

## **GPNA Board Meeting**

Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2024

DRAFT Submitted by Kara Caselas

**Attending:** Neon Brooks, Kara Caselas, Jill DeRosa, Molly Hamill (NET), Ramona Perrault, Stacey Tipp, Jake Wicks, Bikram Vaidya

**Absent:** Mary Artz, Miro Wesener

**Guests:** Heidi Heart (PNW), Eldo Varghese, Ari Grubner

**Call to Order:** Molly Hamill called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

**Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** Changes on the agenda - our Guest Speaker from Portland Neighbors Welcome is Heidi Heart and not Luke Norman, Stacey requested a few minutes to discuss newsletter advertising fees, Kara Caselas motions to approve agenda, seconded by Stacey Tipp, all in favor.

Ramona Perrault motions to approve May meeting minutes, seconded by Stacey Tipp, all in favor.

### **Email Votes Between Board Meetings:**

- On July 24, 2024 Molly sent the board a copy of the draft Financial Sponsorship Agreement (FSA) for board approval to be sent to NECN for their review and/or approval. 8 votes approved the motion (Miro, Kara, Ramona, Neon, Mary, Stacey, Jake, and Jill), 2 votes opposed (Tom and Linda), and one no vote (Bikram).
- On August 20, 2024 Molly motioned to approve Miro Wesener as our NECN representative. 7 votes in favor (Kara, Ramona, Jake, Stacey, Mary, Neon, and Molly) 2 abstained (Jill and Bikram).

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Wells Fargo bank
  - Starting balance: \$8,925.62
  - Income: \$ 3,846.11 (CNN, newsletter ads, donations)
  - Expenses: \$1,140.95
  - Ending balance: \$11,630.78
  - At Stacey's request, Kara will break down the ad revenue from the last newsletter.
  - Ramona Perrault motions to approve treasurer's report, seconded by Stacey Tipp, all in favor.
- Ramona Perrault motions in support of an increase of 15% on advertising fees for our newsletter and have Stacey Tipp be the new advertising representative, seconded Neon Brooks, all in favor.

### **Guest Speaker – Portland Neighbors Welcome (PNW)**

- Established in 2020, PNW is run entirely through volunteer efforts. Their Inner Eastside for All campaign focuses on building affordable and sustainable housing for all residents in Portland.
- PNW believes it should be legal for any residential lot, from roughly 12th to 60th, Fremont to Powell, to contribute to a thriving, mixed-income, mixed-use fabric of urban neighborhoods by allowing street-scale apartment buildings.

- o Using Northwest Alphabet District and Southeast Kerns and Buckman neighborhoods as the examples - dynamic, walkable, mixed-income neighborhood with a mix of mid-sized apartment buildings, single-family homes, well-served by transit and with commercial centers, corner stores and shared neighborhood spaces.
- Ramona Perrault shared concerns over current commercial vacancies and developers opting to build new spaces rather than investing in current infrastructure.

#### **Business sponsorship Proposal:**

- Cooper Design Build, a architecture design and remodeling firm, reached out to us inquiring about becoming a business sponsor. They have offered an annual amount of \$2,000 to be used towards community building and operations.
  - o They did express their desires to have a portion of the money be used towards a community event.
  - o GPNA suggested offering a half-page ad in our newsletters, placing their logo on our website and on any event signage, and giving them a shoutout at meetings.
- Group discussion topics:
  - o Should we build into the agreement an ability for GPNA and Cooper Design Build to be able to dissolve the agreement if needed?
  - o Do we have the capacity to host an event?
  - o Beaumont-Wilshire is hosting a street fair from 5:30-9:00pm on Friday, September 20th. Perhaps we should check it out and see if it is something we could replicate.
  - o Advertising a larger neighborhood clean up?
  - o Should we try to get business sponsorships from businesses in our boundary first? Or draft a newsletter letting the community know we are starting to explore this idea?
  - o Confirm we can work with them since their main office is outside our boundary (they do a lot of work in the Grant Park neighborhood).
- Stacey Tipp and Kara Caselas will circle back with Cooper Design Build and continue conversations around potential sponsorship.

#### **Technology Committee Update:**

- We're getting a steady stream of new users to our website and our email open rates are holding steady.
- Our email subscriber list has hit a bit of a plateau at 128 subscribers.
- The biggest update from the Tech Committee is the new technology being used at the meeting. Please feel free to send Mary any feedback about your experience (whether that be in person or remote) interacting with/using our new camera and projector. We still have the flexibility to pivot if these are not the right tools for us.

#### **Land Use and Transportation Committee Update:**

- The special land use meeting regarding the Grant Bowl lighting project on 9/4/24 was well attended (78 people). Neon Brooks presented the proposed GPNA position on mitigations to address livability impacts of the proposed Grant Bowl lighting project to the board. Ramona Perrault motions to accept the position with minor edits based on board feedback, second by Jill DeRosa, all in favor.

**Livability Committee/Problem Solver's Meeting Updates:**

- At the last meeting Ramona Perrault mentioned our challenges with getting a response from NECN regarding our Financial Sponsorship Agreement. Summar Money, who is the Civic Life representative for NECN, offered to help us make progress.

**NECN Board Meeting Report:**

- The meeting was attended by Ramona Perrault and Kara Caselas. During the discussion on redistricting, Jona(NECN Executive Director) acknowledged the challenges it has presented but reassured that neighborhood associations within the prior boundaries had solid insurance coverage. Since it was unclear if GPNA was covered under D&O insurance, we did not participate in any votes at the meeting.
- Discussions with Portland Neighbors Welcome (PNW) was animated, with most attendees expressing support for increased housing. However, strong concerns were raised about PNW's outreach efforts and the impact of their proposed density increase on local infrastructure and displacement of current residents within the corridor. No vote took place to move in favor of supporting their initiatives.

**Newsletter, current and upcoming board vacancies:**

- Kara Caselas is resigning from the role of Secretary after tonight's meeting. We are seeking a new Secretary. A list of duties can be found within our Board Roles and Responsibilities.
- Kara Caselas will also be stepping down from her role as Treasurer once the redistricting tasks have been completed. She is willing to help train anyone interested in taking on this role. She will remain as an at-large member.
- In need of more at-large members. We will be reaching out to a few past members to see if they would like to rejoin.
  - Stacey Tipp motions to approve Ari Grubner as a new member at-large, seconded by Jill DeRosa, all in favor.
- Discussion around building social media presence. Perhaps consider creating a social media role in the future.

Stacey suggested that we should try to engage in time together outside of meetings. Look for a happy hour invitation soon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm (Stacey Tipp moved, Neon Brooks seconded, all in favor)