

Minutes
Summit Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
May 20, 2019

Attendance: Erik Christiansen, Anneliese Greenier, Ethan Gyles, Christopher Lowe, Britt Page, Laura Ramsey, Tom Schmeling, Sharon Lee Waldman

Guests: Alexis Kierning from the Planning Department for Arts, Culture, Tourism in the Mayor's Office; Chief Luis San Lucas of the Providence Police Department; John Harkey and Phil West of Providence Village; members Grant Dulgarian and Steven Krohn

Additions to agenda: none

Review of meeting structure: Agenda is sent out by Ethan via email about a week before meeting, people can add ideas; as we move through the agenda, Ethan will call on hands raised to avoid too much cross talk, etc.

April minutes: Approved

President's Report: Ethan reported that we had a very good annual meeting with robust turnout. We should think about a guest speaker for next year. Tom created a google doc for a write-up of the annual meeting; Ethan has photos from Sherry and Britt to add, and others should look at it to fill in details.

Treasurer's Report: \$710 in membership dues came in. We spent \$473 on the annual meeting. There were a few plot dues and Community Garden expenses. Ethan will post a one-page annual summary of the treasurer's report on our website.

Program & Committee Reports:

Membership Committee/Bylaws: Tom reported that we have 94 current members (69 in Feb, 79 before annual meeting). Tom has been sending emails to people whose memberships have expired, but many wrong emails and only 2 or 3 who have renewed. Tom will send out a gentle second reminder. Tom raised the idea of offering a welcome gift to new members to encourage more memberships. Chris offered to track new neighbors who have moved into the neighborhood. The membership committee can then deliver postcards or a welcome-to-the-neighborhood letter to invite new neighbors to join SNA.

Newsletter Committee: Erik reported that it's unclear how to move forward with Liz resigning from her volunteer post as head of distribution. Art is still willing to do layout. Counting and bagging happens at Art's house with 3-4 volunteers who then deliver the bags to the 40+ volunteers who in turn distribute to the homes in the neighborhood. Erik raised the question of whether to continue the printed newsletter, because there may be problems with distribution and now we need to replace Liz. Tom raised the concern that our electronic list (listserv & the email newsletter list) has nowhere near the reach as the 3,600 households who receive the printed newsletter. Anneliese said that some new memberships come through the newsletter because it serves as a reminder. Tom said we get about the same or maybe more via the newsletter compared to the online membership form. Steven noted that

the newsletter is unique and might be especially appealing to older adults who are less likely to be online.

Read reported via email that 33 people on e-newsletter list. He is adding names as Tom delivers them, hoping to send out prior to Hope Street Block Party.

North Main Street Committee & Trader Joe's Working Group: Ethan reported that Eugene from MHNA hasn't replied about a meeting to discuss the idea. Ethan will reach out again.

Community Garden Committee: Read reported via email that the community garden planted about 10 berry bushes in Kerry Kohring Park. They had a successful earth day park cleanup.

New Business:

- a. Providence Village – John Harkey and Phil West explained that Providence Village is a service organization that addresses the needs of elders who want to continue to live independently on the east side. They offer services for \$40 annual membership: transportation, odd tasks at home, medical advocacy, tech service, social & educational events, etc. They are volunteer-run with a very small paid staff, less than 4 years old, built on a national model. They are looking for members and volunteers, and they aim to serve as a model for other organizations serving seniors elsewhere. They have reached out to potential members & volunteers via neighborhood associations and other existing groups (e.g., library, Quaker meeting house, Farmer's Market). Volunteers are vetted with a background check. Service coordinator receives calls from seniors in need and then recruits from volunteer network via email to satisfy the need. They have 40-45 regular volunteers. Ethan offered that we could send out info about Providence Village via our listserv and newsletter. In December, they are becoming the Village Common so they can offer administrative support to other areas in Rhode Island that are starting similar programs
- b. Captain Luis San Lucas from the Providence Police Department is the interim commander for our district, and he also oversees all the lieutenants. We will get a new lieutenant in early June; he/she will attend the meetings. Captain Lucas shared some crime trends – increase in B&Es in Fox Point (usually entering via doors that have been left unlocked and windows left open; mostly at night – 8pm-1am), larceny from motor vehicles in South Main Street area (almost always laptop, backpack, purse – don't leave anything visible in your car; they smash the windows to get in; usually during times when people are going out to eat). There are extra patrols on Hope and Thayer Street on weekends. Anneliese asked about the substation on Camp Street; Captain Lucas said maintenance was difficult so it was combined with substations on Brook Street and Elm Street.
- c. Vacant lot solutions: no report in Anna's absence
- d. The Highlands is hosting an Alzheimer's Association Silent Auction on June 21, 4:30pm-7:30pm. We shared information about the event via Facebook and the listserv. Because the Highlands has offered their space for our annual meeting for several years in a row, Tom moved to donate \$150, which was approved unanimously.
- e. We have to provide an annual report to the Secretary of State's office. Britt will be preparing the report.

Ongoing Business:

- a. Report back on multi-neighborhood association "Super Board" planning meeting (not City Hall sponsored): Sherry reported that there was a discussion around whether to create a formal

structure for the group; decided to keep it informal. There could be power in the combined email lists from all NAs. Some NAs are concerned about anything related to politics. Each rep from each NA wrote down three issues of concern to their neighborhood, and then they were discussed. Concern raised around landlords and commercial land owners having power through large donations to politicians. Everyone got a brown grocery bag to pick up litter around their neighborhood as a group project. Not clear what the purpose is of the group; perhaps to coalesce power or to get to know each other? 13 of 19 NAs had reps attend. What can we do about the pockets of the city that don't have a NA to represent them.

- b. The Avenue Concept public art planning update: Britt reported that she, Laura, and Torin scouted possible locations for public art in the neighborhood. She circulated via email a draft of a letter of intent for feedback; then she will send it out to The Avenue Concept to keep the momentum going. One possibility is to create public art around the new bubbler going in; we are waiting to hear back from the city about the scope of their plans for how the bubbler will be installed.
- c. Hope Street Merchant Association's Spring Block Party on June 1, 11am-6pm: We will have a table (rather than parklet), and we are hoping to have some kind of art element to get folks excited about The Avenue Concept project. We need volunteers to sit at the table. Anneliese volunteered for the first shift; Britt, Chris, Ethan, and Erik also volunteered. Ethan will print a large map of the neighborhood to engage folks on where public art could go.
- d. "Keep Summit Beautiful" signs: No news from Dean. Ethan will check in with Dean.
- e. Lippitt Park "Little Free Library" art contest: Three entries have come in. Sherry proposed that we extend the deadline until the end of the school year.
- f. Drinking water fountain project is in the queue to go out to bid in May; construction is expected in June/July. Ethan and Britt will talk with the Parks Department about the potential for a public art project that could be done around the new fountain. Tom suggested that Ethan ask the park dept when the fountain in Lippett Park will be turned on.
- g. Miriam Hospital master plan/parking questions: Monica Anderson (community liaison) will join us in June for dialogue.
- h. Year of the City: nothing new
- i. The Friends of the North Burial Ground hosted the Southern New England chapter of the Association of Gravestone Studies, which was a successful event.
- j. 2018+ priorities list:
 - a. Ethan collected responses from the annual meeting about folks willing to volunteer or lead an initiative. Most common response was about facilitating speaker or discussion groups, one person on discussion of public schools, idea for wine class, interest in clubs, reignite music festival or start new food festival (Taste of Hope? dinner and a movie in the park?).
 - b. Steve volunteered to do a wine class to teach people how to analyze wine (2 hours to go through 6 wines). Erik will follow up with Steve about how to move this idea forward.
 - c. Britt will reach out to folks who filled out these forms at the annual meeting; someone needs to be the point of contact to facilitate a speaker series (reserve rooms, etc.).
 - d. Alexis mentioned that Tourism could help out with any kind of arts programming we want to do. The Eli Grant Fund is available for funding public concerts in parks; the goal is to spread funding equitably around the city.

Next meeting is June 17. It may be held in the library, pending Ethan checking on the air conditioning situation at our usual meeting spot.