

Brian Cefola opened the meeting with all members in attendance to introduce themselves and their representation.

In attendance were the following GPNA board members: Brian Cefola, Ron Laster, Ken Peterson, John Prell and Mary Cal Hanson. Others in attendance included several members from the NECN board including Katy Asher, Alan Silver, Micah Meskel and Lupin _____. The guest for the evening was Steve Cole from Irvington Community Association (ICA).

The next order of business was the approval of the agenda which was approved unanimously after one slight adjustment in moving the 20's Bikeway Support item of business to be the first item (vs. the last) and then proceeding as otherwise delineated on the agenda.

Brian made the announcement that this meeting would be recorded and there were no issues with this activity. Ken provided the recording device.

Ken then took the floor to give an overview of the latest rendition of the 20's Bikeway project and to request the approval from the board members to accept the letter provided to Mr. Newland. This letter was distributed to the group as a handout and the board members as an electronic reference. It was noted that the signage for the bike route wouldn't be changing on NE 28th Ave but more bike path info and markings would be added to NE 26th Ave.

The next item on the agenda was re: Recent developments at NECN. Ken again started the conversation with a bit of history of the most recent disruption in the staff and board of directors at NECN. Both Ken and John have been GPNA's representatives to this overseeing organization. John has recently resigned his position from NECN based on events at this recent NECN meeting. From Ken's point of view things started to deteriorate quite rapidly after the resignation from the NECN board of Shoshana Cohen. There was some concern about the availability of meeting minutes and Ron made a formal request to receive these meeting minutes, which Katy Asher said she would send them to him.

John then had some time to explain the reason for resigning his position because he felt very uncomfortable at this past meeting and that there was "lots of tension at that meeting". He felt that the group at NECN treated Steve Cole inappropriately and then snubbed his input at a following meeting which seemed to be scheduled for time where Steve was on vacation. Steve had been placed in charge of the NECN board as a "temporary" director and he wanted it made very clear that he didn't want to be the "interim director".

There was the Emergency meeting (EM) which was called and it was felt that several neighborhood associations (NA) weren't given a lot of time to coordinate attending this meeting. Once the representatives arrived for the EM there quickly arose several questions as to why the meeting was called, who had organized the EM, why only certain NA seemed to be invited and what was the primary issue to deem this EM vs. waiting until a regularly scheduled board meeting could take place? Another underlying question was "why had Shoshana Cohen (SC) resigned?" No one seemed willing or able to answer these questions.

Ken again presented his viewpoints which including that there hadn't been enough time to get a new director and the SC issue. There had been some complaint regarding SC but nothing concrete. He felt the entire process was "wrong and sneaky." John once again voiced his concern that things just didn't seem quite right and that the whole meeting seemed to reek of "collusional activity" between the 2 parties (NECN board of director and staff (?)). And to clarify there didn't seem to be any issue between NECN and GPNA.

At this point Ron chimed in with his vast history working in and with NECN. He asked the question to the NECN group as to "why were 4-5 NA considering leaving NECN? Secondary to these recent upset with the leadership of NECN and that they (NA) felt disenfranchised.

At the next scheduled meeting both Steve Cole (ICA) and Peter O'Neil (_____) resigned their positions on the NECN board as representatives from their respective NA. At the end of this meeting there was a former NECN board member, who made some aggressive posturing in the parking lot. He also recommended that NECN discuss this incident with their attorney because aggressive activity by or towards a NA rep or NECN member is inappropriate. This was noted to be the second recorded/observe aggressive behavior outburst by this board member. The former NECN board members behavior in the parking lot and the meeting were the primary reasons why John resigned his position.

Ron next asked Mr. Silvers if he feels uneasy when the aforementioned board member, who has evidenced the violent behavior attends meetings. Alan confirmed the feelings of unease with this board member showing up to future meetings.

Ken reported that he felt that there were a few NA that much more representation and therefore voting power at recent meetings. Primarily the increased representation was from the King and Concordia NA. He also mentioned that some of the at-large board members don't live within the NECN boundaries-although this is not a requirement to be at large members within NECN. Finally Ken also mentioned that he felt that there was a very hazy line of authority and activity between the NECN board members and the NECN support staff.

The next question was "what should GPNA do next?" Steve Cole from ICA was invited to give some of the background to this discussion. He felt that while he was the temporary director the NECN staff would refuse to do tasks and activities that were set down by the NECN board at that time. Steve felt he tried to get as many people involved in the process as possible. He also felt that the staff and board members had been "dishonest, unethical and inappropriate". At this point the program manager of ONI Paul Leistner was mentioned and he too was thought to be acting inappropriately towards Steve. He felt that ONI was part of the problem too. This was clear to him in the lack of response from ONI in trying to solicit help with the inappropriate behavior of the NECN board and staff. At this point ICA has withdrawn their representation from the NECN and is considering severing ties with this organization. ICA feels that a separate coalition of inner NE neighborhood associations might be more in line with the views and outlook for ICA. Mr. Leistner isn't happy with this possible development between ICA and other NE NA.

Ron posed the question to the group from NECN as the whether or not there has been a change in the direction of NECN? At this point Lupin _____ nodded yes to confirm this query. Both Katy and Alan commented that the board members on NECN are trying to improve the staff vs. board definition of positions and activities. An outside professional conflict resolution reviewer has been contacted, Mark Phillips to help with future NECN moving forward. There will be new missions statements, help in hiring a new executive director, assistance in balancing the NECN board membership, establish staff reviews.

Ron next asked if the former board member creates fear from the board members in regards to future meetings. And Alan confirmed the feelings of unease with this board member showing up to future meetings.

Ken asked Micah Meskel (MM) why he stayed when the other NA member from Humboldt left NECN. At this point MM stated that he saw this meeting demise as merely "personality conflicts" and not "direct attacks or collusion" between the former board member and other NECN board members, Steve and Peter.

Ken was then asked if he was willing to stay on at the GPNA representative to NECN. His response was that he didn't find the meetings useful or fulfilling to forward movement. And unsure as to whether GPNA should withdraw from NECN and join the newer NE coalition that includes ICA, Sullivans Gulch NA and Hollywood NA that will focus on issues more directly of concern for our neighborhoods?

NECN would like GPNA to stay on with them as they are in the process of improvement and plans to revamp processes, focus and mission. And that this is a time of change and upheaval and things should improve with outside assistance and a stable director and direction for the coalition.

The next question that arose what if the GPNA board members could possibly meet with Mr. Mark Phillips? Can GPNA hook up with other NA?

In the end it was agreed that GPNA will continue to participate with NECN recognizing that any involvement with the Broadway group is independent of our participation with NECN.

A motion was presented to adjourn this meeting and seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Minutes taken by Mary Cal Hanson and recorded by Ken Peterson.