out of cash flow. Ken seconded the motion.**

Yea: Ken Love, Tom Schaper, Lee Buhler, Nancy Hand, Dorothy Gage, Kathy Bambeck, Steve Beining, Janet Hawkins, Caroline Raz, Lynda Troutman, Rob Gardner, Jim Gardner, John Gibbon, Kirky Doblle, Don Baack, Marianne Fitzgerald, Will Fuller, Sharon Keast

Nay: Jim Mclaughlin

Rob said POEM has started a steering committee for NET training and he is a member and asked people to communicate questions concerns to him to forward to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Buhler