

## **Southeast Uplift Board Meeting Minutes - 2019 September 10th @ SE Uplift Office**



### **List of Board of Directors in Attendance:**

Ardenwald-Johnson Creek - Abby Ball (Secretary)  
Brentwood-Darlington - Pam Hodge  
Brooklyn - Guy Berliner  
Buckman - Mary Barrett  
Eastmoreland - Christian Solsby  
Educate Ya - Estefania Zavala  
Hosford-Abernathy - Daniel Amoni  
Laurelhurst - Constance Beaumont  
Mt. Scott-Arleta - Matchu Williams (Vice Chair)  
Mt. Tabor - Sam Noble  
North Tabor - Stephanie Kaza  
Portland Bus Lane Project - Jessie Maran  
PCC SE - Amy Bader  
Portland Mercado - Ambar Solarte (Treasurer)  
Reed - Tom Gronke  
Richmond - Allen Field  
South Tabor - Tina Kimmey (Co-Chair)  
Woodstock - Anna Weichsel  
At-Large - Catherine Davila  
At-Large - Terry Dublinski-Milton (Past-Chair)  
At-Large - Miguel Rodriguez

### **SE Uplift Staff in Attendance:**

Leah Fisher, Muz Afzal, Christina Estimé, Mireaya Medina

### **SE Uplift Interim Executive Director:**

Danny Mankin

### **Guests:**

Kaon-Jabbar East EI - Moorish Science Temple of America  
Dave Weaver - Kerns NA Vice-Chair  
Pete Forsyth - South Tabor NA President

Meg Van Buren - Brentwood Darlington NA Equity & Inclusion Committee

John Legler - Creston-Kenilworth NA NET

Anne Tillinhast - Reed NA

Robert Jordan - North Tabor NA

Karla Zimmerman - Buckman NA

Kai Fuhrmann

Midge Pierce - SE Examiner

### **Greeting and Announcements (Tina Kimmey)**

- Recent events:
  - North Tabor completed their street mural at NE 53rd & Davis
  - Richmond's Ice cream social with Salt n Straw
  - Ardenwald summer concert series
  - South Tabor's successful 10th annual harvest festival, raised >\$700
- Upcoming events
  - Saturday September 14th, 9:30-12:30pm, Brentwood- Darlington Community Center
    - E-recycling, suggested donation: \$5 per item, \$25 per car load
  - Sunday Sept 15th, 4pm, Sunnyside Community House
    - "Goodbye" event to celebrate the community services previously offered here.
  - Wednesday Sept 18th, 6-9pm, Lewis Elementary School
    - DEQ community meeting regarding soil and water clean-up at Precision Castparts
  - Saturday Sept 21st, Laurelhurst Club 5pm-9pm
    - Educate Ya's 13th Annual Fundraiser Gala- Dando Bailando Uniendo
    - Tickets \$20
  - Tuesday Sept 24th, 6-8pm, Brentwood Darlington Community Center
    - Code change 3.96 community engagement forum
    - Special guest- Suk Rhee, Director (Office of Community & Civic Life)
  - Saturday October 12th, 12-2pm, Tucker Maxon School
    - Creston-Kenilworth neighborhood clean-up day

### **SEUplift Mission Statement & Review Community Agreements (Tina Kimmey)**

- To collaborate with the SE Portland Community to build informed, inclusive, and participatory neighborhoods that support our social and ecological well-being.

### **Presentation: Moorish Science Temple of America (Kaon-Jabbar)**

- Two organizations
  - [Moorish Science Temple of America](#) (religious)
  - Moorish American Social Services Community Center
- Founded in 1913 for the betterment of humankind
- Follows the principles of Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice and members proclaim their nationality as Moorish American.
- Current programs: Meetings Weekly on Friday 7-9pm, Sunday 3:30-5:30 at SEUL, 3534 SE Main St, Portland OR 97214
- Building towards a Census 2020 Symposium, February 7-9th, 2020 with guest speaker Dr. Jose Pimienta Bey. Venue to be determined, possibly SEUL Offices.

### **Staff Transition/Search Committee (Kimmey/Dublinski-Milton)**

Welcome to Interim Executive-Director Danny Mankin. He is recommended by Page2Partners and will do an assessment of our organization with recommendations to the board and the incoming executive-director with the goal of making the organization stronger. Rose City Philanthropy will be assisting with the search for a new executive director. Previously search took 3 months, current market is tight and may take longer.

**Motion by Allen Field to affirm the hiring of Danny Mankin as our interim executive director. Seconded by Miguel Rodriguez.**

**In favor: 16**

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstained:** Cat Davila, Anna Weischel, Sam Noble, Pam Hodge, Mary Barrett

**Motion approved.**

The following board members expressed an interest in joining the executive search committee to be reviewed by Rose City Philanthropy: Chris Solsby, Pam Hodge, Allen Field, Sam Noble, & Catherine Davila.

### Comments:

- Gratitude to previous director Molly Mayo on a job well done including keeping the organization under budget each quarter while increasing investment in staff, building, and technology during her tenure.

- Will there be time to review job requirements as well as the current contract with the city?
  - Yes
- Is there any interest from current SEUL staff in the position?
  - They will be asked.
- Anticipated process for the hiring committee:
  - Hiring committee makes a recommendation for the job description, board approves it, staff posts the req, hiring committee reviews applications, interviews and selects the final candidates and presents those to the board.
- Can there be staff on the committee?
  - There was previously. This can be explored.
- Request for future agenda item regarding SEUL bidding on contract with the city.

### **Approval of July Meeting Minutes (Ball)**

**Motion to Approve the July meeting minutes by Ambar Solarte, seconded by Chris Solsby.**

**In favor: 18**

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstained:** Allen Field, Elizabeth Milner, John Legler

**July Minutes Approved.**

### **Team Building Activity (Matchu Williams)**

#### **Board Retreat Update**

- Previously planned for September 14th- postponed.
- Tentatively planned for end of October
- Previous retreats consisted of:
  - Orientation for new board members
  - Team building
  - Strategic planning

Comments:

- Most meaningful work is done in committees- if you are interested in participating, join a committee.
- Will ExComm (Executive Committee) minutes be shared?
  - Yes
- Is there criteria for forming sub-committees?
  - No, but has to be approved by the board

## Discussion of City Code 3.96 (Terry Dublinski-Milton)

### Comments:

- Code change will go to City Council on November 14
- Revision of code (3.96.060) now lists neighborhood associations and district coalitions etc
  - **3.96.060 Recognized Organizations Referenced in Other City Code**  
For the purposes of recognizing organizations as identified in other sections of city code, the Director must adopt a list of recognized organizations by administrative rule, including but not limited to neighborhood associations, district coalitions, business district associations, and diverse and civic leadership partners existing on the effective date of this code chapter. Addition or deletion of an organization from the list must be made by Council ordinance.
  - discussion around 3.96.060 to be sunsetted pending legal advice
- Concern expressed that 3.96.060 is not formal recognition of neighborhood associations and this does not protect NAs or any organizations.
- Concern expressed about removing the participatory structure that is currently in place.
- If not through this code change, how else can we include community organizations in the code so that they have equitable access?
- Is the staff on board with the proposed code changes?
  - Staff has been working hard and their past and current work is in line with the goals of the proposed change.
  - Request for SEUL board members to be more involved in programming and to hold SEUL mission first if NA interests differ
- North Tabor would like to voice their “no vote” regarding the code change
- Concern that there is no other form of geographical representation in the city.
- Brentwood Darlington voted to support the position of the Rose City Park NA which votes no on the code change as written and calls for an ethics investigation into the Civic life process.
- Question to Dir. Mankin- how does current code protect our organization’s funding?
  - Can’t make a statement at this time.

- Eastmoreland has not discussed this or voted on a stance.
- Have we thought about how SEUL would function, acquire funding if the code change goes through?
  - Yes, SEUL has anticipated some of these changes, has invested in increasing diversity and supporting community organizations
- Comment that SEUL must carefully position itself to secure funding and continue its operations first before taking a stance on the Code Change.
- Concern expressed that without the influence of neighborhood associations and their geographic areas the city can cut services to current community centers without a local voice to oppose cuts.
  - Response- we should level the playing field between NAs and other organizations and there are groups of people who have been displaced out of neighborhoods who have not had any access to funding
- Comment that only 3-5% of neighborhoods participate in NAs, many people not being represented.
- Comment that the vision is in place in the new code but the new structure is not in place
  - E.G. How will the funding distribution be determined? etc.
- Comment that asking City Council to start the proposed language over from the beginning is insulting to 3.96 Code Change Committee members and the collective months of work put into the language
- [Draft Minutes left out discussion points from SE Uplift Staff]
- SE Uplift staff provide three discussion points:
  - 1. The intent of the code change is to increase access to city hall resources, funding etc. for everyone that is involved in any sort of community or neighborhood group. So as we keep having these conversations, let's not forget that intention & goal. It is fair to point out shortcomings in the code change communications & engagement process or issues with the language but a vote against the intent would be a bad look for SE Uplift.
  - 2. NA's engage between 3-5% of the community that lives in that neighborhood, some are less and some may be a little more but from calculations that range is the average. That leaves over 90% of residents without the same level of access or resources which they still deserve because many people are still involved through other avenues.
  - 3. Asking for the code change process to start over is disrespectful and dismissive of the committee and staff that spent a year on this process. It is fine to ask for more time or edits but not fine to start over.
- Issue raised that the loudest protest raised thus far has been from stable homeowners and for acknowledgement of the discussion around "voices being left out" is absurd given the relative lack of vulnerable community members present in the room while living on the margins
- [Draft Minutes left out discussion points from SE Uplift Board Member Miguel Rodriguez]

- In regards to 3.96, Miguel felt that the strong anti sentiment regarding the code change speaks to racist and losing-of-power undertones, especially by the dominant culture. While the rollout has not been the most efficient, the ideology is great since it will introduce a wider range of people, organizations, etc., to be more actively involved in how Portland is shaped. However, definitely highlighting that during this meeting we have been going back and forth about how this affects singular people and their small communities instead of thinking critically how it would affect the ENTIRE Portland population, and especially the most marginalized communities. For example, consider that one of our visitors was talking about their community center losing certain funds: what about the people that have been pushed to the outskirts because of gentrification? I'm not saying that community centers aren't important, but I want to challenge all of you to think about the communities that have more needs and whose voices tend to be silenced because being part of a neighborhood association, being involved in their community meetings, etc., is hard to do when you don't know how to navigate it, access it, or don't feel like you may belong. This is about equity. Even if the code goes into effect, SEUL will still have a historical and cultural record where we would be really competitive for funds; so what if there is more competition? This is good, because it's also going to force us to think, reflect, and execute our plans with a more equitable vision. And, isn't that what this code is trying to do? So, this conversation is pretty weird, racist, and ridiculous because it's turned into a conversation about people losing power instead of thinking critically about their constituents beyond the dominant culture present in our board.
- SE Uplift Staff echoed some of what Miguel was saying, felt that there was division between them and the board whose members could do a better job consulting with staff for their perspectives.
- Concern over the lack of equity in the analysis for the distribution of funds distribution from Civic Life with folks being pushed out to East Portland Neighborhoods. Statement of current system not working with examples: NAs have not stopped massive displacement, gentrification, & increasing housing costs.
- It has been said that efforts to reform the NA system have failed but what specifically was tried?
- Creston-Kenilworth NA supports the values expressed in the code but not the code as written.
- Recommendation from a board member to read the 2008 Community Connect report which advised the code be updated to expand formal recognition of other organizations.
- Woodstock NA is opposed to the code change based on how it has been developed.

**Meeting Adjourned.**