

Minutes
Summit Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 21, 2019

Attendance: Zachary Barnes, Erik Christiansen, Anneliese Greenier, Ethan Gyles, Anna Highsmith, Christopher Lowe, Read Porter, Laura Ramsey, Tom Schmeling, Sharon Lee Waldman

Guests: Olinda Urizar, Community Relations Coordinator from the Mayor's office; Alexis Kierning from the Planning Department for Arts, Culture, Tourism in the Mayor's Office; Lt. Joseph Dufault, new East Side police commander; member Grant Dulgarian

September minutes: did not vote due to insufficient copies of the minutes

President's Report: Ethan reported that Ariel Pittner is leaving the board due to scheduling conflicts.

Treasurer's Report: We brought in 23 memberships since last reporting (total of \$589). The total revenue from this year's yard sale was \$250. We paid out \$765 for newsletter. The only other transaction this month was an expense of \$20 for a new lock for the community garden gate.

Program & Committee Reports:

Membership Committee/Bylaws: Tom reported that we have 103 members, a high from the last year. He gave membership forms to Sherry for the bake-off.

SNA Newsletter: Erik reported that we typically have newsletters announcing the annual meeting in the spring, one in the summer for summer events, and then one in the fall. In order to have a newsletter announcing our upcoming events (caroling for a cause, snow brigade, Hope Street holiday stroll), we would need a rushed development of the next newsletter, so we decided to skip this newsletter and advertise our events through other means. The next newsletter will be in March in order to spread the word about the annual meeting. Erik will consider the timeline for the next newsletter and share his ideas with the board in the future. Tom is continuing to work on developing our volunteer network of deliverers.

North Main Street Committee: Ethan reported that we are collaborating with MHNA to create a document to take to the city in order to try to engage with developers who might be interested in developing vacant properties on North Main Street. The focus is on providing affordable grocery options and affordable housing. Alexis contributed that Bob Azar or Alexis Thompson would be the people to go to with the document. Anna volunteered to join Ethan and Laura on the working group with MHNA.

Community Garden Committee: Read reported that the garden clean up day is on Saturday, October 26.

New Business:

- a. Lt. Joseph Dufault introduced himself to the group and took questions:
 - i. A concern was raised about bikes being stolen, both personal and JUMP bikes. NBX Bikes, a business on Hope Street, reported having trouble with people being followed

- home after buying a new bike and having it stolen. Lt. Dufault said that it is very difficult to catch people who steal bikes but they do what they can and have caught some bike thieves in the past. Bike thieves tend to be young teenagers.
- ii. In district 8 (which includes Summit Neighborhood), property crime is down (e.g., B&Es, car break-ins). For example, last year by this time there were 120 larcenies, but this year we are at 109. A recent hot spot for car break-ins is by Hope & Blackstone when people leave their car there to go jogging on the boulevard and leave something visible in the car. Currently have a foot post on Hope Street (11am-7pm) who leaves flyers on cars to educate folks on how to prevent break-ins.
 - iii. There is increased traffic around Miriam because of the closure of Memorial Hospital.
 - iv. Chris raised the idea that people could voluntarily register their personal surveillance cameras so that the police would know who to ask for footage if the need arose. Lt. Dufault said that currently they use footage from victims when it is voluntarily submitted, but he would look into a volunteer registry.
- b. Snow brigade: Britt reported via email that she and Tom have:
- i. Contacted all volunteers from last year to see who's up for helping again this year.
 - ii. In the process of contacting everyone who received help last year to see if they'd like to participate again.
 - iii. Posted to Summit Neighborhood Association and Summit Neighborhood pages (just now) but still need to post to listserv.
 - iv. Would like to figure out more creative ways to reach people in need. Maybe posting something at Rochambeau Library, Seven Stars, etc. Calling neighborhood churches/synagogues? If anyone has ideas, we're all ears!
 - 1. Alexis recommended touching base with the Providence Village group
 - 2. Read suggested asking the librarians, as they may have experience connecting with people with mobility challenges.
 - v. Question was posed by Anna as to whether we should do something about RIPTA not clearing snow from bus stops. Tom responded that advocacy with RIPTA would be better than utilizing our snow brigade volunteers for this purpose.
- c. Chris reported that the coalition of neighborhood associations has drafted a letter to the city council president regarding property taxes. Chris requested feedback on the letter; he'll send it around via a google doc. He's hoping that SNA will be one of the first neighborhood associations to sign on to the letter. He is seeking buy-in from throughout the city; it will not go out if there is not support from across the city. The coalition group is also interested in issues related to education, crime, and zoning/planning issues.

Ongoing Business:

- a. Events:
 - i. Yard sale: Zach reported that sales were relatively low. Many made suggestions for improvement but they often contrasted with each other (e.g., "go back to the church" v. "thank goodness it's not at the church"). There was a decent push for memberships that day (Tom reported 6 written memberships and a few more online around then). Zach suggested purchasing a sign that we can put on the street to reuse from year to year.
 - ii. Movie night: Three out of four movie nights were rained out this year, including the most recent one scheduled for October 11. The September movie night was successful with about 120 attendees.
 - iii. Fall cook-off on Wednesday, October 30, 6pm-8pm, Seven Stars: Sherry said that the winners will be voted on by attendees. Pears will be this year's featured ingredient. Kids are

- encouraged to wear their costumes. Prizes will be items from Kreatlier and the olive oil shop, and gift certificates from PhFactor (\$25) and the bike shop (\$50).
- b. Neighborhood Nights: Chris is putting together an information night about navigating the school system – how to enroll, how transportation works, lotteries, etc. (NOT about schools closing, state takeover, etc.). Laura Hart, Director of Communications from Providence Schools, said that they will send someone, and Keith from Allied Charter Schools will attend. Someone from the state may speak on the PreK lottery. Hoping for a mid-November date for the event. Read said he can announce the event in the next e-newsletter.
 - c. Social event: Erik said that he will email Steve Krohn about doing a wine class as a stand-alone event in the fall.
 - d. SNA neighbor pamphlet refresh: Mary Ann Risoni will have an update on this that Ethan will share via email.
 - e. The Avenue Concept public art planning update: Britt reported via email that she needs board buy-in on the idea of approaching businesses about walls. There was consensus that it's okay to approach businesses for this purpose.
 - f. Ethan circulated the map of where the "Keep Summit Beautiful" signs have been placed.
 - g. Little Free Library contest: Jerry's Artarama donated the gift certificates to the winners.
 - h. Drinking fountain project – Nelsco has been contracted to put in the fountain. They are targeting the first week of November to start construction. Soon after being built, it will likely be turned off due to freezing temperatures. Tom suggested that we do something in the spring to make a big deal about the fountain being brought to the neighborhood by SNA (e.g., grand opening, announcement in spring newsletter, etc.). Ethan said that we have an option to create a plaque that thanks the donors. Read suggested a "year in review" report to distribute that would include the installation of the fountain as well as other SNA events/projects.
 - i. SNA priorities list: Next meeting we will go through these individually to check in on progress. Tom reported that we need to revise our bylaws before the annual meeting; he suggested an officers meeting to get this process started.

Next meeting is November 18.