

Concordia Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
November 8, 2016
Kennedy School Community Room, 7 to 8:30 pm
MINUTES
(Prepared by Susan Millhauser)

Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Introductions

Chair Isaac Quintero called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked for a raise of hands of CNA members (live in or own property or business in the neighborhood) to determine if there were sufficient members present in addition to Board members to establish a quorum. (See sign in sheet for attendance.) Board members introduced themselves, noting which part of the neighborhood they live in.

Agenda Review

Isaac reviewed the meeting agenda, noting that City Commissioner Amanda Fritz would speak first followed by the election of Board members.

Guest Speaker: Amanda Fritz, Portland City Council

Isaac introduced City Commissioner Amanda Fritz and noted that community members were welcome to ask her about specific topics that affect the neighborhood. Commissioner Fritz provided an update about her current proposal before the City Council related to public campaign financing. She noted it would help politicians not have to worry about whom they take money from and any association perceptions. She provided an example about how she did not take money from the police union this go around to alleviate any impressions of favoritism related to the police contract. She added that the public campaign financing system proposal she put forth has been working in NYC since 1998 to increase trust in government and has resulted in more diversity. She described how the proposed system would work, noting it is a 6 to 1 matching fund program where the city matches campaign donations of up to \$50 from individuals, netting \$350. To qualify for the public financing, a commission candidate would first need to raise at least \$2,500 from 250 individuals, while mayoral hopefuls would need to secure at least \$5,000 from 500 people. She added that participating candidates would be required to limit individual contributions to \$250 and would also be required to cap overall campaign spending. Lastly, she shared that a candidate could chose to participate in the public option or go the traditional route. She then explained why she did not want to put the proposal on the ballot, noting there were 31 partner organizations supporting the proposed system, and described how a citizen campaign commission would be established to advise.

Commissioner Fritz asked for questions from the audience. A community member asked about the recent City Council decision regarding the police contract and why it had been rushed. Commissioner Fritz noted that they had been successful in taking out some concerning language, including removal of the 48-hour rule, and added a requirement for a standard discipline guide, which had been lacking. She suggested checking out her website for her comments on the contract to learn more about why she supported the approval of the contract.

A board member noted that the CNA LUTC had been discussing developing a neighborhood sustainability policy and wondered if she had seen anything like this from other neighborhoods, to which she responded she had not.

Commission Fritz mentioned the Council would be soon considering the Residential Infill Concept proposal, noting that an additional evening public hearing had been added on November 16, from 6 to 8pm. A community member stated her concern about the proposed zone change from R5 to R2.5 and wondered why residents had not been asked. Garlynn responded that there had been a lot of public outreach over the past year and that the LUTC had City staff attend a meeting, during which there was a

heated discussion. He added that he has been talking to City staff about differentiating R2.5 from R2.5a, which is more appropriate as a transitional zone. Commissioner Fritz noted that she was not in favor of this part of the proposal and suggested that community members could share further concerns with her by email at Amanda@portlandoregon.gov.

A board member asked what the City is doing currently to address homelessness. Commissioner Fritz responded that the City has dedicated money, a joint office of homeless services was established with Multnomah County, and hopefully the affordable housing bond would pass. She added that there is now also a plan called a Home for Everyone, which provides an overall strategy and is intended to help people find needed services, among other things. She added that the Office of Neighborhood Involvement had received a grant to look at what neighbors can do to help and to get the word out about the plan. She stated she has also been working to find a new home for Right to Dream 2, a self-organized houseless person camp currently located in Old Town. In response to a follow up question wondering if the City could provide garbage receptacles and portable toilets, Commission Fritz noted they had tried this along the Springwater Corridor but it actually made the situation worse as more people were attracted to the area. She added that camping areas with finite boundaries, admittance requirements, and rules, such as Right to Dream 2 and Hazelnut Grove, have been a better solution. In response to another comment about the lack of enforcement being part of the problem, Commissioner Fritz agreed that more police and park rangers are needed, another reason she supported the police contract.

Announcements

Jesse Herbach with the HIV Day Center, located within the Ainsworth United Church of Christ on Ainsworth Street, shared information about their programs. The Center provides drop in services, including hot meals, showers, resources and more, and primarily works with low-income HIV positive community members. He thanked neighbors for their support in the past and noted they always have volunteer opportunities. He invited people to attend their upcoming free fundraising event on 11/30 at noon at Concordia University, during which they would honor two of their volunteers, Katie Ugolini and George Bruender, who live in the neighborhood and are past CNA Board members.

Nomination and Election of New Board Members

Isaac introduced Jessica Rojas and Adam Lyons from the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN), who would serve as election monitors. Jessica reviewed the positions open for election, noting that all were for two-year terms except for the Chair and East 1 positions, which were both one-year terms. Jessica explained how she would call for nominations and seconds three times for each position, followed by voting after each. If more than one person was nominated for a position it was suggested they briefly share why they wanted to serve on the board, and a secret ballot would be used for voting. For uncontested positions, a show of hands indicating majority support would be used.

The Chair and E1 positions each received two nominations (Chair – Chris Lopez and Garlynn Woodsong; E1 – Tyler Bullen and Jody Pollak.) The results of the election are as follow:

Chair (1-year term) – Chris Lopez
E1 (1-year term) – Tyler Bullen
E2 (2-year term) – Steve Elder
NW2 (2-year term) – Amelie Marian

SW2 (2-year term) – Daniel Greenstadt
AL2 (2-year term) – Donn Dennis
AL4 (2-year term) – Ali Novak
AL6* (2-year term) – Heather Pashley

*Note – Based on Board vote at October 11, 2016 meeting – “To set the Board slate for the upcoming election such that even numbered positions are up for full term reelection in even years, and odd numbered positions (E 1, NW 1, SW 1, and AL 1, 3, 5) in odd years, and any relevant shifts of term length will move incumbents to the alternate position as needed to fulfill their terms” – current Board member in AL6 was shifted to AL5.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.