

Cully Association of Neighbors Approved Board Meeting Minutes

Online Meeting 8/25/20 6-8pm

Attendance:

CAN Board Members Present: David Sweet, Josh Heumann, Gregory Sotir, Claire Alyea, Isha Leinow, Annette Pronk, Mac McKinlay *Absent:* Stephanie Neely

Community Members: Maria Grzanka, Chris Browne (7:20+)

Board Meeting Minutes

- Greg moves to approve the July minutes as edited. David seconds. All in favor, none abstained, none opposed. July board meeting minutes approved.

Community Conversation

- Second dialogue: focus more on language, report-out, things to try in the coming weeks. Third dialogue not in plans yet - want to reflect before another meeting. Community partners around
- Leadership team: Annette, Tony DeFalco, Pilar/Jessica from Hacienda: responding to gun violence in Cully. This last meeting was organized by this group. They have approached Susheela Jayapal about concerns, looking at next steps such as focus groups.
- Advocating for system changes in city: looking for proposals moving forward
- Narrow and get more specific on policy advocacy on focus topic. Last conversation was fairly white-centered, need to change focus to support BIPOC-led concerns
- Goals were trying to bridge opinions and perspectives and further dialogue: some community members less able to understand social problems and history of systemic racism
- Cited need to approach community members with remedial understanding with a more historic perspective, address with dialogue and meet them where they are at.
- Advantages and privileges are not synonymous
- Need to collect more input for advocacy items - need police accountability
- Looking for more discussions to join, advocacy to participate in: police accountability measure on ballot w/ Hardesty speaking to CAN in two weeks. In October can ask if the general membership supports the police accountability measure: We can take positions on ballot issues, ONI rules state NA's cannot endorse candidates

Community Led Investment District (TIF)

- Language: moving away from TIF to Community Led Investment District
- Exploratory leadership committee including Annette and David had an all day leadership retreat. Project is moving forward with good depth and pacing to ensure intentional, aware process to ensure real community leadership
- There are subdivisions: community engagement committee, planning committee (Annette), executive committee (David)
- Community engagement will begin earnestly in September: challenging with the pandemic but want to engage the community leading a plan for the district by the end of

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June, legislative process in August, city council approval of a district by the end of 2021 to begin district in July 2022.

- Will need community leaders representing groups that aren't currently being engaged: they will receive stipends for this work. Online house parties, door-to-door if appropriate.
- *Will there be measures to ameliorate effects to small businesses due to the pandemic?* Our 42nd and Cully Blvd Alliance are working intensively with the businesses to help them stay open or reopen when possible. No funds from this initiative will be available until after July 1, 2022 at current planned rate.

Possible Future Effort to Secure Funding for Sidewalks

- Ryan Nielsen, laborers union member, LIUNA. They pave streets and sidewalks. East Portland and Cully lack them, in part is a racial justice problem. Look for additional source of revenue to do this: bond measures, tax/fee on wealthiest as reparations, etc.
- History of urban planning has actively prevented black people from participating in city life in Portland. Addressing racial justice through transportation.

Informing: PSAC (Public Safety Action Committee) + PDXPSAC formation

- Annette has participated in PSAC for the last 2-3 years at CNN. Mayor Tom Potter started this for neighborhood members to meet with the neighborhood response team to come up with solutions. Staff members from OCCL were facilitating meetings, funding has shifted so they are community-led now: called PSACPDx
- Formerly people who were with the NE PSAC group originally reformed under the name PSAC-PDX. Sandra was organizing it/Meg Horaz left leadership in the group and Annette went to a meeting and found it not aligned with the board's values: it is white-centered and focused on property crime. Annette will be stepping away from this group. The group is pushing back on the police reform ballot measure this fall.
- City-wide SE PSAC group is more functional, hosted by PCC: they have connected with Street Roots and seem like an effective group. Annette would like to continue to go to those meetings to represent CAN and the board is in support.

Elections

- First general meeting of new year in September. Five months behind in elections which normally are held in the spring. Positions are being continued when members have wanted to step down.
- OCCL guidance is that we can hold elections remotely but it is being left up to individual neighborhoods. Unsure about secrecy of ballots possible in an online election. Former ONI rules: voting at a meeting may be done orally, by show of hands, or by written ballot. Zoom has a polling feature though it is clunky, but could ensure voting secrecy. OCCL also recommends comment box in side for people to write in their votes. Would need to verify that people attending zoom meeting are eligible for CAN membership. Ballot box is another website which is a possible option but it might add another layer of complication.

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- Not everyone can participate in online elections due to access issues. Need guidance from OCCL. PPS is giving out laptops to families without laptops for virtual classrooms so it is possible more families may have them. Hacienda recently received a \$7 million grant from Comcast to give away iPads, improve technology access.
- Board should put out an announcement of vacant positions and candidates who are interested in serving. Possibly use the digital newsletter as an outreach point if available soon. Current email blast open rate is around 30-40%.
- Vacant positions: (Formerly Rich's) At-large Position, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-Chair, Chair
- Candidates planning on running: Chair: Josh, Secretary: Claire
- Need to discuss voting online at the next meeting and then at the following meeting could possibly have an election.

City Charter applicants

- 2 year commitment, very moderate stipend provided
- Looking for possible members w/ Coalition of Communities of Color, Rep from Rosewood Initiative
- David will not be pursuing role in City Charter Committee, wants to leave room for a younger, more diverse population on this committee

Cully community member consultation conversation on "Should Cully be called Cully?"

- A long-time CAN community member and educator reached out about the history of Cully neighborhood from the perspective of first peoples here. Talked to Living Cully, will be connecting to NAYA, freedom from racial prejudice, wants to continue the conversation. This person has been invited to come to a CAN meeting, possibly the talks may continue.
- Thomas Cully came in 1850 and was given a land grant when Native Americans still occupied this land. Could be an opportunity to honor someone who is not a colonizer.
- Historical perspective on current cullyneighbors website has disparaging language about first peoples, citing that they did not have a name for themselves, very one-sided history. Need to address how to change this.
- Annette would like to begin meetings with land acknowledgement w/ appropriate checks and board agrees. Josh will add this to the meeting and Mac suggests slightly into the meeting so all are present when it happens would be a good time.

Adjournment

- *Vote:* David moves to adjourn. Mac seconds. All in favor, none abstained, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.