**Southeast Uplift Board Meeting Minutes –**

**January 4, 2021 via** [**Zoom Conference Call**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85135132007)

**[](https://www.seuplift.org/)**

Mission Statement:

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

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Brooklyn – Stuart Zeltzer

Buckman – Ashley Gale

Hosford Abernathy – Charlene Zaharakis

Kerns – Dave Weaver

Montavilla – Lindsey Johnson (Vice Chair)

Mt. Scott Arleta – Tiffany Johnson

Mt. Tabor – Sam Noble

North Tabor – Stephanie Kaza

Richmond – Allen Field

Sunnyside – Ash Hester

Woodstock – Anna Wechsel

Portland Mercado – Ambar Solarte (Treasurer)

Portland Bus Lane Project – Jessie Maran

Portland Community College – Amy Bader

At Large – Miguel Rodriguez

At Large – Estefania Zavala

At Large – Catherine Diaz

82nd Avenue – Nancy Chapin

Foster-Powell – Lotus Romey-Yu (Secretary)

South Tabor – Tina Kimmey (Chair)

**SE Uplift Staff in Attendance:**

Leroy Eadie (Executive Director)

Paola De La Cruz (Communications and Outreach Manager)

Leah Fisher (Neighborhood Planning Program Manager)

Matchu Williams (Community Liaison Program Manager)

Eaen Goss (Office Clerk)

**Guests:**

Matt Lembo (Sunnyside Community Safety and Livability Committee)

**7:00 pm**

**Introductions and Announcements**

**Tina Kimmey**

* **South Tabor:** No announcements
* **Brooklyn:** Had a couple of meetings this month and supported a local food pantry
* **Buckman:** Met in December for virtual holiday party. Marc Jolan (Director of Multnomah County’s Joint Office of Homeless Services) spoke at last meeting
* **HAND:** No Dec meeting. They are hosting a joint event with Mingus Mapps coming up. Contact [chris@eykamp.com](mailto:chris@eykamp.com) to get meeting information
* **Kerns:** Had virtual holiday zoom gathering in December. Their main effort is recruiting people to association. Also working on Sunnyside and SE Uplift Houseless Committees
  + Ask: Outreach help from SE Uplift?
* **Montavilla:** None
* **Mt. Scott-Arletta**: None
* **Mt. Tabor:** No December meeting, no updates
  + Ask for group email regarding Zoom call details for meeting with Mingus Mapps
* **North Tabor:** Two new chairs, lots of good discussions/ideas in meetings. There is a mental health professional coming to speak on impact of COVID in February. Hoping to generate more membership
* **Richmond:** No January meeting
* **Sunnyside:** Talked about eviction moratorium and building preparedness in December meeting, also joined Marc Jolan meeting. Ash gave updates on the work being done by the Sunnyside Community Safety and Livability Committee:
  + Start of city clean-up today with rapid response, Sunnyside is doing camper outreach to relieve stress/provide support
  + Partnered with Stop the Sweeps/starting collaborative dialogue
  + More information on website: <https://sunnysideportland.org/community-safety-livability/>
* **Woodstock:** Two meetings in December. They had a presentation on solar energy at their general meeting and are also working on houseless program in collaboration with churches. There has been a lot of discussion about PPS redraw. They also have a new communication and outreach committee; they had their second meeting
  + They are noticing more attendance now that meetings are online
* **Portland Mercado:** The Mercado is open for pick-up and take-out, new seating area (outside seating) also available. No other updates
* **Portland Bus Lane Project:** None
* **Portland Community College:** Reminder about free COVID tests and flu vaccines at Cascade campus every Wednesday, 11 am – 6 pm, through March 31st . BIPOC folks and people without insurance are prioritized, but anyone can come to get services
  + Ask to talk about PDX Free Fridge – opportunity for SE Uplift to get involved by opening a fridge for the community to leave donations at
* **Miguel/OMSI:** OMSI is still closed. They are hiring for two positions: a part-time accounting position (closes 1/9) and an outdoor education position (remote). Additionally, the 2nd edition of Portland Through a Latinx Lens nearly finished, will be complete at the end of month. The first edition can be viewed here: <https://pdxlatinx.org/zine>
  + Portland Through a Latinx Lens also had several workshops in December, including one with mental health expert
* **Estefania**: None
* **Catherine Diaz:** None
* **82nd Ave:** Planning 82nd Ave clean-up in April
* **Foster-Powell**: Keeping up with shelter, didn’t receive grant for food forest unfortunately

**7:20 pm**

**Approval of July and November Meeting Minutes**

**Tina Kimmey**

**Approving December Minutes:** Allen Field moves to approve, Nancy Chapin seconds

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In Favor: 19** | Dave Weaver, Lindsey Johnson, Stephanie Kaza, Allen Field, Anna Wechsel, Miguel Rodriguez, Stuart Zeltzer, Ashley Gale, Charlene Zaharakis, Tiffany Johnson, Sam Noble, Ash Hester, Ambar Solarte, Amy Bader, Jessie Maran, Catherine Diaz, Nancy Chapin, Lotus Romey-Yu |
| **Opposed: 0** |  |
| **Abstain: 1** | Estefania Zavala |

**7:25 pm**

**SE Staff Updates**

**Communications and Outreach Manager Report – Paola De La Cruz**

* Paola is SEUL’s new Communications and Outreach Manager
* Will be taking over communications grants (and small grants while Matchu is out), please reach out with questions ([paola@seuplift.org](mailto:paola@seuplift.org))
* Runs newsletter, contact with ideas/suggestions

**Tabor Commons Report – Leah Fisher**

* New Tabor Commons tenant selected based on previously identified criteria: Black and Beyond the Binary Collective (BBBC)
* Three top choices made by committee (Leah Fisher, Leroy Eadie, Jessie Maran, Tina Kimmey, and Eaen Goss), narrowed down to BBBC
  + They scored high in all areas of the criteria and SEUL is excited to continue building on this partnership
* BBBC asked for rent reduction, this is reasonable
* Executive committee approved at last meeting
* Leah happy to answer questions
  + Sam: Is the rent something we will discuss more about after COVID?
  + Leah: Rent reduction ask not based on COVID. They do have a grant that will pay their rent for the next 3 years, so we will need rent to stay at fixed rate for now (agreement for 3 years, could change after that)
  + Ambar + Leah: In-kind services are also going to be offered, plus events open to the public
* Leroy: Thank you to committee, feeling good about the opportunity. SEUL is in a good financial position for this

**Houseless Committee Report – Matchu Williams**

* Committee met in December: appointed Stuart Zeltzer as chair and came up with ideas for moving forward
  + Focus on resource sharing
* Eaen primary staff contact going forward while Matchu is on leave
* Mailing list sign-up on website
* Houseless committee added to website and calendar, resource guide being developed
* Next meeting Jan 25, contact [eaen@seuplift.org](mailto:eaen@seuplift.org) for more information

**7:45 pm**

**Sunnyside Safety and Livability Committee Presentation**

**Jessie Maran, Matt Lembo, Ash Hester**

Jes, Matt, and Ash from the Sunnyside Safety and Livability Committee discussed their most recent projects and gave updates:

* Jes: Board adopted Community First Statement – neighborhoods taking responsibility for addressing houselessness within boundaries
  + Community First Draft that SNA endorsed and is posted on their website: <https://sunnysideportland.org/comfirst-draft/>
  + Committee developed 3-4 initiatives
    - Garbage pickup, personal sanitation, porta-potties – working on getting more
    - Currently working to develop ideas for sanctioned camping sites
* Matt: Camp at Laurelhurst swept about a month ago, many folks came to Sunnyside park – the committee has had boots on the ground since.
  + Wanting to create space for neighbors who are dedicated to finding real solutions to houselessness, not just reporting their neighbors
  + Having lots of conversations with local politicians, orgs – there are sanctioned camps already that work. People are stable.
  + Uprooting people and asking them to move but not providing resources continues to compound the issue
* The committee is working to direct Marc Jolan’s office to create more sanctioned campsites: finding land that is disused, abandoned, under-utilized where a temporary sanctioned campsite can exist
  + Emergency action needs to happen, this problem won’t go away otherwise
  + There are a lot of possible properties, need to stand up to developers
* Questions from Anna: How to approach developers? Sizes of sites?
  + Woodstock – using small campsites, having services come out, community spaces (like laundry mat) providing services
  + Matt: This is a bigger community that needs more space, plus people in these communities support each other. Instead of breaking people up, can we find a space where they can be together (10-15 people)?
    - Tricky to figure out details, the city doesn’t need to manage too much besides providing basics. Office of Homelessness should take charge on working with developers.
* Question from Sam: Doesn’t feel owners of properties will be biggest obstacles, but background research is important to make sure empty sites aren’t empty due to environmental issues, etc.
  + Matt: Focusing on big idea, need people to voice support to local government so research can be done
* Stuart: Discussions like this are happening at Houseless Committee, invite everyone to participate on the 25th
  + Matt: Can we appoint members from each neighborhood? Asking for board for consideration
  + Tina: This is something we talked about at the last meeting
  + Stuart: Houseless Committee is planning to collect/vent/facilitate ideas and share with board
* Stephanie: Interest in board adopting Community First Action Statement, wondering about scale (in terms of how many sanctioned campsites we’d need). Concern about addressing structural issues
  + Jes: Goal is not to solve houselessness, focus is on creating more stable housing. This won’t solve structural issues. We won’t be able to get everyone into shelter
* Dave: Encourage everyone to attend Sunnyside and SE Uplift Committees, encourage other existing committees to join. Interest in SE Uplift parking lot as pilot project for tiny houses. Any small vacant lot is potentially useful.
  + Not trying to solve the issue but want to create some kind of break-through. Identifying what works best for what we’re wanting to do. Can we locate places in all our neighborhoods?
  + Leroy: Not a huge hurdle, but we have a conditional use permit for parking. Can we work with the city to soften this requirement?
  + Scale is important, plus neighbor-to-neighbor relationship. SEUL can be part of this conversation, that’s why we have advocacy requests.
* Matt: How can we make things happen now? For the next few years until more assistance is possible
* Ambar: Talked about work done at Hacienda CDC. Anything we can do is going to make a difference.
* Tina: Please mention SEUL Committee to neighborhood association members, will be key to getting information out to everyone

Sunnyside meeting information:

Next meeting will be Thurs. Jan 21st @ 6:30pm. <https://sunnysideportland.org/community-safety-livability/> - the zoom details are not posted yet but will be soon

**8:20 pm**

**Executive Director’s Report**

**Leroy Eadie**

* Proud of work of board and SEUL, looking forward to 2021
* Small grants and communication funds: $43,000 in total
  + Webpage updated with new information: <https://www.seuplift.org/what-we-do/grant-programs/>
  + Good percentage of our budget that we’re giving back to the community, had great grantees
* SEUL staff worked to make grant timelines more consistent so it’s easy to apply. Matchu oversees small grants, but while he’s out Paola will be administering
* Small grants $200-$4,000, average grant $2,000, open 1/1
  + Upcoming workshops
  + Feb 28th deadline, board will approve recipients at April meeting
  + Project completion date 12/31/21
  + Paola available to help with application process
* Comm grants, same timeline process. Grants up to $1,000
* Communication funds, $10,000 going to NAs
  + Every NA has $500 available if they choose to use it. If NAs don’t use funds, they will go to other NAs. NAs can apply for grants on top of these funds
* Matchu: Application forms on the website, if you need these documents translated, let us know
* By-laws committee: Leroy working on getting started, contact him or Tina to join
  + First meeting to talk about process and mission, select a chair
* Allen: Question about fund allocation changes (re: communication funds)
* Sam: Confusion about grants vs funds
* Leroy: Can send out a one-page summary of changes, more explanation

**8:45 pm**

**Finance Committee Report**

**Ambar Solarte**

* Met last month, another meeting this month. Working on checking information about policies plus report for mid-year budget
* Questions about balance sheet?
  + Dave: Unfamiliar with some sponsors listed
    - Current and past projects both listed on sheet, need to figure out the status of them. Will happen in next 6 months, NAs will hear from the committee
  + Email Ambar with questions
* Discussing SWNI audit
  + Will have more information next board meeting
* NAs and fiscal sponsorship – encourage everyone to look through that information

**8:50 pm**

**Final Updates**

**Tina Kimmey**

Board Development Committee Meeting tomorrow at 5:30 pm, Tina sending out invite

**Next meeting 2/1/21 from 7 pm – 9 pm**