

Meeting Summary for SCNA August Board Meeting

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Quick recap

The Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association board meeting focused on reviewing the 2025-2026 budget and planning for the upcoming fiscal year. Lowell presented the final budget from last year, noting a negative balance due to the City not covering insurance costs as expected, and outlined the current budget, highlighting postcard mailings as the largest expense. The board discussed the potential benefits of obtaining 501c3 status, particularly for reduced postal rates and possible venue discounts. They reviewed the successful annual picnic, and decided to thank the grill master with a \$100 gift certificate. The board considered moving the General Meeting to the spring to better align with the budget cycle and avoid scheduling conflicts with the fall roundtable event. Updates were provided on the city's neighborhood district insurance pool and the re-establishment of the Century West district. The board also discussed the possibility of absorbing parts of Century West but expressed reluctance due to the additional workload. Other topics included the Sunny Breeze development, the upcoming Southwest Bend Roundtable, and the need to review the association's website for risk in relation to the insurance application.

Next steps

Lowell

- Check with the printer to determine potential postage savings if SCNA becomes a 501c3.
- Research and write up specific proposals regarding moving the General Meeting and necessary Bylaws changes, and send to the board.
- Post the summary report from the June consultant meeting in a shared area for board members.

Robbie

- Monitor the situation with the Sunny Breeze development and reach out to the property owner (Pahlisch) for updates.

Todd

- Send contact information for Joe Cote (grill master) to Lowell so he can send a \$100 Amazon gift certificate.
- Inquire at the next neighborhood district chair meeting about the proposal for unspent sponsorship funds to become available to others.
- Review the city's draft survey for the roundtable with Lowell and provide feedback.
- Send out a calendar invite for the follow-up consultant meeting (first week of October) once Lowell posts the summary report.
- Review SCNA's website content with Lowell to ensure it is not too political, especially regarding the Sunny Breeze development.

- Not bring up the idea of absorbing parts of Century West with René at the next meeting, based on board feedback.

Collaboration

- Board: Plan for a Special Meeting component at the September 17th board meeting to vote on Bylaws changes regarding the General Meeting timing.

Summary

2025-2026 Budget Review

The board reviewed the 2025-2026 budget, with Lowell presenting the financial details. The group discussed how the city's budgeting process for the Neighborhood Districts changed to a two-year cycle. SCNA was given \$4,600 for the current year, resulting in a total of \$8,800 for the two-year period. Lowell noted that postcard mailings remain the biggest expense, estimated at \$1,500 for the year, which represents more than a third of the budget. The group discussed potential savings on postage costs by obtaining 501c3 non-profit status, which could reduce USPS marketing mail rates. Lowell agreed to check with their printer about the impact of non-profit status on mailer costs, as postage currently comprises a large portion of a typical \$1,500 mailing. The team reviewed their recent picnic expenses, which came in under budget at \$1,700, resulting in a \$1,500 surplus due to last-minute sponsorships, though they noted the sponsorship funds might be more difficult to secure next year. The group decided to give Joe Cote a \$100 Amazon gift certificate as a thank you for his excellent work as grill master at the picnic. Lowell agreed to handle the purchase after Todd provides Joe's contact information. Todd presented a budget graph showing that approximately 70% of the annual budget is typically spent by the time board elections occur in mid-October, suggesting a potential shift in timing for the General Meeting to align better with budget planning.

General Meeting Scheduling Discussion

The group discussed scheduling the General Meeting and election, considering whether to combine it with the fall roundtable event on October 19th or move it to February-March. They learned from Lowell that the Bylaws currently require one General Meeting per calendar year, though the city only requires compliance before June 30th for budget purposes. The discussion revealed that Joe Teig was unhappy about combining the General Meeting with the roundtable, as he felt it should focus on all three neighborhood districts rather than just their group. The board discussed scheduling the next General Meeting, determining it should be held in February or March rather than fall to avoid winter weather and avoid scheduling conflicts with the fall roundtable event. They noted that board terms are tied to General Meetings rather than specific dates, so current board members may serve a few months longer than initially expected. The group also considered the possibility of holding the meeting virtually, similar to what was done during COVID, though they acknowledged the benefits of in-person meetings for energizing new board members. The team discussed plans for a Special Meeting in September to vote on a Bylaws change allowing them to shift the date of this fall's General Meeting to early next year. Lowell offered to write up research and proposals for the Bylaws changes to send to the board. Todd suggested sending out a focused email announcement about the Special Meeting, including the city survey and roundtable dates, rather than including it in the usual newsletter.

Budget Planning for Future Events

The group discussed budget planning for upcoming events, with Todd proposing to allocate approximately \$600 for joint city events rather than continuing monthly meetups due to budget constraints. They agreed to plan for an annual picnic in early July 2027 and to revisit the 501c3 status to potentially save on costs and other benefits, though a final decision on this was postponed.

501c3 Status Discussion

The group discussed the process and benefits of obtaining 501c3 status for their organization, with Robbie noting that while it requires some legal help and additional work, there are potential financial benefits including access to local business grants and discounts on venue rentals. Todd mentioned that large companies like Costco typically provide basic supplies rather than significant grants. The group agreed to finalize the 501c3 decision at their next meeting after Lowell checks into postal benefits.

Neighborhood District Updates

Kyle reported back from a neighborhood district chair meeting where city attorney Ian Leitheiser discussed land use notifications and annex territories, noting that Bend may expand from its current 13 neighborhood districts to approximately 20 in the future. The meeting focused on updates regarding neighborhood district web pages, insurance applications, and the potential reestablishment of the Century West board. Todd explained that the city is creating mini-web pages for each neighborhood district listing basic information provided with the annual compliance report, while Lowell noted changes to the compliance report process. The group discussed an insurance application for D&O coverage, with eight neighborhood districts currently participating, and Brian Canady advising on completing the application and reviewing web content for potential risks. Robbie shared information about Oregon law protecting nonprofits from developer lawsuits, and the group noted that while insurance quotes are pending, the cost would be shared among participating districts for a one-year trial period. The City said that it could not cover the approximately \$8,000 cost of mailing to Century West members regarding the upcoming roundtable event, so promotion to Century West would have to be done through social media, signs, and a press release.

Century West Incorporation Discussion

The group discussed an idea to potentially incorporate parts of Century West into the Southern Crossing Neighborhood District, but Robbie expressed reluctance due to the complexity and additional responsibilities it would involve. The discussion revealed concerns about taking on issues specific to Century West, such as traffic and development problems, while noting that Southern Crossing is already landlocked and focused on managing its own growth, including the upcoming Timber Yard development. The group ultimately decided against pursuing the proposal, with Todd agreeing not to bring it up with René. The conversation ended with the approval of prior meeting minutes.

October Planning and Updates Meeting

Lowell reported that a follow-up meeting from a June consultant meeting will be scheduled for the first week of October via Zoom, and he offered to share the summary report with the board. Todd provided an update on the Southwest Bend Roundtable, noting that while the date is still tentative between October 12th and 19th, he will review the draft survey questions with Lowell before circulation to the board. The group confirmed a tentative board meeting for September 17th at 5pm to discuss Bylaws changes.

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