

SE Uplift Board of Directors Meeting
Guest note-taker: Julia Betts (Thank you Julia)

Date: 3/4/2019

In attendance (added by Molly)

Board Members

Ambar Solarte
Suleyman Nor
Terry Dublinski-Milton
Miguel Rodriguez
Abby Ball
Mary Barrett
Julia Betts
Lotus Romey-Yu
Daniel Amoni
Carol Hanna
Sam Noble
Stephanie Kaza
Nadyne Rosin
Brian Hochhalter
Tina Kimmey
Reuben Deumling
Christopher Bacher (for treasurer presentation only)

Staff

Muz Afzal
Molly Mayo

Agenda Item: Momentum Alliance Social Justice Training (led by Emily)

- Training focused on self-reflection and development of empathy
- Intros/share-outs of group; "Road to this Room" activity applying race as lens (handouts provided)

Transition to Board meeting:

(Reuben) Addressing grievance appeal - need to consider amending the agenda for this evening, and seeking a vote

Terry motions to amend. Dean seconds. Motion approved to add five minutes to the end of meeting to discussion grievance appeal, details pending discussion

Agenda item: Update/Info on City Code 3.96 Change Committee

(Molly) update to city code 3.96 Change committee

- Code change committee engages diverse communitiy
- Description of bureau responsibilities moving forward

*See handout provided for additional details

Draft of code change is due in April/May

SEUL to provide handouts that should be shared with neighborhood associations about status of change, bureau timelines; could be significant changes to come

Agenda item: Approve January Meeting Minutes

Sam moves to approve. Mary seconds.

Discussion

(Terry) request small amendment to change language regarding overpass discussion; wording changes minimal

Motion to approve minutes with amendment passes.

Votes abstain: Abby, Lotus, Ambar, Brian, Stephanie

Agenda Item: Portland United Against Hate (PUAH) Possibility of a Future Relationship with SE Uplift? - led by Koch

Presentation including handout "PUAH - Staffing FY 2019-20 Draft" for details

- Here to introduce idea for consideration; work for OCCL
- End of fiscal year, want to transition staff out of city position to coalition or community organization
- Currently approaching partner organizations for one of two options:
 - Fiscal sponsorship
 - Hiring of staff person for SEUL assigned to PUAH
- Two proposals (outlined in handout); seeking feedback from partners currently
- Established timeline between now and May to reach final decision

Discussion

(Nadyne) If PUAH becomes part of SEUL, what would be the impact on the charter?

(Molly) no impact

(Stephanie) Who makes this decision?

(Koch) Staff committee in partnership, with partner group agreement/support

(Molly) This is a big enough decision to seek board input

(Terry) Expansion of city contracts; helping to define form of SEUL moving forward - from perspective of the executive committee

(Stephanie) Logistics of this?

(Molly) Logistics would likely be determined as the SEUL staff/Executive Director level. Looking for board feedback about bigger scale program merging at this stage. PUAH is a very large coalition and an opportunity to expand programming exists.

(Reuben) This is intended as an “overall discussion”

(Abby) What capacity does SEUL have to support this?

(Molly) PUAJ staff that would be doing this work would be funded through the city/PUAH

(Stephanie) Reporting lines/structures? Separate or hierarchical nature of merge?

(Koch) Dependent on which proposal is selected [of the two options in handout]

(Sam) Considering resources available, is there a spectrum of options between the two proposed options?

(Brian) Where do 65 groups [coalition members] meet?

(Koch) quarterly membership gathering have just started, monthly leadership team meetings, three work teams established, with two co-chairs each

(Miguel) What is the proposed longevity of this? One-year?

(Koch) Would not ask for beyond FY 2019-20 commitment; PUAH is responsible for their own funding and would not ask for funding support from SEUL. Takes part in fundraising and would revisit this arrangement if/when funding is secured for the next fiscal year.

Agenda Item: Fiscal Update

(Christopher - current Treasurer)

transition to Treasurer from previous [Taizoon]; working with external bookkeeper to examine the books and access current situation

- appears to be funds in the account that we are unaware of origins. prudent to protect assess moving forward

Would like to make a motion to restrict use of \$200,000 that is unaccounted for two years until we identify what it's purpose is -- unless we identify funds

Reuben moves to make a motion. Tina -seconds

(Molly) additional background for this matter (for discussion)

accounting firm manages account, but certain systems in place were not explained

roughly have \$300k that we don't know origins of; despite sleuthing did not identify origin. Have hired bookkeeper to work internally to support these efforts.

(Reuben) \$200k as portion of funds; proposition to reserve larger balance through this exploratory process

(Brian) how do these funds exist?

(Chris) restricted funds in basic account - could move elsewhere [bonds, etc]

(Nadyne) origins of funds available?

(Chris) Have considerations in motion but unsure

(Stephanie) Why two years?

(Chris) Accounting is slow - may be resolved beforehand but until that time want to consider possibilities. Lots of possible uses of those funds but important to determine what it is. Could consider additional language about access/use of the funds.

(Sam) Votes can be made in the future to reconsider any vote made today; who are we protecting this money from?

(Chris) Recommendation that funds are not available to use in operational budget short-term; such a large amount that wants board to engage in restriction collectively

(Sam) possible consideration of timing with board turnover

(Carol) Why was this not brought to board's attention before?

(Chris) ongoing research was underway but limited time to address

(Terry) defined as reserve funds when he joined the board

(Reuben) Not explicitly seen as "problem" but more of a question. Perceived as "savings account" and extra funds

(Ambar) Intended investigation to determine if those funds are designated for some other fund

(Chris) Need to know if the funds are designated to a certain group, holding in trust, etc.

(Ambar) Why would we not secure the whole amount?

(Chris) amount does contain operational budget, fiscal sponsorship funds. Some funds are somewhat accounted for but up to \$200k not.

(Molly) Did let the funds sit for a year to see what would happen and was not impacted. Has been in executive committee discussions for some time so not a secret, but unresolved.

(Carol) Any issues with filing tax returns?

(Chris) Long-form filing done by CPA; they would tell us if there was any issue.

(Molly) Money there before CPA firm hired so they do not know their origin.

(Daniel) Does board approve budget and if so can that be included/protected in that way?

(Chris) Currently not in a budget; want to protect funds so it doesn't become a line item. If a Yes vote, direct CPAs to restrict funds on balance sheet. Visual impact of vote

Call to question by Chris

Carol abstains

Vote passes

Agenda Item: Small Grants Presentation - led by Afzal

managing the program this year; goals to increase # and diversity of people engaged, increase community impact; usw.

Convened grant committee - four adults, two youth. Recommended list of 15 projects to be awarded. Total \$27, 165. Total of 32 applications; some did not get funded or were partially funded through in-kind donations and so forth.

(Handout provided with overview of projects including Award amount for each)

(Reuben) Who moves to approve grants for the projects that are included in handout?

Sam moves to approve. Naydene seconds.

Discussion -

(Sam) Who is on the committee? How is that formed?

(Muz) Blast out to social media, networks; selected by SEUL staff

(Reuben) Call to vote

Abstains - Miguel, Ambar

Motion passes

Reason to abstain:

Miguel - one of the project grant proposals; Ambar supporting project

(Ambar) Mercado open to anyone that wants to host projects there

Agenda Item: Committee updates and announcements

- now is the time (Reuben)

- working to streamline committees

(Terry) Metro assigned steering committee for bond; working on letter from SEUL to include reedway overpass

PCC Community Hall - 82nd Ave Open Hall; HS student hit at crossway this past weekend;

(Suleyman) - transitioned to Beaverton SD

(Ambar) Empanada weekend 8-10th @ Mercado

Final agenda item (amended): - grievance appeal

(Reuben) received appeal to grievance from Richmond NA board. If NA deadlocked, passed to SEUL to resolve. Can form a committee to address grievance appeal, to be guided by executive committee.

(Terry) Call of process; thought we made exception only if ruling is made by the NA; has Richmond been able to address on their own? Why should we make an exception at this time?

(Brian) Grievances are legit part of bylaws and enforcing bylaws. Concern about neglecting this process and implications on other NA

(Terry) How many exceptions are okay?

(Reuben) Richmond board status - not officially resigned but not attending meetings

(Molly) period to address grievance - 60 days - has expired so grievance appeal kicked up to SEUL

(Sam) what are our bylaws? requirements in this case?

(Molly) grievance kicked up to SEUL if decision made by board

- need to form committee or individual appointed by the board to address grievance

(Sam) Do we have to act in certain way?

(Molly) Bylaws in alignment with ONI standards

(Sam) clarification - are we not required to act?

(Molly) Only under unsatisfactory solution

Board members and community members have filed a grievance that they wish to be addressed

(Brian) One of the grievants - position on the matter [transparency provided]

(Ambar) estimate for timeframe to resolve this?

(Reuben) reason its brought up today; 60 days we have so need to vote on the findings of a committee by our next meeting. Time sensitive matter

(Terry) Concerns about setting boundaries for NA

(Sam) reserves concern for communication during this time

(Lotus) open to helping with this process

(Stephanie) think its a great role for NA to go through challenges; if there is a backup group to help them through that process like SEUL that is a positive thing

(Sam) willing to support grievance committee as well

(Reuben) will be in touch with Lotus and Sam about next steps.

Adjourn.