

Concordia Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

March 8, 2016

Kennedy School Community Room, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

MINUTES

(Prepared by Susan Millhauser)

Roll Call, Establish Quorum

Chair Isaac Quintero called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Board members introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda and Treasurer's Report

Isaac reviewed the meeting agenda. There was no Treasurer's report (it was given during the preceding Board meeting).

Public Comment - None

New Business

Board Openings – Isaac shared that there are two open Board positions and encouraged people to consider serving on the Board. When asked about desired qualifications, he responded that the most important quality was someone who could be objective and think about the larger community.

Spring Events – An update on spring events was provided. Help is still needed for the spring egg hunt. Also, the community clean up, scheduled for May 16, and Summer Concerts in the Park could use more volunteers.

Concordia News Update - The Concordia News is looking for volunteers. Susan Trabucco, of the Media Team, provided additional details about needed volunteers, including someone to update the webpage (using WordPress), do ad sales, and more. She added that job descriptions are being added to the website. A sign up sheet was passed around for people to gather volunteer interest.

Land Use and Transportation Update – Ken Forcier shared that the Land Use and Transportation Committee will be discussing the proposed sale and development of the Common Ground parking lot (on NE 33rd) at its next meeting.

City Actions Regarding Homelessness

Adam Lyons, with the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN), provided an overview of recent activities by the City to address homelessness. He shared information about the Safe Sleep Policy being spearheaded by the Mayor's Office, which was developed over the past few months in response to homeless camping sweeps that were conducted in December. Sweeps were being done by a variety of agencies not always in coordination. Adam shared the Mayor's four point plan, which is in process being implemented:

- 1) Two additional camps of 20-80 people are being established, with supportive agency involvement to provide sanitation, etc., but they are having trouble finding public land on which to locate them. Currently there are four sanctioned camps.
- 2) Allowing camping of six people or less on public property between the hours of 9pm and 7am,

with tents having to be taken down each day. Tents are not to be allowed on sidewalks, but tarps and sleeping bags are ok. Some daytime storage is also to be provided. Complaint driven responses are being funneled through the Mayor's Office One Point of Contact Reporting system. Online and email reporting forms are available or people can call 503-823-2000 to provide information over the phone. The police are handing out camping guidelines and resource information cards to homeless people but are not conducting sweeps unless there are serious public safety issues.

- 3) Allowing legal camping in cars and RVs on private property, such as church parking lots. Sites would need City approval and affiliation with a service provider, access to sanitation, etc.
- 4) Creating more temporary shelter space.

Questions from attendees and responses followed.

Question - What is the public right of way?

Response - It's sidewalks and under bridges, etc. No structures are allowed on bike paths or in City parks. It was noted the Springwater Corridor is being handled separately from the rest of the city.

Question - What are the current demographics of Portland's homeless population? More and more families are ending up on the street due to rising rents.

Response – It was noted that the demographics typically include people with mental health and substance abuse issues, with an increase of families as noted. Up to date information is available on the Mayor's Office website, including the results of the most recent "point in time count. There's also a new online Homelessness Toolkit that is really informative and helpful, which can be found at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/>.

A community member noted that the Cully Neighborhood Association is beginning to talk about supporting a tent city, possibly run by a new non-profit with local neighbors serving on its board of directors. Outreach would only be done locally to avoid people coming from other places to live there, as happened when Dignity Village got national exposure.

Isaac encouraged attendees who want to get more involved or who have concerns to follow up with Adam, take a look at the online resources, or call the City.

Adam shared that there is some good news: the Portland Housing Bureau and Multnomah County have joined together to create A Home for Everyone, a program based on the Utah model. The program is being headed up by Marc Jolin of JOIN, and has been in the works for two years. \$30 million per year for the next five to seven years has been called for to fund the effort, which tries to address historic, systemic issues resulting in disproportionate impacts. The overall goal is to keep people in their homes rather than try to rehome after they have become homeless.

Adam added that right now there is nothing specific the CNA needs to respond to and that he'll keep the Neighborhood Association chairs up to date.

Portland Police Neighborhood Response Team Report

Officer Anthony Zoeller introduced himself and shared what his role is within the Police Bureau. Isaac noted that Officer Zoeller would be available for a half hour prior to each Board meeting to talk with neighbors. Officer Zoeller added they had done a pilot with this approach in the King neighborhood to

get more direct feedback from the community. He shared that the City is looking at budget cuts and if the CNA wanted to it could draft a letter showing support for continued funding of the Neighborhood Response Team, of which he is a part, to ensure their hands on approach and institutional knowledge are kept. A Board member suggested that they take up this advocacy opportunity up at their next meeting.

Air Quality Issues

Adam with NECN provided a brief overview of the recent air quality issues that had been made public with the publishing of Forest Service maps showing high levels of air toxics (heavy metals cadmium and arsenic), with hot spots shown in SE Portland in the area of Bullseye Glass and in N Portland near Harriet Tubman School, potentially coming from Uroboros Glass. He added that there are additional hot spots shown on the map, including near 57th Ave. and Columbia Blvd., which is the east edge of the Concordia neighborhood, but the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had not yet released any information as to the source. He added that NECN has drafted a form letter that Neighborhood Associations can use, as is or modified, to submit to the DEQ requesting additional information and action. Additionally, he noted that NECN has more detailed information on it's website. It was suggested that this topic be addressed in an article for the upcoming Concordia News.

Meeting Adjourned

Chair Quintero adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm