

**Southeast Uplift Board Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 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 – Jill Riebesehl (substitute for Charlene Z.)  
Foster-Powell – Lotus Romey-Yu (Secretary)  
Kerns – Dave Weaver  
Laurelhurst - Janet McManus (substitute for John L.)  
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 Community College – Amy Bader  
Portland Bus Lane Project – Jessie Maran  
At Large – Cat Davila  
At Large – Estefania Zavala  
At Large – Catherine Diaz  
82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue – Nancy Chapin  
South Tabor – Tina Kimmey (Chair)

**SE Uplift Staff in Attendance:**

Leah Fisher (Interim Executive Director)  
Paola De La Cruz (Communications and Outreach Manager)  
Eaen Goss (Operations Manager)  
Matchu Williams (Community Liaison Program Manager)  
Alexander McPherson (Neighborhood Planning Program Manager)

**Guests:**

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

Kristin Johnson (Commissioner Hardesty's Office)  
Cliff Jones (Guest Presenter from Capacity Building Partnerships)  
Debby Hochhalter (RNA Chair)  
Linda Nettekoven (HAND)  
Claire Cofsky  
Regina Winkler  
Roger Jones  
Doug Klotz  
John Laursen  
Midge Pierce

**7:00 pm**  
**Introductions and Announcements**  
**Via Zoom Chat**

This section is copied verbatim from the Zoom chat:

**Jill Riebesehl:** Just want SEUL board to know know I'm representing **HAND** tonight in Charlene Zaharakis' place.

**Dave Weaver: Kerns NA** has been working on a variety of projects: houselessness discussions, neighborhood cleanups, placemaking initiatives, neighborhood outreach.

**Amy Bader: PCC** is hosting a virtual fundraiser, in lieu of the annual gala. It will take place on Saturday, April 10, 7-8pm. It will be broadcast at [pcc.edu/tomorrowtogether](http://pcc.edu/tomorrowtogether) and on KOIN 6 - if you are able to join!

**Nancy Chapin, 82nd Ave BA** working on Cleanup East of I-84 on 82nd Ave.

**Ambar Solarte (Ella, she, her) Portland Mercado - Hacienda CDC.**

**Catherine Diaz, she/her, SEUL member at large**, no announcements

**Kristin Johnson, she/her, Commissioner Hardesty's Financial Policy Advisor**

**Lindsey Johnson, she/her, Montavilla NA**

**Estefania (she/her), At-large.** No announcements!

**Lotus (she/her):** In **Foster-Powell**, our work to provide dinners to the shelters in our area is growing and expanding. We have started receiving volunteers from other neighborhoods, so I would like to extend the invitation to y'all as well. Please let your NAs know that if they would like to plug in to volunteering to help provide dinners to the shelters, send an email to [volunteer@fosterpowell.com](mailto:volunteer@fosterpowell.com) for more details and to sign up.

We provide dinners on the first 3 Sundays of every month, and we will reimburse your cost for groceries.

**Anna Weichsel, Woodstock NA** is working on Microclimate improvements on unimproved roads, transportation and business growth management project, outreach to community for right-of-way spaces.

**Ash (she/her) w/ Sunnyside NA:** Working on clean-up volunteer schedules, offering a 3rd day of showers for campers (Tues/Thurs/Sat) and working with PDX Main Streets for the Belmont business area.

**Ashley Gale - Buckman NA** Our only announcement is that Sam Adams is coming to our meeting this week.

Hello Everyone, **Linda Nettekoven (she/her/hers) HAND Neighborhood**, former SE Uplift Board member.

**Tiffany Johnson (she/her) Mt Scott Arleta NA**

Ashley Gale: If anyone would like to join, you are welcome! I can get you meeting details.

**Stephanie Kaza, NTNA:** North Tabor hosted Greg Courget of Portland Clean Air at our last meeting, highly recommend. They are interested in connecting with all NAs to help support clean air activism in Portland. Great speaker and important work.

**7:05 pm**

**Q&A with Commissioner Hardesty**

**Commissioner Hardesty**

- Seeing people come together during COVID
- City council now a majority POC
- Overseeing large bureaus, including Civic Life
- Pandemic pointed out existing inequities, we need to be ready to a new normal
  - o Funding cuts incoming
  - o Increasing numbers of houseless folks as government (pandemic) resources begin going away
- **Q: Share with this group how systemic racism/inequity (?) works to oppress people outside of the majority population and how decision-makers (e.g. Non-profit boards) can take action to end this oppression? *E.g. updating policies to be more inclusive, stepping down from positions of power to create space for more diverse leadership, reallocating resources, etc.***
  - o City policy created to benefit white folks, institutional racism at play
  - o Policies that are supposed to benefit all end up benefitting the status quo
- **Q: Coalitions are independent 501C3s that provide a variety of capacity building support and resources to enhance civic engagement and empower community members and groups to engage with government and community - this work evolves as community needs evolve and change. However, we are also part of a larger Neighborhood System, with policies and code that has not been updated in over a decade to reflect current values or best practices - *what recommendations do you have for SE Uplift as it thinks about who and how it serves community through its programming* (small grants, advocacy support, civic engagement, leadership development, fiscal sponsorship, trainings etc.). *What recommendations do you have for our Board as they think about the future of this organization?***
  - o Doing a lot of thinking/talking to folks about the Office of Civic Life and the support provided to NAs
  - o What is happening today doesn't work
    - There is still a lot of hurt/anger/disappointment in code change process
    - Will be implementing standards and training for all neighborhoods
  - o SE Uplift is rare in that we don't just represent NAs, serves as a model for other coalition offices
  - o More clear direction coming within 60 days

- **Q: Do you know of an example of an institution that realized, like all institutions that were developed during a time when decision-makers were predominately white and predominately male, it may need to reinvent itself to better serve its community and realize its mission?**
  - o No organization is not based in white supremacy, but they can do inclusion work (it is not easy to change)
    - Example of past workplace changing board structure
    - Changing policies to ensure POC folks have positions of power
    - These processes need work to make them real, and they take time
- **Q: If the city charter review recommends switching to ward representation formally through voting, what do you think that would mean for NAs who have been somewhat informally filling that role but with no legal authority?**
  - o Changing governance doesn't necessarily change organizational culture
    - Setting expectations
- **Q: In the past the Coalition contracts were renewed for 5 yr terms. The contracts were renewed last year for 1 year and is up for renewal this June. Will it be another 1 yr renewal or can it be a 3yr renewal. We will be searching for an Executive Director but a 1 yr contract makes it hard to hire staff.**
  - o Because of budget it will be a 1-year contract
  - o Next year is going to be the hard year, trying to be fiscally responsible now
- **Q: Is there a new template for applications to advisory boards in the works? The one that exists is quite challenging for immigrants and BIPOC**
  - o Before another advisory board is created, we need to make sure the ones that exist right now are functional
  - o Legal hurdles to stipends (no more than \$500 a year)
  - o Challenging to make changes city-wide, need to look at all committees
- **Q: How can NAs that are providing services to our houseless residents best provide and receive support from OCCL for establishing safe camping sites, trash pick up, food support, and other services?**
  - o Not sure how graffiti and noise programs fit in Civic Life, getting more focused on mission
  - o More information on changes coming soon
- **Q: Can OCCL help facilitate advance communication from HUCIRP when sweeps are planned? We can better support our houseless residents if we have advance and dependable information.**
  - o Sweeps harmful
  - o Health hazards around camps, should be helping folks clean up
    - Behind creation of outdoor camps like C3P0
  - o Changing land use law so there are more options available for self-managed camps
  - o No matter what, there will still be people camping in unsanctioned places. We do not need enforcement actions on people who are just needing a place to lay their head

- We have created the situation where people are without a safe place to stay, but land use change will at least help identify places where people can be
    - Many options like church parking lots
  - We have never treated this like the disaster it is, COVID highlighted the magnitude of this issue
- **Q: When will Portland hire a city manager?**
  - Charter changes impact elected officials
  - Process can take a decade (before changes can be seen)
  - Would like to see democracy made more accessible than this, it is who we elect that matters rather than the form of government

**7:45 pm**

### **DEIA 101 Training Part 2**

#### **Cliff Jones, Consulting Partner at Capacity Building Partnerships**

Second part of DEIA 101 training, focused on how to apply knowledge from [scenarios](#) from first training. [Presentation slides](#)

**8:50 pm**

### **Executive Director Report**

**Leah Fisher**

- Sent out staff reports via email due to crunch for time
- More information regarding communication funds upcoming
- Orientation on May 26<sup>th</sup> (will be recorded)
- More on Leah's background in policy change and public health
- Very busy, training new staff and taking over ED role
  - Shopping for insurance due to issues with current provider
  - Working on budget for next year
  - Working with Civic Life to shape grant
- Will be in role until we receive grant, will start hiring process in summer

**8:55 pm**

### **Approval of Financial Management Policies**

#### **Finance Committee – Ambar Solarte, Chair**

- Finance committee has been working on updating financial management document since Dec. of last year
  - Made changes to document (sent to board with agenda) to clarify roles and internal processes
- Roger Jones: Has a CPA reviewed this?
  - Working with our bookkeeper, no changes to accounting
- Roger: Question about language around audit
  - We haven't had an audit for a long time
  - Leah: Financial Audits costs approximately 10-15K and we will be exploring paying for that next budget year
- Dave: Will there be a chance to make amendments?

- Yes, there needs to be a process for updating those policies when changes are made
  - If there is a need, changes will be brought to board
- Dave: Could we take a vote to call for an audit?
  - Ambar: We can put it in the budget

**Approving Financial Management Policies:** Ambar Solarte (Finance Committee) makes a motion to approve, Nancy Chapin seconds

<b>In Favor: 17</b>	Pam Hodge, Stuart Zeltzer, Ashley Gale, Jill Riebesehl, Dave Weaver, Lindsey Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, Sam Noble, Ash Hester, Anna Weichsel, Ambar Solarte, Amy Bader, Estefania Zavala, Catherine Diaz, Nancy Chapin
<b>Opposed: 0</b>	
<b>Abstain: 2</b>	Allen Field, Cat Davila

Reminder: Finance Committee meeting 4/22 at 9:30 am  
 - Next session about the budget

**9:00 pm**

**Still in Prison Committee Request and Committee Reports**

**Leah Fisher**

- Leah passing along opportunity for supporting police reform/restorative justice
- Connect with Leah if you're interested
- Board Development Committee also looking for volunteers, contact Tina
- Houselessness Action Committee: went over mission, heard about We Shine (<https://weshinepdx.org>)

**9:05 pm**

**Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

**Tina Kimmey**

**Approving March 2021 Minutes:** Estefania Zavala makes a motion to approve, Lindsey Johnson seconds

<b>In Favor: 17</b>	Pam Hodge, Stuart Zeltzer, Ashley Gale, Jill Riebesehl, Dave Weaver, Lindsey Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, Sam Noble, Allen Field, Ash Hester, Anna Weichsel, Ambar Solarte, Amy Bader, Cat Davilla, Estefania Zavala, Catherine Diaz, Nancy Chapin
<b>Opposed: 0</b>	
<b>Abstain: 2</b>	Lotus Romey-Yu, Jessie Maran

**9:10 pm**  
**Wrapping up**  
**Tina Kimmey**

**Next Meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm – 9:15 pm**

- Allen: Return to in person meetings?
- Tina: That will be something we're talking about soon
- Doug: Virtual meetings are helpful too

## **Addendum A: Zoom Chat**

19:00:54 From Lindsey, she/her to Everyone: Camera isn't working, brb

19:02:05 From Jill Riebesehl to Everyone: Just want SEUL board to know know I'm representing HAND tonight in Charlene Zaharakis' place.

19:02:54 From Dave Weaver to Everyone: Kerns NA has been working on a variety of projects: houselessness discussions, neighborhood cleanups, placemaking initiatives, neighborhood outreach.

19:03:29 From Amy Bader to Everyone: PCC is hosting a virtual fundraiser, in lieu of the annual gala. It will take place on Saturday, April 10, 7-8pm. It will be broadcast at [pcc.edu/tomorrowtogether](http://pcc.edu/tomorrowtogether) and on KOIN 6 - if you are able to join!

19:03:40 From Nancy Chapin to Everyone: Nancy Chapin, 82nd Ave BA working on Cleanup East of I-84 on 82nd Ave.

19:05:04 From Ambar Solarte (ella, she, her) to Everyone: Ambar Solarte (Ella, she, her) Portland Mercado - Hacienda CDC.

19:05:17 From Catherine Diaz | she/her | OMSI to Everyone: Catherine Diaz, she/her, SEUL member at large, no announcements

19:05:25 From Kristin Johnson (she/her) to Everyone: Kristin Johnson, she/her, Commissioner Hardesty's Financial Policy Advisor

19:05:28 From Lindsey, she/her, Montavilla NA to Everyone: Lindsey Johnson, she/her, Montavilla NA

19:05:29 From Estefania Zavala to Everyone: Estefania (she/her), At-large. No announcements!

19:05:35 From Lotus (she/her) to Everyone: In Foster-Powell, our work to provide dinners to the shelters in our area is growing and expanding. We have started receiving volunteers from other neighborhoods, so I would like to extend the invitation to y'all as well. Please let your NAs know that if they would like to plug in to volunteering to help provide dinners to the shelters, send an email to [volunteer@fosterpowell.com](mailto:volunteer@fosterpowell.com) for more details and to sign up.

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19:06:21 From Anna Weichsel to Everyone: Anna Weichsel, Woodstock NA is working on Microclimate improvements on unimproved roads, transportation and business growth management project, outreach to community for right-of-way spaces.

19:06:29 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone: Ash (she/her) w/ Sunnyside NA: Working on clean-up volunteer schedules, offering a 3rd day of showers for campers (Tues/Thurs/Sat) and working with PDX Main Streets for the Belmont business area.

19:06:32 From Ashley Gale (she/her) to Everyone: Ashley Gale - Buckman NA Our only announcement is that Sam Adams is coming to our meeting this week.

19:06:58 From Linda Nettekoven to Everyone: Hello Everyone, Linda Nettekoven (she/her/hers) HAND Neighborhood, former SE Uplift Board member.

19:06:59 From Tiffany (she/hers) to Everyone: Tiffany Johnson (she/her) Mt Scott Arleta NA

19:06:59 From Ashley Gale (she/her) to Everyone: If anyone would like to join, you are welcome! I can get you meeting details.

19:07:00 From Stephanie Kaza, NTNA to Everyone: North Tabor hosted Greg Courget of Portland Clean Air at our last meeting, highly recommend. They are interested in connecting with all NAs to help support clean air activism in Portland. Great speaker and important work.

19:14:23 From Allen Field, Richmond NA to Everyone: Tina: I have a question to ask about the role of Coalitions



19:18:25 From Anna Weichsel to Everyone: I have two questions: 1. Is there a new template for applications to advisory boards in the works? the one that exists is quite challenging for immigrants and BIPOC. 2. How is the future for liability insurance for organisations working in the community (NAs and otherwise). How can we work safely on projects?

19:31:05 From Matchu Williams (he,his,him) to Everyone : Advisory Board Application (2019) <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/cbo/article/619770>

19:32:00 From Kristin Johnson (she/her) to Everyone: \$500

19:32:07 From Kristin Johnson (she/her) to Everyone: a year

19:35:24 From Roger Jones to Everyone: Please comment on the Civic Life behavior about possible harassment of press. Specifically the NW Examiner. Thanks Commissioner.

19:54:01 From Clifford Jones to Everyone:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uzyoqddIGXPgvBPasGIzcnSuJmlYGnKwrVocaaXZCm0/edit>

19:58:37 From Eaen (they/he) to Everyone: Scenario 1: group 1 and 6, Scenario 2: group 2 and 7, Scenario 3: group 3 and 8, Scenario 4: group 4 and 9, Scenario 5: group 5 and 10

20:26:32 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone: Could the moderator please mute everyone who's not talking please?

20:44:38 From Clifford Jones to Everyone: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/12kLcetrMQ-glOF2iLVwOlcTynVkWJ5-z9ZbAB7Ebik/edit?usp=sharing>

20:48:08 From Estefania Zavala to Everyone: Thanks Cliff!

20:48:23 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone: Thank you Cliff!!

20:48:25 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone: Thanks, Cliff! Really appreciate the work you share with us!

20:53:49 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone: Excited to have you leading us, Leah!

20:55:29 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone: 5 staff but 4 .5 FTE : )

20:59:45 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone: Financial Audits costs approximately 10-15K and we will be exploring paying for that next budget year.

21:04:58 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone: Also FYI - SE Uplift hasn't had a function finance committee in my time here until the last year and a half. As long as that is maintained, there will likely be more regular updates to our Finance Policies. Thanks all!

21:06:05 From Allen Field, Richmond NA to Everyone: Tina: Can you send out the audio recording of this meeting? Some people who wanted to attend to hear Hardesty couldn't login. They want to hear what she said.

21:06:12 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone: [weshinepdx.org](http://weshinepdx.org)

21:06:20 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone: <https://weshinepdx.org>

21:07:47 From Roger Jones to Everyone: SEUL may wish to explore an audit-lite. Technically called an annual Financial Review performed by a CPA. The cost is much more reasonable but the effect is good.

21:08:13 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone: Good idea Roger - thanks for the suggestion

21:08:14 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone: Thanks Roger!

21:09:12 From Eaen (they/he) to Everyone: We can do both! We have the technology.

21:09:31 From Tiffany (she/hers) to Everyone: Please do both! I wouldn't be able to make it without virtual

21:09:33 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone: We need to figure out a hybrid option. Larger discussion.

21:09:40 From Anna Weichsel to Everyone: Yes, a hybrid would be good