



NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS

NECN Board Meeting 4/19/2022 Final Minutes

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:

Executive Director: Justen Harn

Interim Executive Director: Jona Davis

Minutes Taker: Anjala Ehelebe

GUESTS:

*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: *vacan*

Agenda

6:30 p.m. Introductions, Announcements (Sean) Sean calls the meeting to order, noting the presence of a quorum.

Consent Agenda: Approval of Draft Minutes:

- [January](#)
- [February](#)

Heather Kent moves approval of both minutes, with no opposition. **Motion passes.**

6:40 p.m. Civic Life Scope of Work (SOW) & Contract Update & Discussion

This is the most critical document for NECN to create, says Justen. Civic Life wants NECN to “show up” and welcome people to the conversation about how NECN can best serve the neighborhoods. Accounting services are one thing we provide, says Peter, but what happens if we fail to provide those services? Justen says the hope of CL is that NA’s can be self-sufficient with the help of NECN. Also, that there is authentic representation of all of the neighbors. Peter says the contract DOESN’T say what happens if we don’t do all these services, and he wants to know the consequences if we’re not able to do all of the services. Justen says there’s an additional document to the draft Scope of Work that Heather wrote and she wants to know where is he in the process of negotiation. Justen says they will work this out with the help of the Executive Committee and get it finished by May. He wants the first draft to be finished in the next 14 days. Contract requires Justen and a Board member to sign it.

Jona says Leah Fisher is a City staffer who has been talking with Coalition offices about how they historically provided services. Also, NECN staff has provided services and attended meetings that were not listed in their job descriptions. Especially as part of outreach efforts. NECN has always (nearly 50 years) had a lot of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and is going forward with continued efforts. Other district coalitions have had difficulties with inclusion.

Discussion for 25 minutes. Sean sums up by asking if all are comfortable with the Executive Committee working on this SOW.

- **Action: Grant Exec. Committee Authority to vote on draft contract to advance to Civic Life, Board to vote on contract in May. Yes.**

Sam Adams NA Meeting Report: 7:19 Sean recaps the meeting. The meeting was focused on trash and cleanup discussions.

- Neighborhood Cleanup Funding has come back! But it’s not clear how the money will be distributed. Probably through Problem Solver meetings, said Sam Adams.

- Problem Solver Meetings (NECN + CNN will be in one group together) will begin within 3 weeks to address issues related to City responses to graffiti, stolen cars and trash. Maybe because of the lack of Neighborhood Cleanups, there's been more trash dumping. There will be an Incident Commander assigned for each Problem Solver group
- Stipends proposed for problem solvers, those volunteers who participate in these Problem Solver meetings.
- Hopes there will be more collaboration between government agencies and neighbors. Currently, neighbors have self-organized into patrols identifying probable stolen cars. In the past there were officers who could take neighbor's reports, but that was cut back.
- NECN will be sharing information with neighborhoods on Cleanup funding and stipends.
- There's been change in the Mayor's office staff: Skyler Bocker-Knapp is now Senior Policy Advisor re: houselessness. Tom Miller - Director of Livability & Sustainability. Grace Galvez - Project Assistant/Coordinator to Strategic Innovations Group

Jimmy says this is a long time coming: this can be a win-win collaboration. He's willing to tackle this.

Jona asks if the graffiti cleanup efforts in the past were run by the coalitions. No, the city supervised those efforts.

Financial Report: Heather says she reviewed the financials from the bookkeeper prior to the meeting. There is nothing concerning, the Coalition is within the budget and the timeliness of reports from the bookkeeper is excellent.

Neighborhood Community Grants: Jona says they got quite a few applicants, over 30 inquiries, 27 applicants. The ask (roughly \$57k) was for twice as much money as we had to give away. They have spent lots of hours whittling down the applications. Former ED Jessica Rojas was really helpful in helping them in this process. Jona says we need to find more funding for these really great proposals. These projects are really impactful for otherwise marginalized communities.

Executive Director Report: 7:45 Justen says for the last three months they have analyzed all of NECN's procedures and practices, made changes. Helping folks to plug in more deeply. They have been addressing Board governance and workplace issues. Minimizing liability. He's most excited about the ideas and visions staff, both previous and current, have had, such as training independent community journalists/representatives. Actively lobbying for multi-year funding from the City and other allies. NECN has a good reputation with the City. Jona says she feels energized with the flood of good changes.

Residential Infill 2.0 Sean says the Residential Infill project is ongoing and he says this linked Letter is input from NECN former Board members.

[Eliot NA Letter](#)

Neighborhood Updates Sean says there's going to be a blood drive in May.

8:02 p.m. Meeting Adjourned by Sean