

Cully Association of Neighbors Approved Board Meeting Minutes

Online Meeting 9/22/20 6-8pm

Attendance:

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

Community Members: Alma Velazquez (7:25+), Andy Wheeler (7:34+)

Board Meeting Minutes

→ *Vote:* Greg moves to approve August's minutes. David seconds. All in favor, none abstained, none opposed. August board meeting minutes approved.

Opposition to a Water Bureau Initiative

- Amanda Fritz introduced an item for expensive water meters for 1-8 housing unit developments which would hinder the recently-passed RIP. Stated goal written into city code to help water users conserve water and make the low-income discount available to more people. This would have a negative effect on low-income and market rate housing build due to prohibitive costs. Extra \$200 in meter costs for new bill
 - Water Bureau said they wanted to expand low-income water program with ~1 year timeline to solve water meter service issues, but Amanda decided against it and for the new water meters.
 - Cost of meters: ` \$7500 + SDC charges (based on size of meter, not # of units). 1 meter that serves 8 homes has a much smaller SDC than the new meters which could be an extra \$10k per unit.
 - ADUs w/ new meters that don't extend from house service also increases cost of new construction.
 - New housing for low income people would be built by non profits like Habitat for Humanity, Proud Ground. They cannot afford these new costs, will testify against this new measure.
 - David meeting with Living Cully leaders tomorrow to sign onto an opposition letter to be sent to City Council.
 - First reading of first section of this ordinance - total rewrite of Title 21 water code, council work session on October 27th for this specific provision about water meters. Expected to have much discussion about this issue.
- *Vote:* David moves to endorse a letter to city council opposing the new water meter rules. Greg seconds. All in favor, none abstained, none opposed. Letter approved by the board.

CAN Elections

- Isha and Josh spoke with Rhonda at CNN, how we have elections and when is up to us as a board. We need to announce it at the general meeting a month before we hold the election. Mechanics of vote holding/recording is up to the board. Zoom records with the speaker view.
- Consider the election for December, announce in November, take into account other board member opinions and general meeting opinions on how to host the election.

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- Possible general election options:
 - google forms w/ protective actions and auto-population of spreadsheet live in front of participants to provide transparency. Participants can provide a unique anonymous identifier to ensure their vote is appearing in the spreadsheet and total votes will be counted against those present in the zoom meeting. Claire offers to guide people through voting in the meeting if they need technical assistance.
 - zoom polling button feature
 - counting hands in video meeting with two people (one independent from the board, one a board member)
 - very short outdoor meeting (20-40 minutes) w/ only elections at a covered spot (Rigler?) with warm beverage, lights, PA system, and pens and paper.
- Want a meeting that is not discriminatory against people who don't have access to technology or interest in using zoom.
- Set a deadline for nominations, send absentee ballots to people who do not want to use technology?
- We have been hosting zoom meetings for many months at this point, possible to find our meetings through many sources: CNN, cullyneighbors.org, our email addresses.
- Provide accommodation is needed you can send a vote to the CNN address, come to CNN to cast a vote, send your vote by email
- *Vote:* David moves that we tentatively agree to the following election plan unless we have a better solution proposed between now and October's board meeting, at which we would hold another vote. Josh seconds. All in favor, none abstained, none opposed.
 - "Announce the election, posted at CNN and announcement on cullyneighbors.org and sent by eblast, in November or earlier for a December election. Election will be on zoom using google form link that will be sent only during the meeting. Accommodations will be made starting November to vote by mail, email, or in person at the election date."

October Meeting

- Red Cross presentation: earthquake or fire preparedness 60 minutes either topic, or 75-90 minutes combined. Board agrees both topics within 60 minutes seem appropriate.

Newsletter

- Alma Velazquez and Andy delivered a proposal, open to feedback. Spoke with Aaron Riddle about possibilities to consider. document at end of meeting minutes)
- Want it to be very inclusive, represent the community in a diverse way that truly represents the community, especially young people, POC, who might not be part of CAN
- focusing on a counter-story about how neighbors are helping other neighbors, not just how outside businesses have started inside of our neighborhood.
- Want to get a grant to pay people to contribute, graphic designer and webmaster (Cully-based, hopefully a POC)

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- Online presence with more flexible deadlines as opposed to quarterly like before, update gradually. Reduces the bulk of the costs which were printing/shipping before, should be about half of the cost.\$3k above the CBA grant.
 - Advertisers might be attracted to a young, diverse audience, more able to quantify audience clicks and views than previously.
 - Suggested possibility to send quarterly newsletter updates to continue engagement like before.
- *Vote:* Isha moves to accept the newsletter proposal. Greg seconds. All in favor, none abstained, none opposed. Proposal approved.

Adjournment

- *Vote:* Claire moves to adjourn. David seconds. All in favor, none abstained, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

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Conditions

- The pandemic
- Increasing social alienation
- Gentrification, racism, homelessness
- CAN disproportionately white, >50 y.o.

Need

- CAN would benefit from greater involvement, esp of residents of color, for a more inclusive approach to neighborhood leadership.
- Cully residents need to intentionally make space to elevate contributions of the neighborhood's residents of color so our overall narrative is reflective of reality.
- Cully community needs to be better informed about local pandemic relief, anti-racism efforts, and how they can get involved.
- Cully residents would benefit from increased interaction with neighbors and feeling of belonging to a Cully identity.

Objective

A communication plan that is inclusive of Black and Indigenous residents and recognizes and promotes their contributions, in order to shift Cully's very identity to be more inclusive of all neighbors.

Plan

- Replace print newsletter with online platform, separate from current CAN site
- Pay writers of color to contribute, using CBA funding
- Recruit writers from Madison HS, PCC
- Recruit newsletter steering committee from among these writers of color and others in the community.
- Publish new stories & information when relevant, rather than when an issue is printed
- Continue publishing in both English & Spanish, potentially expanding to Vietnamese, Somali
- Use Instagram to define and promote a Cully identity