



Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting - January 19, 2021
Minutes

In attendance were board members Daniel Amoni, Bruce Bickle, Chris Eykamp, Karen Girard, Mark Linehan, Kim Nurmi, Jill Riebesehl, Michelle Sprague, Michael Wade, Charlene Zaharakis. Other neighbors included Hank Cattell, Anne Draper, Allen Field, Gail Getz, Linda Nettekoven, Christa Nicholas, Kathleen Parker, Susan Pearce. Guests: State Rep. Rob Nosse and former Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz

Chris, HAND chair, called the meeting to order at 7 pm via Zoom.

Announcements: Hank Catell, owner of Palio coffee shop and restaurant in Ladd's Addition said that he is partnering with the owners of Dot's Cafe and JaCivas Bakery in a GoFUNDMe to raise money for their businesses that, in turn, will contribute food and drink to Fishbone Cafe at St. Francis Church. The cafe feeds people who are hungry and on the street. The link will be on Palio's Facebook page Feb. 17. Hank is asking for support getting the word out.

Amendments to the agenda: Amanda Fritz will be speaking with us. Also, we will have a conversation about the Southeast Uplift communication grants.

Rep. Rob Nosse: Rob asked for our support in a letter he has written to encourage the city council and county commissioners to change their approach to dealing with illegal street camping. He has been talking with a group connected with the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. They are fed up with the alternative sweeps of homeless camps and the relocating of the camps. They have been at Laurelhurst Park and most recently, at Sunnyside Environmental School.

The proposal Rob is supporting would look at appropriate empty spaces in neighborhoods for small (five to ten campers) sanctioned camps. They could be set up with a built-in infrastructure of toilets, showers and garbage disposal. Some of the highlights and concerns discussed here were:

**It was suggested that Rob contact the group in the Central Eastside Industrial District working with the houseless population and their approach to it. Rob said he would contact Kate Merrill, executive director.

**Linda said a task force for the Expo Center's possible sanctioned car camp went to Eugene to observe their model. There is a need for supervision with a street response team on the ground and trained officers dealing with mediation and resources.

**There was general discussion about the need for supervision and to have a plan for those who don't comply with rules. There needs to be guardrails put in place and camps be answerable to surrounding neighbors.

**It was said that the biggest problem is the city doesn't have a lot of credibility. There needs to be trust and confidence that the city will keep its commitments. The current situation is not acceptable. Also, there is concern that it could normalize camping as a solution instead of a stopgap for the city.

**There was concern about people who use drugs. Kim does not approve of low-barrier camps and feels they should be alcohol and drug free. Charlene said it is difficult to get people help for mental health and substance abuse problems if they are constantly being displaced.

**People would like a pilot program first and to have a plan to come back and look at it again in six months if implemented.

Daniel moved, seconded by Bruce that we approve adding our name to support Rob's proposal and letter regarding changing the approach to street camping by setting up sanctioned campsites. It was further moved and seconded that we vote separately on three provisions to our support:

1. We suggest that there be a process and plan for those who get out of hand. The vote: 8 in favor, one against.
2. We suggest that there be adequate management at the sites. The vote: unanimous.
3. We suggest that there be residential and neighborhood input into the siting of the sanctioned camps. The vote: seven yes, two no.

The vote to support Rob's letter and the HAND board suggestions was approved: 8 in favor, one abstention.

Amanda Fritz: Linda introduced Amanda who recently retired from 12 years as Portland city commissioner. Linda wanted us to be able to thank Amanda for the treasure she is to the neighborhood associations. There was discussion about the challenges she faced and dealt with as commissioner, and also the ones the current City Council will have to deal with. She is not sure what will happen to the Office of Civic Life under City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty. The Southwest Neighborhood, Inc. coalition has laid off its staff. Amanda, looking ahead, said there are economic issues for individuals and for businesses, challenges to the Portland Police Bureau and with those police who don't do "the right thing." Amanda feels that whatever we can do to be kind, we should work toward that. It makes a difference.

Communication funds from Southeast Uplift: There was general discussion about the two grants and the history of how those funds have been disseminated. Allen Fields, from the Richmond NA, brought up some of his concerns and asked us for support in getting the discussion on the SEUL board agenda. It is unclear as to how the coalition's staff has decided the money would be allocated. There has been no process via the SEUL board.

A straw poll passed unanimously to direct Charlene, HAND's representative to SEUL's board, to support discussion about the funds and the lack of transparency in how a new allocation is made. Jill, alternative to Charlene, said she would ask the SEUL executive board to place the issue on the next agenda of the SEUL board.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 9:15.

Charlene took the minutes.



Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Association
Executive Committee - January 25, 2021

In attendance were Chris Eykamp, Jill Riebesehl and Michelle Sprague

We met at 7 via a virtual platform other than Zoom and discussed, for about an hour, possible agenda items for the February 16 meeting.