



NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS

**NECN Board of Directors Meeting
Final Minutes
Tuesday, Jan 18, 2022
6:30 – 8:00 p.m**

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Chair: Sean Green (Sabin)

Vice Chair: Jimmy Wilson (Eliot)

Treasurer: Heather Nelson-Kent (At-Large)

Secretary: *vacant* (with resignation of Dave Brook)

Parliamentarian: Lauren Gross (At-Large)

STAFF:

Jona Davis (Interim Executive Director) Anjala Ehelebe

GUESTS:

None

*Present

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alameda: *vacant*

Boise: Karis Stoudamire-Phillips

Concordia: Joseph Fraley*

Eliot: Jimmy Wilson (Vice Chair)*

Irvington: Peter O'Neil

King: John Rooney

Lloyd: Keith Jones*

Sabin: Sean Green (Chair)*

Sullivan's Gulch: *vacant with resignation of Dave Brook*

Vernon: Allan Whitting*

Woodlawn: Dennis Kennedy

At-Large: Ankur Dholakia, Woodlawn

At-Large: Erin Martin, Alameda

At-Large: Heather Nelson-Kent, Sabin (Treasurer)*

At-Large: Lauren Gross, Sabin (Parliamentarian)*

At-Large: Shirley Minor, Woodlawn*

At-Large: *vacant*

6:40 p.m. Introduction of NECN's new Executive Director, Justen Harn who has held positions at the Hollywood Theater and Open Signal.

6:45: Announcements: Dave Brook has resigned due to health issues. NECN needs a new secretary. Board members asked to consider serving as the secretary for NECN.

6:49: Finance report: Heather reviewed the reports earlier today, and had questions resolved by Jona. The expenditure percentages are good and we are right on track. The finances have been emailed to Board members.

6:52 p.m. Announcements Continued: Sean is part of the leadership team of [Shelter Now](#), an NECN fiscally sponsored project. Shelter Now has raised over \$20k as part of a year-end fundraising! [Clean Camp PDX](#) is another NECN fiscally sponsored project that was started by Dave Brook.

[Meeting recording started]

The new NECN Executive Director Justen Harn spent time introducing himself. Justen talked about his background. He sees a sense of reinvention for NECN. Justen is looking forward to getting to know folks.

Heather says we should talk about the relocation of Harriet Tubman school to King school. What should be our role in this? Sean says, in the past, when topics related to PPS proposals, NECN has played an informational role. This is a unique situation, and has the potential to have a larger impact on NECN, the communities it serves.

Jona says there's a written agreement with PPS that the space NECN uses on the King School campus is designated as community space, but it does not necessarily have to be NECN using this space. There are concerns about NECN being revoked from our space in King.

The stated reasons for moving Tubman involve bad air quality due to the freeway and the freeway widening project.

Jimmy says this is a huge problem. Over 60 years this has been a problem that PPS should have fixed long ago. PPS should be building schools, not wiping out majority black student body schools.

Justen says he thinks the Board should be taking a stance on this and he will be guided by what the Board wants.

Keith says there is another angle to this, it is about ODOT rolling over communities and breaking agreements. Did we do something related air quality related with Bevin Barnes (former NECN board member) and Jessica (former NECN staff) on this issue. Sean says we did.

Jona says she's on the environmental Justice NAACP committee which is also watching this.

7:22 p.m. WeShine Presentation, Sean heard from them and they won't join us tonight. They will be scheduled for the meeting next month. DJ told Sean that they secured a site in Parkrose. WeShine is creating transitional micro-villages for the houseless population. Their website is <https://weshinepdx.org>

Discussion of school issues continue. Jona says NECN applied to a PCEF grant to get solar on this roof (Albina Vision should be involved in this also).

7:28 p.m. Heather says there should be a new school building built or bought, rather than taking over King school.

Jimmy says this is change at the expense of who? The black and brown community again?

Sean says we could supply educational information about this and convene meetings. This aligns with our mission.

Justen says let's not let this issue slip through our fingers.

Sean has one more item to share. Metro is establishing a [tri-county houseless planning body](#). This is a tri-county planning body on houselessness issues. He wants the support of the NECN Board for his application to be on this planning body.

He thinks it's a long shot for him to qualify, looking at what they want in their 16 members. He is soliciting letters of recommendation and video endorsements. The Board could write a letter in support of him.

Keith says a bias of such large bodies as the county is to hand money to large organizations when smaller ones like Right 2 Dream Too use the money more efficiently. Describes how Lloyd Association developed a relationship with R2DToo. Mentions a recent (alas typical) lack of city notices to neighbors about the establishment of a new tiny home village (BIPOC C3PO) in NE Portland.

Joseph mentions that city staff feel homelessness is an emergency so they don't have time to involve neighbors in meetings, which he thinks creates resistance to the city proposals.

Further discussion for 20 minutes.

Heather makes a motion, seconded by Joseph, that the Board write a letter of support for Sean Green to serve on this committee. Heather will help draft it with Joseph. Motion passes with no objection.

[See chat record for contact information of Joseph and Keith.]

Jimmy says money is not the problem. There is lots of money out there. Projects he's working on are successful, but he doesn't get the funding because he's not a non-profit.

8:12 p.m. Meeting Adjourns