Southeast Uplift Board Meeting Minutes July 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm - 9:15 pm 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 - Kimberly DiLeo Brooklyn – Tim Walsh (substitute) Kerns - Dave Weaver Montavilla – Lindsey Johnson (Vice Chair) Mt. Tabor – Jim Pierce Richmond – Allen Field (substitute) Sunnyside – Ash Hester Woodstock - Anna Weichsel At Large – Cat Davila At Large – Catherine Diaz 82nd Avenue – Nancy Chapin

SE Uplift Staff in Attendance:

South Tabor – Tina Kimmey (Chair)

Leah Fisher (Interim Executive Director) Eaen Goss (Operations Manager) Matchu Williams (Community Liaison Program Manager)

Guests:

Chrystal Brim (Inner SE Action) Kat West (Inner SE Action) - new board member, seated during meeting Agnes Zach (Nonprofit Professionals Now) Jacob Loeb (Montavilla) Vincent Dawans (Sunnyside)

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

This section is copied verbatim from the Zoom chat:

Kat West: Hello! Just an FYI that **Inner Southeast Action** and Oregon Walks are leading a community awareness and advocacy effort to save the Fred Meyer Hawthorne Pedestrian Entrance. Contact innersoutheastaction@gmail.com to get involved!

Anna Weichsel Woodstock na: board meeting tomorrow, Right-Of-Way projects in work, fundraised \$3000 to help purchase and install for wheelchair ramp at the Woodstock Community Center, we will hold an outside in-person meeting in September to kick-off the opening of the center (hopefully nothing will get us back into lockdown)

Chrystal Brim: Also the long-delayed street painting project which **Inner SE Action** co-created is on the intersection at 30th and Lincoln along the greenway. Check it out when you get a chance

Ash ~ Sunnyside NA: We held our board elections, great turnout and have 5 new board members, DEIA committee is working with BABA on the Belmont Street Fair, we have 80% coverage on Adopt One Block.

Matchu Williams (he,his,him): Applications open August 6

The online application for the 2022 cycle of Metro's Community Placemaking grants will be available for eight weeks, beginning August 6 through October 1 at noon. Up to \$193,000 will be awarded in grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for community-led, equity-centered, art and culture-based efforts in the Portland region that strengthen people's connections to each other and the places they care about. https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/community-placemaking-grants

Allen Field: Richmond is working with developer on 55 unit micro-apartments next to Central Christian Church with design suggestions and net-zero ideas. Ann Sandvig, a new RNA Bd member is the RNA rep, and I am the Alternate. She can't be here tonight, so I'm filling the rep. role

Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him: Kerns NA is working on a number of projects: outreach postcard to community to work on growing our organization, placemaking initiative for Kerns, neighborhood cleanups and working with WeShine on houselessness initiatives.

7:05 pm

Approving At-Large, Organization, and Business Association Board Members Tina Kimmey

- Yearly process, board development committee receives applications and brings those to the board. Only received a few applications this year (applicants sent out to board prior to meeting). Board members to be voted on:
 - Jessie Maran
 - Cat Davila
 - Catherine Diaz
 - Kimberlea Ruffu
 - Shazia Abdulla
 - o PCC; Amy Bader
 - Inner SE Action; Kat West (Alternate Chrystal Brim)
 - Nancy Chapin
- Per SEUL's bylaws, board members who have not attended 3 or more meetings are not considered in quorum, so quorum is met. NOTE: As of 7/13 and prior to this vote, SEUL had 19 eligible representatives, not including the chair. The following neighborhoods do not have current representatives: Ardenwald-Johnson Creek, Creston-Kenilworth, Eastmoreland, and Reed. SMILE is also currently ineligible to vote per SEUL's bylaws.

Approving Board Members: Motion to vote on new representatives – Nancy Chapin motions. Lindsey Johnson seconds

In Favor: 7	
Opposed: 0	
Abstain: 3	

Motion to seat new board members: Dave Weaver motions to seat them now, Ash Hester seconds

In Favor: 7	
Opposed: 0	
Abstain: 3	

7:25 pm

Presentation: Organizational Overview & Challenges Cat Davila

- Cat has been an at-large board member for 4 years, starting 5th year. Not representing any group, only own positions. Grad student at Portland State's School of Social Work. Sharing structural analysis presentation that she put together as part of an assignment
 - Looking at how an organization is impacted by its structure and how its work in the community is impacted by that structure
- Results are representative of her experiences and perspectives. Can share full paper, presentation focused on highlights and potential interventions
- Recommended the following internal interventions:
 - o Developing organizational identity and institutional memory
 - Understanding SE Uplift as a "macro social work organization" community empowerment work is a form of social work
 - Learning and incorporating principles of anti-oppressive practice, good framework to look to around going deeper into this work
 - Equalize and strengthening board member accountability inequitable power dynamic around who can be removed, this needs to be addressed
 - Size of board and status of members is challenging, needs balance of different kinds of roles
 - Develop internship program current staff is too small to fulfill the mission of the organization
- Recommended external interventions:
 - Neighborhood Needs Program decommissioned in the 90s, SEUL could be a site for reimaging this – could bridge divide between communities and government
 - Develop role as platform for consensus building space for diverse stakeholders to build solidarity and collective voice (example of early 2000s Diversity and Representation Committee)
 - Strengthen partnership with other district coalition offices
- Allen: Question about inequity in board elections/roles
- Anna: Mentioned issue with Neighbor Needs Program being restarted in the past. Asked
 if Cat observed how the communication trickles down from city government
 - o Cat: Wasn't much time in the assignment to do that, but it's an important point

 Anna: Internship suggestion is really great, city has summer internship program – maybe that could be applied to SE Uplift

7:45 pm

Executive Director Search Recommendation & Approval of Job Descriptions and Positions

Agnes Zach (Nonprofit Professionals Now) and Tina Kimmey

- NPN did interviews with staff and Executive Committee to see what needs to happen with the position – how can they fill it in a way that meets the needs of the people in the organization?
 - There is a lot of work to do, staff is doing the work of the organization and the board is quite large. Board wants more connection with each other and wants to see the vision of the organization. They need more support.
- Proposal to break the Executive Director position into 2 pieces. Overtime, jobs become too much for an individual person to succeed
 - Position 1: Administrative Director (fulfilling the role of the active Executive Director, oversees day to day functioning and supporting staff)
 - Position 2: Board facilitator (focused on helping the board function well).
 Recommends this person being a consultant who reports to the ED and board chair, likely a temporary position
- Is there interest/support for separating the ED role into 2 different positions?
 - Allen: Issues with changing ED title in bylaws
 - Ash: Why is this an issue if we're updating our bylaws?
 - Allen: We could change the bylaws but not if we're hiring someone right away
 - Tina: We can choose different titles, it's all about attracting folks to the role
 - Jim: Surprised there wasn't more input from the board members. Why were they not communicated with?
 - Agnes: There was a limited amount of hours they could spend connecting with people, so they chose to connect with folks who were in leadership positions. Could do a survey now
 - Jim: There is a trust issue here. Also cannot vote on anything (including job descriptions) until he speaks to his neighborhood first
 - Agnes: Finalists will have an opportunity to talk to the full board
 - Jim: Board should decide what kind of staff leadership they want and who it is going to be
 - Leah: Checking with leadership and staff is standard practice, but wanted to bring this to the board especially because we are looking at splitting this into 2 positions
 - We don't have until September to be making these decisions, board members are on this board representing this organization
 - Tina: Agnes is here to make sure we can mitigate risk. According to Jim's bylaws, he can vote according to his discretion on general issues (unless NA has taken a position)
 - Jim: Disagrees
 - Dave: Questions about pay rate for consultants, adds up to a lot of money for the budget

- Leah: We can talk about the money, happy to go through how we can pay for this
- Dave: Could we increase the pay for a single ED role?
- Agnes: This was considered, but doesn't make a ton of sense for the structure of our organization (this is a skills-based role) – the ED has lost the ability to do strategic work
- Anna: We are going into a very intense period of change. It would do us a favor to have 2 positions where someone is very focused on strategic planning and needs assessments
- Allen: Board facilitator role no desired qualifications listed, those are needed
 - Agnes: This is likely going to be more of a RFP process, will be setting up criteria/ranking to review applications
 - Allen: Would like a scoring system for board to fill out that is considered in hiring
- Kat: Can we apply Cat's presentation to this? Understanding DEIA and privilege are going to be really important
 - Agnes: Will need to do real research and ask interview questions about this
- Agnes: There are many examples of split positions in orgs of all sizes, like arts organizations (ED and Arts Director)
- Leah: Board already approved budget for the year, so it will need to be adjusted at the next meeting in September. Met with Kris (SE Uplift's bookkeeper) this morning: we received 5% of budget back and \$62,000 for small grants, came up with \$25-30,000 from existing budget. Finance Committee has also been working on reserve policy, so it is possible to dip into reserves (about \$50,000 in excess reserves). Consulting position would be \$56,000 per year this is an investment in our future and will reduce turnover (which is expensive). We can afford this on a short-term basis
 - Feels like a good solution based on 5 years of experience and time in interim ED role
- Tina: Have had a lot of conversations around strategic planning that we were planning on hiring out for, this could save us funds in that area
- Dave: Comments made around staff being overworked, we are missing a staff member also. Are we going to add any more positions?
 - Leah: There used to be 5.5 FTE but positions were cut when community cleanups went away. Salaries were increased instead of hiring new folks. New ED could help bring in funding to hire more staff – we don't currently have this ability
- Allen: Surprised that positions report to board chair and not board
 - Agnes: SE Uplift does not have an HR committee, so it becomes the chair's role.
 Need to create a leadership team for this person to interact with, but they will obviously be engaging with full board. Needs mechanism to resolve conflicts, have discussions regularly, etc.

Motion to Approve Splitting Executive Director position into 2 positions (Director and Board Facilitator): Anna Weichsel moves, Ash Hester seconds

In Favor: 10	
Opposed: 1	
Abstain: 1	

Executive Director's Report Leah Fisher

- Building has been taking up a lot of time, ask for board volunteers to help with building maintenance and upkeep
- Eaen leading effort to incrementally open community meeting spaces again, following CDC and WHO guidelines
- LU position still vacant, NACN hosted meeting last month, canceling July and August
 - Leah doing basic needed activities but cannot commit to more
 - LU leadership program delayed until fall
- Matchu wrapping up large fiscal sponsorship projects
- Grant agreement was approved by grants manager, moving to city attorney. Insurance waiver is likely approved. Budget was approved but now needs to be updated
- Wrapping up books from last fiscal year (ended June 30), came in on target budget-wise despite unknowns of the pandemic
- Sent out a ton of attachments in emails to board
- Information about white supremacy culture has gone out, assessments sent out to board
- Jim: When can the board expect to get updated versions of new positions?
 - Leah: There probably won't be a lot of changes to the ones already sent out, mostly minor.
- Discussion around continued conversations with white supremacy request for facilitation from Jim
 - Anna: Understands the request but also there are areas of life where we don't have a facilitator present. Recommends a workgroup to create a code of conduct, have someone who observes and interrupts. These conversations shouldn't be had over email
 - o Leah: We need to keep having these conversations in constructive ways
 - o Kim: Is there going to be follow-up training to the Interrupting Harm workshop?
 - Leah: We are planning on this, have received a lot of feedback and requests and haven't had a ton of time to review
 - DEIA commitments that board approved will be shared with everyone to be signed soon

8:35 pm

Shared Dumpster Proposal (SNA) Vincent Dawans, Ash Hester, Jacob Loeb

- Jacob (Montavilla): participates in SOLVE and does cleanups for 82nd Ave. There is a bottleneck in terms of adequately dealing with trash with the city. Trying to strategize on how to address taking care of trash
 - o Adopt One Block has taken some pressure off, but there is still a need
 - City dumpster program is likely about to be re-instated there is an opportunity to reimagine where that funding goes
 - Opportunity for year-round community dumpsters what would it take to create this? Need to ask the city to look at the program differently
- Vincent (Sunnyside): looking for a more coordinated approach from the various neighborhoods. Are there other neighborhoods who would be interest in collaborating? Are there other cleanup coordinators? What does that look like? Could this be based on need?

- If they can convince the city to change their program (even to rotate dumpsters through neighborhoods) the program may be more on-going
- Ash: immediate action can be taken, having a temporary dumpster at SE Uplift that local NAs can use (could pay for the dumpster together)
- Jacob: It's hard to do a cleanup when there isn't a way to get rid of trash. It's important to
 make sure more than just 2 neighborhoods on board. Need to get a network together
 and then get the dumpster in place. City needs to see that there's a need and a wellorganized group behind it
- Allen: Richmond has been doing a big cleanup for 15+ years, definitely wants to be involved
- Tina: We can send something out to all NAs to begin collecting information
- Jacob: Want to create a core program around SE Uplift, alleviating pressure and building up a program. Spreading knowledge that he and Vincent have gained
- RID (Metro's program) is overrun, doing a lot of small cleanups. NAs could collect that trash so RID can focus on much bigger things (cars, couches, etc.) – we can also notify the program when things have been cleaned up to increase their capacity
- Allen would like a proposal in writing
 - Jacob: That is possible. Could vote on agreement to start hosting a dumpster today
- Vincent: Some funding for SEUL dumpster could be available from city already. Need to get the word out to other SE neighborhoods and see where things are at. We can definitely make the dumpster happen at this point, but it should be more than 2 neighborhoods (at least 5 or 6)
- Leah: SE Uplift has contacts with past clean-up coordinators. SEUL is not able to pay and wants to make sure trash situation doesn't negatively impact our space, but otherwise this is a good idea
- Ash: Adopt a Block can be assigned to SE Uplift so it wouldn't create additional trash
- Vincent: Wants message to go to community, not just NAs. Ask for representatives to put the word out, help with building network. Next step is to have a conversation with that small group
- Tina: Staff can manage logistics of getting the dumpster place, no need for a board vote

9:05 pm

Approval of June Meeting Minutes Tina Kimmey

• June minutes updated to include that Charlene Z. was present

Approving June 2021 Minutes: Nancy Chapin makes a motion to approve, Anna Weichsel seconds

In Favor: 7	
Opposed: 0	
Abstain: 3	

9:07 pm

September Meeting Change

Tina Kimmey

• Need to change September's meeting date due to Labor Day, Tina suggests 9/7

Motion to change September meeting date to 9/7: Allen Field moves, Nancy Chapin seconds

In Favor: 9	
Opposed: 0	
Abstain: 1	

9:10 pm Committee Updates Multiple Speakers

- **Finance Committee (Anna):** Went over finances with Kris last week, everything looks good. Now have monthly check issuances instead of biweekly, discussing reserve policy hoping to go through over the summer. Hoping to have more discussions around fiscal sponsorship program. Need for more members, especially from NAs.
- Houselessness Action Committee: Did not meet due to heatwave
- **Bylaws:** Postponing for a few months
- Board Development (Tina): Did not meet
- Land Use and Transportation (Leah): Meetings for July and August are canceled

No August board meeting. We will be having a mixer event instead with small grants recipients. More information to come soon!

Next Meeting: September 7th from 7 pm – 9pm

Addendum A: Zoom Chat

- 19:02:49 From kat west to Everyone: Hello! Just an FYI that Inner Southeast Action and Oregon Walks are leading a community awareness and advocacy effort to save the Fred Meyer Hawthorne Pedestrian Entrance. Contact innersoutheastaction@gmail.com to get involved! 19:04:29 From Anna Weichsel to Everyone: Anna Weichsel Woodstock na: board meeting tomorrow, Right-Of-Way projects in work, fundraised \$3000 to help purchase and install for wheelchair ramp at the Woodstock Community Center, we will hold an outside in-person meeting in September to kick-off the opening of the center (hopefully nothing will get us back into lockdown)
- 19:04:34 From Chrystal Brim to Everyone : Also the long-delayed street painting project which Inner SE Action co-created is on the intersection at 30th and Lincoln along the greenway. Check it out when you get a chance
- 19:05:14 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone : Ash ~ Sunnyside NA: We held our board elections, great turnout and have 5 new board members, DEIA committee is working with BABA on the Belmont Street Fair, we have 80% coverage on Adopt One Block.
- 19:05:17 From Matchu Williams (he,his,him) to Everyone: Applications open August 6 The online application for the 2022 cycle of Metro's Community Placemaking grants will be available for eight weeks, beginning August 6 through October 1 at noon. Up to \$193,000 will be awarded in grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for community-led, equity-centered, art and culture based efforts in the Portland region that strengthen people's connections to each other and the places they care about.
- 19:05:19 From Matchu Williams (he,his,him) to Everyone : https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/community-placemaking-grants
- 19:06:25 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone: Richmond is working with developer on 55 unit micro-apartments next to Central Christian Church with design suggestions and net-zero ideas. Ann Sandvig, a new RNA Bd member is the RNA rep, and I am the Alternate. She can't be here tonight, so I'm filling the rep. role
- 19:06:30 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone: Kerns NA is working on a number of projects: outreach postcard to community to work on growing our organization, placemaking initiative for Kerns, neighborhood cleanups and working with WeShine on houselessness initiatives.
- 19:08:09 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone: Is there a guorum?
- 19:08:48 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : Only 9 Bd members, doesn't look like a quorum
- 19:09:31 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone : Laurelhurst NA is meeting right now so probably why Jan isn't here
- 19:09:44 From Eaen (they/he) to Everyone : Stephanie also couldn't make it because of the date change
- 19:12:43 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone: I abstain on the 1st vote
- 19:15:11 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : The SEUL Board list on the website shows 19 board member reps. So, quorum is an issue.
- 19:15:47 From Eaen (they/he) to Everyone : seuplift.info@gmail.com
- 19:16:13 From Tina K, Chair, South Tabor (she/her) to Everyone: We only count quorum for most votes using the reps that attend. If they miss more than 3 meetings in a row they aren't counted towards quorum.
- 19:16:48 From kat west to Everyone: Thanks Tina!
- 19:17:43 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone : Can we share this in the chat so we can share with our NA to learn about Cat's awesome project?
- 19:18:05 From kat west to Everyone: Yes, I'd love to see it!
- 19:18:18 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : Quorum is set by number of filled board seats, not who is in attendance at this meeting. website lists 19. Minutes should spell all this out

- 19:20:32 From Tina K, Chair, South Tabor (she/her) to Everyone : Allen please see Bylaws Article VIII section 5
- 19:23:32 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone: I'm looking at it: "A majority of the active Directors currently holding office shall constitute a quorum" if someone has "missed 3 or more consecutive regular Board meetings" then they are part of quorum. This last part is what's really confusing and should be changed. The minutes should list which Board Members are being excluded form quorum count.
- 19:24:06 From Tina K, Chair, South Tabor (she/her) to Everyone : No problem. I'll make sure it is included.
- 19:24:21 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone: Y'all, please move this back and forth convo to another time and please pay respect to Cat who is presenting. Her time is valuable. Thank you!:)
- 19:34:32 From kat west to Everyone : Board members could possibly supervise interns, right?
- 19:38:42 From Catherine Diaz | she/her | OMSI to Everyone : Thank you, Cat! Super valuable, insightful work
- 19:38:44 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : Great work. Can we ask questions?
- 19:39:03 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone : Amazing presentation, Cat. Well done!
- 19:44:17 From kat west to Everyone : Great suggestion Anna
- 19:44:43 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone: I think our newly elected board member Kimberlea Ruffu will help bridge that gap between the silos of info between city level and midlevel organizations. She sits on their board and I'm hopeful she'll be a good resource of communication.
- 19:44:50 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone : Great presentation and discussion. Thank you Cat!
- 19:45:35 From kat west to Everyone : If you can share, we'd love to see it!
- 19:46:02 From Leah Fisher (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone : Thank you Cat!
- 19:50:33 From Leah Fisher (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone : Jim We will have time for questions after Agnes presents.
- 19:50:56 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : Why can't the title remain "Exec. Director" since that's a Bylaws stated position?
- 19:56:27 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : The other organizations that have this dual position: how large are the staff in those organizations?
- 19:57:08 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone : Board members have the opportunity to partake in the committees that brainstorm these ideas.
- 20:03:32 From Kimberly DiLeo to Everyone : My association has asked me several times for updates and are extremely interested in this topic..
- 20:12:40 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : How large are the staff on those other organizations that use dual positon
- 20:16:56 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : So, this dual position be funded without taking \$ from approved budget line items?
- 20:19:59 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : What line items do you propose cutting? Sounded like the \$ can come from reserves
- 20:22:54 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : 1 staff position was permanently cut when Gabby left
- 20:27:20 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone: Thank you, Agnes. Very insightful presentation and appreciate the suggestion. I personally think it's needed to help our organization grow and sustain.
- 20:29:27 From Dave Weaver, Kerns NA, he/him to Everyone: Thank you Agnes
- 20:41:42 From Nancy Chapin to Everyone : Just letting you all know: Hawthorne will be having a Dtresst
- 20:42:41 From Nancy Chapin to Everyone: Street Fair on August 22nd.
- 20:45:16 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone: https://www.adoptoneblock.org/

- 20:50:14 From Chrystal Brim to Everyone: Inner SE Action has a primary cleanup coordinator, Beth Nesser. We've been crossing traditional neighborhood boundaries, collaborating with Sunnyside, moving from Division to Belmont so far
- 20:52:55 From Chrystal Brim to Everyone : Especially the larger items like furniture
- 20:53:59 From Leah Fisher (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone : Most Has have a point of Contact for clean-ups because of past work with the City.
- 20:54:09 From Leah Fisher (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone: *NAs
- 20:55:03 From Nancy Chapin to Everyone : Who is responsible for Powell Blvd's camp cleanups?
- 21:01:21 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : Would the hosted dumpster be in the SEUL parking lot?
- 21:01:30 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone: That's the hope.
- 21:01:52 From Tina K, Chair, South Tabor (she/her) to Everyone : Yes, that is where Ash suggested. Staff could determine the best spot, I think.
- 21:01:57 From Nancy Chapin to Everyone : HBBA could probably support a small amount/month. I can check.
- 21:02:37 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : A written outline of the proposed program that can be sent to NAs would be helpful
- 21:03:12 From Chrystal Brim to Everyone : And there may be other community groups that would also like to collaborate
- 21:04:17 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone: The Paint the Town Green events in 2017 & 2019 involved up to 9 neighborhoods working together for litter and graffiti cleanup. I can fill you in on the event.
- 21:04:56 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : 2017&18. Sponsored by KINK, Metro and many other organizations
- 21:05:38 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : Can you give us your emails Jacob and Vincent?
- 21:08:00 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone : dawansv@gmail.com
- 21:08:15 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone : jacob@montavillapdx.org
- 21:09:08 From Ash Hester (she/her) to Everyone : NA's that want to get involved and contribute to a dumpster above are Vincent's and Jacob's emails to get in touch.
- 21:09:57 From Chrystal Brim to Everyone : bethnsr@yahoo.com
- 21:12:03 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone: What day/time does Finance Comm meet?