



Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2022

Opening

Karen Bergsvik called to order the regular meeting of the Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association's Board at 4:07 pm over Zoom on February 17, 2022. A quorum was established.

Board Members Present:

Karen Bergsvik - Chair

Deby DeWeese - Vice-Chair/Land Use Chair

Lowell Von Ruden -Treasurer/IT Communication

Robbie Silverman - Land Use Team

Paul Dieffenthaller - Land Use Team

Others Present:

Barb Campbell - City Councilor

Makayla Oliver - City of Bend Staff liaison to the Neighborhood Associations and the NLA

Melissa Stamm - Minutes

Introductions:

Melissa was announced as the minute taker. The Board introduced themselves to Melissa.

Additions To the Agenda: There were no additions to the agenda.

Motion: There were no minutes to approve. The last meeting was a retreat, and at the retreat the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Actions Taken/Agreed to Be Taken

Discussion about Neighborhood Associations

Makayla went over the anonymous responses from the recent assumption survey that was sent to the Board called “Assume the Barriers to Recruitment Engagement”.

As a group, everyone went over the questions of the survey and then did some brainstorming around the thoughts, suggestions, ideas, feelings and barriers related to the assumption survey. Maklaya organized the thoughts and comments of the Board members on a virtual whiteboard and she will be doing the same brainstorming session with all NA’s.

Paul shared that he went through all 13 websites for all of the NA’s. He feels that there is no consistency and that there is duplication between the NA sites and what is on the city site. Paul feels that information is not easy to find and that relevant issues for each neighborhood should be presented in a way that engages interest and will therefore attract board members. Paul plans to use his research from the other NA websites and apply it to proposed changes on the SCNA website.

The group then discussed different ideas and ways to connect with the community, as well as the barriers they face in getting the community engaged:

Idea and Barriers

-Work with the Old Mill or the Box Factory to provide discounts to neighbors. A challenge to this has been COVID and the struggles businesses have already faced.

-Deby has formed relationships with the land developers and they have agreed to have their sales team give out a brochure about joining the NA. A barrier to this is that there needs to be a budget and materials to develop the brochure. Barb mentioned that perhaps city staff can put together a brochure or pamphlet on NA’s in general and then each NA can have their own page to insert.

-There were discussions about social media pages and Nextdoor. Using these platforms pose some challenges.

-Using the mailing lists that the City provided has been challenging and doesn’t include all of the businesses and apartment units.

-Budget and manpower. The Board is a small group and we don't have the resources to go door-to-door.

-Deby mentioned that the city needs to give more notice and lead time when they want feedback on something so that there is time to publicize their requests.

-Karen mentioned she would like to do more community outreach such as ice cream socials and block parties, or a bicycle or walking tour of the neighborhood and take advantage of the local businesses.

-Barb applauded the Board for being diverse and that they are always engaged and supportive.

Board Members, Board Volunteers - Please do the survey that Makayla has sent out if you have not done so already so she has the data from Southern Crossing.

Makayla - will be gathering input and data from all NA's. This will be shared in the newsletter which Makayla sends out.

Retreat Notes Review

Lowell has nothing to add. Deby agreed. Karen will assume that we are in agreement.

The Board agreed to go ahead and use Mailchimp and its survey tool.

2022 Priorities

Deby - COID, less time on Land Use

Robbie/Paul - City functions of Land Use (Notifications, Meetings). **Paul** will attend the public meeting on March 1st for an 8 unit development by the Old Mill. **Deby** will reach out to Paul about how to do a public meeting.

Paul - Website, next General Meeting, Kor Pine, COID where help is needed. He has been looking at other NA websites so the Board can decide what to do to change their website.

Lowell - Treasurer and IT (Website and Technical Topics)

Karen - Will continue working on Transportation (roundabout traffic signals, street safety proposals, transportation plan for Greater Kor Pine Area)

Reports

A. Chair: NLA, Tax Exempt - the Tax Exemption Committee has brought up interesting things that might need more work at the NLA level.

Robbie had initially requested that Karen ask at the NLA if a map of all the developments in Bend can be put together by City staff. This request is on hold for now.

Karen brought up the idea of native planting and waterwise landscaping as part of a public benefit under the Multi Unit Property Tax Exemption. It was discussed that this should really be applied Citywide and not just to those applying for the MUPTE. Karen will bring it up at the NLA. The city is looking at 3 types of Property Tax Exemptions (Non-Profit Housing Exemption, Middle Housing, and a Multi-Unit Property Exemption Program). Public benefits are part of the MUPTE program. Karen is pushing for a mandatory requirement of affordable housing, and not have it be discretionary. There is concern about exemptions undercutting the funding for infrastructure improvements. There will be recommendations and details at the next meeting in a few weeks. Morgan Schmidt will be sitting in on that meeting as Karen will be away.

B. Vice-Chair/Land Use - Reports submitted before the meeting with no discussion needed. **No action needed at this time by the Board.**

C. Treasurer- Reports submitted before the meeting with no discussion needed. **No action needed at this time by the Board.**

D. Robbie - Land Use Chair Networking Group - nothing to report.

Houselessness Presentation at the SCNA

Karen - Will let the city know that SCNA would prefer if the city held their own community meeting. The Board does not want a Houselessness presentation at the Board meeting. The Board will help market the city's meeting as needed.