

## JAN 2018 - SE Uplift Board Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Attendance:

#### Board Members:

- Brenda Kinoshita
- Taizoon Doctor
- Susan Gershwin
- Paul Willey
- Courtney Graham
- Yashar Vasef
- Robert McCullough
- Kerry Rowand
- Carol Hanna
- Oliva Alsept-Ellis
- Sam Noble
- Nadyne Rosin
- Gail Hoffnagle
- Tina Kimmey
- Reuben Deumling
- Christopher Bacher

#### Visitors:

- Kelcey Beardsley
- Jack Hanna ?
- Melissa Castor
- Caitlin Burke
- Meg VanBuren

#### Staff:

- Molly Mayo
- Leah Fisher
- Mireaya Medina
- Muz Afzal

### Introductions:

Favorite Restaurant in your Hood

## Meet the SE Uplift Staff and Neighborhood Liaisons

Molly Mayo introduced the staff and their roles as liaisons

**Leah Fisher:** BDNA, Mt. Tabor, Reed, Buchman

**Mireaya:** Kerns, Ardenwald-Johnson Creek, Woodstock, Foster-Powell, South Tabor,

**Muz:** Creston-Kenilworth, HAND, East Moreland, Richmond, Sunnyside, SMILE

## Announcements and Success Sharing

Neighborhood updates and information about each NA/Business Association

Community Center closures issue (Woodstock/Sellwood) and the efforts to understand the decision of the Parks department vs. ONI efforts.

**Motion by Robert McCullough (2<sup>nd</sup> by Yashar Vasef) to write a letter by SE Uplift in support of the community centers (Woodstock/Sellwood) and indicate our frustration with the repeated efforts to close these community resources in the name of budget.**

Letter to be written by Christopher Bacher and Robert McCullough

- All voting members in Favor (exception 1 abstain)
- 0 vote against
- 1 vote abstain
- Motion Passed

Draft letter to be sent to ExCom for review before submission.

## Guest Presenter: Caitlin Burke (Joint Office of Homeless Services)

Caitlin Burke works on alternative sheltering for the City and County. The issue of alternative shelter is an issue but there is not a place to voice concerns with the city. Hopefully Caitlin can be someone with the office of Homeless Services who can provide concrete access. Primarily Catlin is the liaison with the city for R2D2 and other homeless villages in the area.

Questions:

**Q:** Can you tell me a little bit about the office and how it's structured? What other offices do you often work with?

**A:** The Joint Office is an office between Multnomah County and the City. Many of the members of the office manage contracts for various types of housing (shelters, affordable ...). Caitlin focuses on alternative shelters (shelter groups and tiny houses). Often Caitlin works with the office of finance (Portland City) and their single point of contact and the Mayor's office. BDS and bureau of Planning are also common points of contact. ONI, Parks and Recreation also. This issue touches many offices in the city.

**Q:** Whom and how are studies done to verify impacts of shelters. I.E. Crime statistics, environmental impacts and property searches.

**A:** I will follow up with April in my office.

**Q:** Can you talk about how your office thinks about developing additional sites for these sites to ensure that they are relatively successful.

**A:** We have had many questions and loose ends about the four that are underway currently. There is a huge interest in working with the community in moving forward with future efforts. Looking at Eugene there is a lot of work in this space in the form of a community toolkit that answers many of the questions that people have about these types of efforts.

**Q:** In the future do you have a longer-term goal for the issue?

**A:** Having a community toolkit that provides information about how to answer some of the tricky questions and exploring / sharing ways that the community can work on the issue.

**Q:** Is there someone in the Mayor's office who works on this issue.

**A:** There are several people in the Mayor's office whom we work with on multiple issues.

**Q:** There are many people who would like access to the 2017 data in the Just in Time report. It would be useful to have some of that information.

**A:** I will follow up with that and get back to you.

## **Guest Presenter: Melissa Castor from Hazelnut Grove & Overlook Neighborhood Association**

My experience with NA's has been that someone can control things about your home and life. An organization that would push people away from wanting to be involved in the neighborhood. Initially I volunteered with the NA to represent the houseless camp that I live in due to negative attention we were getting from the board. Our good faith was not received.

The decision to join the board was to attempt to promote change on the Overlook Board and provide a voice / face about Hazelnut Grove to the board. If you can't beat them; join them.

We have developed a houseless outreach committee to meet regularly. We held talks. What would you like to see changed in the neighborhood as well as working to develop relationships with the community at large?

**Q:** The resources that are needed in the Hazelnut Grove; what are your issues?

**A:** We create our own resource pool. We accept donations from outreach groups. There is a MAX, Keiser hospital, overlook park. All the villages have their own 501.C3 so many of the materials and labor donated is through tax deductible funds. All of us as a group volunteer at St. Stevens to unload food to feed the community. Construction of POD's for Kenton women's village and working with the village collation. Our biggest effort is to change perception about houseless people and those that face poverty.

**Q:** What is your population?

**A:** There are 16 current residence. One person is relocating to more stable housing because of her needs.

**Q:** Do you find that you get targeted by groups due to your circumstances?

**A:** People can be targeted in any situation. However, anyone is a target when you're not a member of a community. There is strength in numbers. People do like to name call. All the basic needs are much more complicated. These types of community are impressive at the things that they have could build and provide. The model of people whom are houseless assisting other houseless people is more grassroots and empowering.

**Q:** What is the model for resolving conflict resolution?

**A:** Each village has different ways of dealing with that. Hazelnut has conduct rules and bylaws. There are behaviors that are not tolerated. Enforcement is being requested to leave and escalated with the Police involvement. Escalation to the Police has not been necessary as most offenders are aware of the rules.

**Q:** How many children live in Hazelnut Grove?

**A:** We have not had any children living here; but we have assisted children come out which is always exciting. Also, there are children volunteers. Their energy is infectious.

**REQUEST:** Please send the just in time report to the board.

JAN 31<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00 Brooklyn / BDNA Village Collation meeting. Information on this forthcoming

## **Letter from ONI and Coalitions**

Chairs and directors meeting (ONI and Neighborhood coalitions) crafted a letter to send out to NA's to inform all about what ONI is and does. Additional letters are forthcoming and will include more information.

## **Overview of SE Uplift Fiscal Sponsorship**

Last month there were some questions about the fiscal sponsorship program.

It's an agreement between a 501.C3 and a group doing a project. Usually this project has not the means to manage the funds and run as a non-profit.

SE Uplift requires that each group re-apply for sponsorship and the request is approved by the Executive committee or board. SE Uplift does not provide funds but manage the funds that are raised by the group / NA. Funds must be deposited in SE Uplift Account and reimbursed tax free. SEUL approves all transactions to ensure funds are used as intended. The benefits are support of community projects, build capacity, tax-deductible useful for grant applications and corporate sponsorship efforts.

Currently there are 46 projects; 42 are NA's and 4 are other groups / projects. Last year these projects raised of 80K this year \$100K.

Montavilla Jazz Festival started as a sponsorship project and are now a 501.C3. Local Jazz festival of resident artists.

Feast for SE is a volunteer run Thanksgiving meal. Live music, food options for various food needs. Active and fun participator event.

Friends of Woodstock Community Center. Works to maintain and clean the Community Center. Additional volunteer efforts in the community.

Thorburn safety project to improve safety on Thorburn St. in Mt. Tabor.

**Q:** How will 2018 tax law change this?

**A:** We don't know

**Q:** Do / Could you host a grant writing workshop?

**A:** Sure; if not SE Uplift staff we could also work to find someone to run such an event.

## **Approval of December meeting minutes**

Susan 1<sup>st</sup> motion, Nadyne 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept as amended

- All voting members (save 5) in Favor
- 0 Vote against
- 5 Vote abstain
- Motion Passes

## **Mission Statement Update**

Decision to update the Mission statement has been made and rough drafts for future statements is underway. Please read these drafts and reply to email list with your thoughts and comments.

Here are the current draft mission statements that we currently have. Please read them careful and offer comment about them in the form of an email response.

Empowering community groups, neighborhood associations and the voices of the historically underrepresented to collaborate in participatory democracy.

We partner with community members, groups and neighborhood associations in local efforts to create and share in an inclusive, educated participatory community.

To support the creation of an equitable, democratic and inclusive Portland

## **Closing Comments**

**See you all on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**