

Dec 14, 2020

Boise Neighborhood Association Meeting

Attendees:

- Board/Land Use & Transportation Committee: Howard Patterson (Chair), Katy Wolf (Secretary, Communications Chair), Jen Stack, Kay Newell, Owen Gabbert (LUTC Chair), Jen Stack, Sarah Cantine, Karis Stoudamire-Phillips
- Neighbors: Andrine de la Rocha, Scott Mettler, Max Mettler, Jack Sparrow, Christopher Malone, Concerned Neighbor, Colin Storz, Matt Teske, Ben Elkind, Paula Wade
- Guests: Andrea Matthews (Arbor Lodge)

Agenda:

1. Introductions - *Name, preferred pronouns, how long have you lived here? Optional: are you a renter? Do you own a business in the neighborhood? For board/LUTC members: How long have you served?*
2. Announcements
 1. Annual \$500 grant from Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods - <http://bnapdx.com/bna-2021-small-grants-program>
 2. Boise Eliot Native Grove - new handwashing station
3. Discussion: The Red House on Mississippi
4. Open Comment

Notes:

- 7:01 Introductions
- 7:13 Announcements
 - Grant:
 - We also need to pay our website fee (\$192/year), and Zoom account (\$149). We are not planning to fundraise and we need to maintain a small amount in the bank.
 - Need to get a Treasurer's report from Karis.
 - Sarah: We should talk about fundraising.
 - Kay: We should get the amount straight before we announce the grant to the public.
 - Howard: A service called Ridwell takes items to Metro for you.
 - Sarah: People are trying to invest in your own neighborhoods. Might be a way to get rid of stuff.
 - Karis had suggested social justice organizations as recipients.
 - We usually give \$200 to Q Center each year. They are still running programming, virtually. They have been a recipient of some grant funds, to help their clients.
 - Some ideas: Airway Science for Kids, Boise-Eliot Native Grove. Boise-Eliot School PTA.
 - Karis: We have at least \$4,000 in our budget.

- Kay: We could ask the community to match us to donate to the organizations we select, up to \$500 total. Keep it small, and inside this community. Let people choose which to donate to.
 - Sarah: That lets us know what people are interested in.
 - Karis: Both SEI and Urban League are doing more social justice work.
 - Howard: I move that we make this crowdfunding proposal manifest.
 - Katy: Second.
 - All in favor, motion passes.
 - Action Items:
 - Katy and Scott will set it up. We'd donate up to \$500 in matching to the three organizations: Airway Science for Kids, Boise-Eliot Native Grove. Boise-Eliot School PTA.
 - Karis will help with outreach to Airway Science and BEH PTA.
- Grove:
 - Andrine gives some background on the work at the Grove over the past 3 years.
 - In process of getting put on a PBOT map and are now on the hygiene station map
(<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3abca53221c64d6a9e35c5c8572a9696>). The new handwashing station will get some signage soon.
 - Still working on getting a water line to the property.
- 8:00 Red House
 - City has reached an agreement with the Kinneys, who agreed to remove the barriers tonight.
 - Colin: I went down and talked to a bunch of guys manning the posts. Channel 6 told me today that the article about the Mayor's agreement with them is a little outdated. The elder Kinney said that they were not. The son hinted that they might be in a discussion but it wasn't at an endpoint yet. The guys at the post said he was under the impression that though the GoFundMe had reached its goal, they were still preparing for the cops to come in. The big barriers are gone, but some are still up. On Skidmore and Mississippi, they were threatening people walking by with a paintball gun. It doesn't seem settled at this point.
 - Howard: We're here to hear people's input. It doesn't seem like the board can reach a consensus opinion.
 - Matt: I came tonight to get a sense of what the neighborhood is thinking. I drove through Mississippi tonight, all the way up. I agree that it's important that folks stay in the neighborhood. My concern is the occupation. I support the Kinney family in the sense that I want them to stay in the neighborhood. But then I don't condone the armed occupation. How do we address that, still supporting our neighbors, but not supporting the damage done? My perception is that there isn't very much movement in respect to what the family wants, or that the occupation won't just come back in.

- Colin: I would assume most people are against having an armed perimeter barricade in the middle of our neighborhood. I find it a hard position to defend. From talking to a neighbor, their biggest concern was that the cops would come in and bullets would start flying. The other two CHAZ's had some dead bodies. I'm surprised this happened in the middle of our neighborhood, not downtown.
- Matt: The folks in Humboldt are afraid of openly discussing their concerns. Those voices are not being heard.
- Colin: Channel 6 said everyone they talked to had a negative opinion about it but were afraid to talk to the news about it for fear of retribution.
- Karis (in chat): There are guns being fired off at night and even bomb like noises that are shaking our house. Some of the gun shot sounds may be fireworks but they are still alarming and concern me with my kids in the house.
- Howard: This needs to be viewed in the same context as the last year of protests. These are the same young people protesting against the police. I have tremendous respect for the antifa kids, putting their bodies on the line, facing police in riot gear. What we have seen is that the police treat out of towners with guns with respect. So the antifa kids seem to have taken that lesson from them.
- Chris Malone: Looking at this from the perspective of just getting here. Witnessed some of this silently from where I lived in Houston. Do I like the idea of seeing weapons? No. There's a lot of information going around, some may be true, some false. I do understand the emotional reason of how they got there, yes because I have witnessed and lived it. People are angry. I am a Black Lives Matter activist from Houston. I did a little bit of research on the Red House. What I found to be a little alarming was no information on the owner, Roman O. of Urban Housing Development. They didn't have a lot of posts on social media. Understand the predatory lending thing, it has happened to Houston after Hurricane Harvey. What sent me over the edge was the Mayor's tweet. You can't respond this callously to a situation and in the same breath say these systems are rigged. He talked about ending encampments. And if you are not a member of a marginalized community, you can't tell other people how to respond emotionally. There are people who live outside who have nowhere to go. Just to say we're going to end that without saying how. The Red House is the result of you letting people to figure it out themselves. He was silent during the election. But situation doesn't look like it's going to end soon, there are too many loose ends. There needs to be some kind of statement from the judge who ruled in favor of the developer, as well as more transparency from the Mayor.
- Scott: Just want to know what's going on with the barrier equipment out there.
- Katy: The City is helping clean up, but the group kept to their agreement to clear the street by today's deadline.
- Matt: The peaceful protests for Black Lives Matter were what a movement should be. But the after hours destruction was not supported in the same way.
- Karis: I agree with you 100%. I support Black Lives Matter. But these other people that come out at night, I do not support that. I told them that, and stood my ground, because I do not like that they're overtaking the movement. These

same people bounce around from cause to cause. There was a group of Black leaders that Mingus Mapps brought together to say that the destruction like what happened to Dan Ryan's house is unacceptable and upsetting. These people don't even know the leaders of the Black Lives Matter. Our family who lives one block away is very scared. One neighbor had a heart attack, and the ambulance had trouble getting there. We had many neighbors who have lost their homes and never got any help. We remember Miss Maxine who was given \$100,000 to give her home to a predatory buyer when she died.

- Kay: Well spoken. This is nothing like what we've seen. Most of these people who lost their homes were paying their bills. These people are not like that. This was not stolen from them like it was stolen from them. It was their actions that caused the problem. The damage is harming the businesses. A landlord told me last week that he's spent thousands on graffiti cleanup, because his business tenants can't afford it. The vast majority feel it is damaging our community as a whole. None of the other people that are going to get evicted because of COVID are going to do this. If they can win through violence, it will encourage more of the same. And it will explode. All of us have rights that should be honored, and obligations to treat each other with respect.
- Maxine: Thank you to Karis. This has been an interesting time. It's been hard to navigate and figure out how to respond properly as a 30 yo white person not from here. The destruction and violence is not what we want in the movement.
- Scott Mettler (in chat): People want to know if the neighborhood supports the occupation. I feel the BNA should take a position and publish a very brief press release. It should reflect the views we're hearing in this meeting
- Matt: I agree, Scott.
- Karis: I do not think that we take a position on the occupation BUT that we state what we believe.
- Ben: agree with Scott.
- Sarah: Brought this issue to the board for discussion last month. But then I dialed back because I got nervous about this family's attitude toward justice. I feel that this important issue is being manipulated by this family.
- Matt: I appreciate you saying that and agree with you. It's hard to say and it's unfortunate. A lot of people are afraid of saying what they believe.
- Colin: I think there are some basic tenets of respect for living in a community together. I think we could put together a press release. As a neighborhood association, we have a bigger voice.
- Matt: People have felt very voiceless. We want to be mindful of our neighbors and what they need, and as a neighborhood we do not condone escalation. The Mayor effectively greenlit in his statements today that this could happen again. We need to express how we should conduct ourselves.
- Kay: Whatever solution is created should be the same one we repeat time after time. We're going to lose a lot of homes. Whatever formula we come up with as a society has to be repeated fairly in all groups. It has to be fair and equitable for

everyone, not just those that are loud. We have to allow everyone to get support and help.

- Jen: The neighborhood should get behind the people that really need help, and aren't forming a militia in the neighborhood.
- Howard: The best case scenario is while we agree this family is not in the typical situation of exploitation that we know has happened here for decades, and this is not the ideal case for full on resistance, perhaps it will highlight the ongoing fact of that exploitation. I am uncomfortable about making a statement, but I have not been the Chair very long. I would like to ask the board about this idea.
- Howard: You can just say there's no official statement, but we want to share the concerns with the Mayor's office.
- Matt: I agree but also believe it won't lead to open dialogue. A press release will be better for the media to digest.
- Kay: The HMBA has decided not to comment because we still don't have all the facts and it is a political hot potato.
- Sarah: There's a lot to discuss here that's not being heard. The City has actively discouraged neighborhood comment.
- Matt: I talked to someone at KATU and they said to let them know if there's a press release.
- Colin: In some ways this is a very complex issue, but it's also extremely simplistic - we're not going to live next to barriers.
- Andrine: We are only 15 people and several thousand people live in the neighborhood. We have only heard a fraction.
- Sarah: Is there something we want to say.
- Matt: I agree, there's a lack of leadership.
- Scott Mettler: The board can make a positive statement without watering down the message.
- Sarah: I want to see recognition of issues going on, more voice about how development happens. I would also like us to note how the City is discouraging neighborhood comment. This community has a lot of diverse opinions and want to support the right things.
- Andrine: I'd love to see reparations and proactive actions from the city and neighborhood towards helping folks who need assistance BEFORE their homes have fallen down or been foreclosed upon.
- Kay: The Winter Light festival we hold in February over the Tillamook Crossing, they have a small grant to put up commercial lighting. They want to involve the public. Anyone that has a light outside their house - leave up the lights. Or keep your porch lights on or a light in the window. Those say welcome, it's a positive thing.
- Howard: Thank you everyone for voicing your opinions respectfully. We have not worked in a political vein, we have looked more at the nuts and bolts of living in this community, what kind of community we want to live in. The City has been trying to silence the neighborhood voice. It's great to try and use that voice. Let's do that in a measured way to do whatever we can.
- 9:10 Meeting adjourned.