

**Southeast Uplift Board Meeting Minutes –
February 1, 2021 via [Zoom Conference Call](#)**



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:

Brentwood-Darlington – Pam Hodge
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
Sellwood-Moreland – Neal Spinler (sub for Jim Friscia)
Sunnyside – Ash Hester
Woodstock – Anna Wechsel
Portland Mercado – Ambar Solarte (Treasurer)
Portland Bus Lane Project – Jessie Maran
Portland Community College – Amy Bader
At Large – Cat Davila
At Large – Estefania Zavala
At Large – Catherine Diaz
At Large – David Gruber
82nd Avenue – Nancy Chapin
South Tabor – Tina Kimmey (Chair)

SE Uplift Staff in Attendance:

Leroy Eadie (Executive Director)
Matchu Williams (Community Liaison Program Manager)
Eaen Goss (Office Clerk)

Guests:

Matt Lembo – Sunnyside Safety and Livability Committee
Jill Reibesehl
Representative Rob Nosse

7:00 pm

Introductions and Announcements

Tina Kimmey

- **South Tabor:** Had monthly meeting with Rep. Rob Nosse attending
- **Brentwood-Darlington:** None
- **Brooklyn:** Had visioning meeting for 2021, Rob also came to speak. Long serving board member stepped down after 20 years, new treasurer.
- **HAND:** Also had Rob speak along with Amanda Fritz at meeting
- **Kerns:** Attended hour long town hall with Mingus Mapps (with HAND). Working on setting up another townhall with Commissioner Hardesty – interest in speaking with more local government officials from the city/county
 - Next Door: working on combining neighborhoods (no longer divided by inner and outer Kerns). Other neighborhoods may have this issue
- **Montavilla:** None
- **Mt. Tabor:** None. Some divisions in neighborhoods could be useful in grouping people (In response to Dave).
- **North Tabor:** Two new chairs working smoothly. Wanting to do newsletter and get mailing list revamped. Working with a neighbor with marketing experience, looking for suggestions/models from other NAs. Event coming up with mental health experts.
- **Richmond:** Chair trying to organize multi-neighborhood event with Commissioner Hardesty.
- **Sunnyside:** NA got shower services running for campers at Sunnyside Park. Hosted winter gear drive with help from SEUL (gear collected on a Saturday and passed out on the next day on Sunday). Navigated two sweeps and hosted trash pick-up event. Coordinating trash pickup event with Hawthorne Business Association. Sunnyside Safety and Livability Committee members spoke at SEUL's Houselessness Action Committee. Board endorsed letter by Rob Nosse. Getting PDX Free Fridge set up with SE Uplift, starting this week.
- **Woodstock:** Newsletter came out today, lots of people signing up. Trying to figure out membership tracking, looking for insight. Annual discussion with Parks and Rec around community center, resulting in some budget clean-up discussions and conversations around COVID-19 related issues. Preparing for plant sale, huge portion of income that goes to caring for the facility. Bingo event for small businesses also going on. Had houselessness and affordable housing discussion – neighbors wanting to know how they can get engaged.
- **SMILE:** NA has been active with new committees, especially events and communications committees. Increasing web security and social media presence. Working on outreach to renters. Church bringing in revenue. Met with someone from Transition Projects to discuss where they needed help – using SMILE Station for a meal prep space. Discussed Rob's letter at last board meeting, not able to support at this time – more research needed.
- **Portland Mercado:** Busy month, Hacienda had a fire at one of their properties. Lost 8 units, needing to find new places for folks to live – doing a drive to collect donations (<https://haciendacdc.org/list-of-in-kind-donations-for-clara-vista-families/>). COVID-19 loss as well. Soup event to raise funds on the Mercado website. Mercado is also distributing PPE for small businesses (<https://haciendacdc.org/empresarios-ppe-distribution-program/>).

- **Mt. Scott Arleta:** NA talking about assisting houseless community members. Looking to what other neighborhoods are doing.
- **Buckman:** No updates but looking to support houseless neighbors.
- **Portland Bus Lane Project:** None
- **Portland Community College:** Cascade Campus usually hosts Black Film Fest, all virtual this year. Opening night this Friday – more info here: <https://www.africanfilmfestival.org/festival/films/>. Portland Through a Latinx Lens 2nd zine about to come out (<https://pdxlatinx.org/zine>). Also sharing an ask for comments on Portland Community Policing Plan (<https://www.portlandmaps.com/bps/mapapp/proposals/#/pccep-cps>). Feedback is not anonymous.
- **Cat:** Current social work grad student at PSU, hoping to do structural analysis of SEUL for a project. Report will be shared with board. Will be reaching out with more information.
- **Estefania:** None
- **Catherine Diaz:** None
- **David Gruber:** None
- **82nd Ave:** Hoping to have clean-up with other neighborhoods, will have more info soon. Interest in creating virtual parade with images from the neighborhood.

7:34 pm

Discussion: Signing on to sanctioned campsite letter

Representative Rob Nosse

- Asking for support of a sentiment – approaching Dan Ryan and Commissioner K (Joint Office of Homelessness) to ask them to take a different approach in regard to camping and sweeps.
 - This has played out a lot during the pandemic – houseless folks camping together start experiencing issues, complaints are made, folks are swept, and the process starts again somewhere else. The sweeps are traumatizing and don't allow for stability – stability is needed for folks to be able to move into permanent housing. Asking city to change the policy for this reason. Needs support from the NAs, joining together to appropriately pressure the city to make the change.
 - Implementation of this is challenging, there are a lot of issues to consider (space for sanctioned campsites, etc.). But right now this is not working for people who have homes and it's not working for our houseless neighbors.
- Sam: Lengthy discussion at NA meeting in Jan., support for services. There is fear/hesitancy to sign on to the letter due to worrying about a snowball effect. Wanting an agreement to figure out how to deal with bad outcomes.
- Rob: Won't move forward if people aren't interested in signing. Backlash (if there is any) will fall on city rather than NAs.
- Tina: Same as other advocacy requests, we're supporting but not liable for a plan
- Allen: NA didn't meet this month, so has to abstain. Did attend other NAs meetings on this, wants city to be open to taking input.
- Neal: Idea was worth exploring more but want more evidence that this is a better way to go. Need more facts and research.
- Stephanie: Powerful policy request if city representatives all signed together. Concerns about accountability – wanting camps to be safe and crime-free.

- Rob: These are conversations that can happen with the implementation phase.
- Charlene: A lot of the same issues came up – did decide to support with provisions of things to consider. Wanting a process or plan for camps that get “out of hand,” wanting them to have proper management, and asking for NAs to have input into camp locations. Wanting to support the concept. Interested in having a pilot project.
- Anna: Rob coming to meeting on Wednesday to discuss further – lots of support in neighborhood. People are afraid of being left without resources/not getting the services needed. People interested in partnering with individual houseless folks.
- Stuart: Brooklyn in support of the spirit and essence of the letter – having further discussions with officials who are directly responsible. The further we get into the details the more questions that come up. Nearly all our neighborhoods are talking about houselessness, there has been an impact.
- Tina: Voting now or next meeting?
- Rob: Helpful suggestions received – interested in improving the letter. Also wanting people to take information back to NAs who haven’t had a chance yet.
- Tiffany: Ask for holding off until neighborhood meets on Wednesday.
 - Other neighborhoods also want to meet first to have these conversations.
- Matt Lembo: Noticing people have different experiences with homelessness in their neighborhoods. Encourage folks to talk to others in Laurelhurst and Sunnyside who have had large encampments. Watching neighbors die on the street, and numbers of houseless neighbors are increasing. This isn’t about coming up with a perfect solution right now by ourselves, this is about sending a message that the current policies aren’t working.
- Ambar: Mercado supporting all the efforts done by the city, plus Hacienda CDC heavily involved as an affordable housing provider. Cannot sign due to Hacienda’s role as a non-profit, but wanting to offer support/find ways to get others to sign on
- Matt: Look at C3PO as example for a sanctioned site that is successful. This is a low bar.
- Allen: Needing revised letter by Wednesday or Thursday.
- Rob: Wanting to wait until all group input is in before revising. Email rep.robnosse@oregonlegislature.gov
- Leroy: Has experience working with sanctioned sites – didn’t work out. Still supportive of letter and concept, things can be done differently. The Board has been talking about this for years, happy to have the ability to collaborate with groups like Sunnyside. If we get behind something, it can take a while to develop the details. Nothing is a cure-all, but we can’t stop trying.
- Jes: Part of this is an educational process. If anyone wants to get involved on the ground or connect there are lots of folks at Sunnyside (her, Ash, Matt) who would love to get in touch

Motion to Table Vote for Next Month (3/1): Allen Field makes a motion, Tiffany Johnson seconds

In Favor: 21	Pam Hodge, Stuart Zeltzer, Ashley Gale, Charlene Zaharakis, Dave Weaver, Lindsey Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, Sam Noble, Stephanie Kaza, Allen Field, Neal Spinler, Ash Hester, Anna Wechsel, Ambar Solarte, Jessie Maran, Amy Bader, Cat Davila,
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	Estefania Zavala, Catherine Diaz, David Gruber, Nancy Chapin
Opposed: 0	
Abstain: 0	

8:00 pm
Approval of January Meeting Minutes
Tina Kimmey

Allen: Substitution in the notes – changing “grants” to funds. Changes made by Eaeen.

Approving January Minutes: Ambar Solarte makes a motion to approve, Lindsey Johnson seconds

In Favor: 17	Stuart Zeltzer, Ashley Gale, Charlene Zaharakis, Dave Weaver, Lindsey Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, Sam Noble, Stephanie Kaza, Allen Field, Ash Hester, Anna Wechsel, Ambar Solarte, Jessie Maran, Amy Bader, Estefania Zavala, Catherine Diaz, Nancy Chapin
Opposed: 0	
Abstain: 3	Pam Hodge, David Gruber, Cat Davila

8:10 pm
Leroy Leaving Update
Tina Kimmey

Leroy’s resignation letter sent out. Thank you for everything, Leroy!

8:15 pm
Breakout Groups

8:30 pm
Executive Director’s Report
Leroy Eadie

Needing approval for Leah to be signer for checking account. Leroy is currently a signer along with Tina, Ambar, and Lotus. Lindsey should also be added at some point.

Motion to approve Leah as a signer: Sam Noble moves, Nancy Chapin seconds

Dave: Can we add Lindsey now?

Motion to amend to add both Leah Fisher and Lindsey Johnson as signers on our First Interstate Bank accounts, including our checking account (ending in 7491) and savings account (ending in 7505): Sam amends motion, Nancy seconds

Allen: Need to make a motion to extend interim director offer to Leah, will do after this vote

In Favor: 20	Pam Hodge, Stuart Zeltzer, Ashley Gale, Charlene Zaharakis, Dave Weaver, Lindsey Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, Sam Noble, Stephanie Kaza, Allen Field, Ash Hester, Anna Wechsel, Ambar Solarte, Jessie Maran, Amy Bader, Cat Davila, Estefania Zavala, Catherine Diaz, David Gruber, Nancy Chapin
Opposed: 0	
Abstain: 0	

Motion to have Leah as interim director until a new director is approved after a director search: Allen Field makes motion

Nancy: Does this prevent Leah from applying?

Sam: Alternative language suggestion – appoint Leah as interim director until the executive committee hires a new director. Can we leave out the part about the search?

Ambar: It all depends on budget for next year, asking Leah to stay as interim until we're sure we have funding

Matchu: Information in by-laws around role of the executive committee in director search confirms their role in the selection process

Allen: Not closing a door to whether the search will happen or not. Wants board to have more input on whether there should be a search or not.

New motion by Allen: **Leah is appointed as Interim Executive Director until an Executive Director is hired.**

Nancy: Board should have input legally

In Favor: 20	Pam Hodge, Stuart Zeltzer, Ashley Gale, Charlene Zaharakis, Dave Weaver, Lindsey Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, Sam Noble, Stephanie Kaza, Allen Field, Ash Hester, Anna Wechsel, Ambar Solarte, Jessie Maran, Amy Bader, Cat Davila,
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	Estefania Zavala, Catherine Diaz, David Gruber, Nancy Chapin
Opposed: 0	
Abstain: 0	

8:40 pm

Further Discussion: Communications Funds vs Grants

Leroy Eadie

- Allen: Learned a lot more since last meeting. Feels that change in funds should have been a policy decision. Asking when and how the decision was made. Would have liked to get this information sooner.
- Tina: It's up to the coalition how communication funds are distributed. We need to support all orgs in SE, not just NAs. We are fulfilling our contract by sharing those funds.
- Charlene: What was the process for how the decision was made? Concerns about lack of transparency.
- Leroy: Staff took guidance from adopted budget and DEIA documents. Every coalition does this differently, staff made decisions to roll out program differently this year. Communication could have been better, staff challenges made planning difficult. As staff doing things this way makes total sense. We should be sharing these resources more broadly. Disagrees that this is a policy decision, but the board can take this up if they choose.
- Tina: Didn't know NAs got different amounts of money until this year.
- Leroy: NAs get a dedicated \$10,000 and can apply for communication grants and small grants. NAs will be very competitive in both grant types.
- Stephanie: Can budget be expanded? Can staff make changes so the drop isn't so extreme?
- Ambar: SE Uplift does not just serve NAs. In our grant agreement we say that funds are available to NAs and orgs. Our communication funds should go to both, this is an operational decision. What Leroy and staff did is amazing but is not required.
- Tiffany: Agrees with Ambar, more of an operation decision than policy decision. NAs shouldn't be entitled to more/getting deference, we should be serving the community.
- Allen: Still believes this is a board decision.
- Jes: Remembers previous board meeting where board discussed that the communication funds would be smaller this year. Already voted on budget and knew grants would be smaller.
- Allen: Worried about audit, SWNI.
- Leroy: There isn't a financial mismanagement issue here, nor are we doing anything outside what the board has approved.
- Tiffany: It sounds like board made decision to approve funding. In her experience, boards authorize budgets but staff operationalizes.

8:58 pm

Committee Reports

Board Members and Staff

Finance Committee

- Ambar – looking at budget to make amendments, working on proposal to amend and updating policies

Houselessness Action Committee (HAC)

- Stuart – last meeting members of Sunnyside's Safety and Livability Committee spoke. Guest speaker from Street Roots at next meeting 2/22 @ 5:30 pm
 - Eaen – Committee changed name back to its original (from Houseless Committee to Houselessness Action Committee). Please get in touch to be added to committee email list (eaen@seuplift.org).
 - Tina: Anyone can join, not limited to board members

Board Development Committee

- Tina – Starting breakout rooms. Reaching out to board members who don't attend meetings. Finding out board member interests. Clarifying how to fill empty board seats outside of July elections.

By-Laws Committee

- Catherine Diaz – First by-laws meeting, talked about process and scope of review

Land Use and Transportation Committee

- Overview of Land Use (orientation) in last meeting

DEIA Workgroup

- Transitioning some of the adopted board documents so they can be signed (letter of commitment). Talked about potential board trainings – DEIA 101 training upcoming

9:05 pm

Final Updates

Tina Kimmey

Note from Leah regarding Interim Executive Director role read by Tina

Next meeting 3/1/21 from 7pm – 9pm