

Northeast Neighbors Board Meeting Minutes - July 14, 2020

Call to Order: 6:38 p.m.

Board members in attendance: David Martin, Kevin Reed, Rick Edwards, and Anne Millhollen. Bill Haynes was present but announced his resignation from the Board for personal reasons.

Board members absent: Dane Butler, and John Faville.

Visitors in attendance: Michael J. Sanchez-Scholes, Portland State University.

Meeting minutes: A motion was made by Anne to approve the June 9 Board Meeting minutes as written, and seconded by Bill. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Review of the Annual Meeting on September 29th. The topics will be; NeN elections, the Chief of Police to discuss crime, and White Bird Clinic to talk about the program called Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS). Rick will invite the six elected officials. David asked about the order of speakers, and Kevin suggested allowing the elected officials to present first so that they can leave early. David asked about conducting the elections and reminded the Board that we now have four Board vacancies. He suggested that simply asking people to serve on the Board might work, and pointed out that a personal invitation can be more effective. David then brought up the conduct of the election, and Rick suggested nominating the “slate” of officers for a voice vote. Kevin agreed and asked if he could also make a plea prior to the election for people to serve on the Board. David agreed and said that after the election, Rick will introduce the elected officials. Next, David asked for ideas on how to present the Chief of Police and White Bird. He said the meeting will be over Zoom so he wanted to know the specifics that we want discussed. Kevin expressed the opinion that he did not want the Police to be unfairly burdened with resolving all the problems. Rick agreed and raised the possibility of inviting other speakers to share the panel questions, such as a representative from the Police Commission or Citizen Review Board. David expressed the concern that if we had too many speakers, the meeting could run over two hours, and asked the Board to rephrase the title of the program. Kevin recommended that the Chief could talk about the successes that they have had, and could talk about plans for future collaboration with the CAHOOTS. David said we could also raise the issue of the new Community Safety Payroll Tax and ask the speakers how the money will be allocated. Rick agreed, but asked if anyone knew who will have control over how the payroll tax will be allocated. David said that would be a good question for each of the City Councilors. He added that July 6-26 is the public comment period, and the effective date of the tax is January 1st. Anne suggested that one of the speakers should explain how the decision is made to dispatch either a police officer or CAHOOTS. David said we should ask the representative from White Bird Clinic to give an overview of the CAHOOTS program, followed by questions and answers. In conclusion, David asked Anne to contact White Bird Clinic for a speaker, and Rick to draft an invitation to the Chief of Police.

Review of the general meeting on November 10th. The main topic will be housing and homelessness. The six elected officials and Phil Spears from Sheppard Motors will also be invited. David asked for suggestions on who could talk about housing and homelessness. Anne said Ellen Meyi-Galloway from the City of Eugene staff, Kristen Karle from St Vincent DePaul, and Sarai

Johnson could address homelessness. David said that we already invited Sarai Johnson once this year, so he would prefer to have Kristen Karle speak, but asked for clarification on Ellen Meyi-Galloway. Anne said Ellen Meyi-Galloway is on the City Housing Finance staff and was a good speaker. Anne also suggested other potential groups such as Square One Villages who make “Tiny Houses”, and Community Supported Shelters who sponsor Conestoga hut communities. In conclusion, David said the final speaker would be Phil Spears, and postponed making final plans for the agenda until the next Board meeting.

Business Sponsors for the Newsletter: David reminded the Board that the contract with b2 Wine Bar & Grill ends August 31st. David asked Kevin to contact the b2 Wine Bar and Shepherd Motors to find out if either one was interested in sponsorship.

Creekside Park Picnic Shelter: David said approximately \$23,500 has been raised. The shelter is now in the process of submitting a second building permit application.”

Next Board Meeting: August 11th at 6:30pm, (virtual meeting via Zoom).

Other Business: Rick pointed out that July 1st is the start of the new fiscal year, so the first iteration of the Outreach Budget should have been allocated by now. David agreed and asked everyone to start thinking about articles for the newsletter.

Opportunity for public comment: Michael J. Sanchez-Scholes expressed appreciation for allowing him to attend the meeting and highlighted the portion of the meeting surrounding the CAHOOTS program.

The meeting was gaveled closed by the Chairman at 7:38 pm.