

Cully Association of Neighbors (CAN) General Meeting Minutes
Online Meeting 6/8/2021 7-9pm

Agenda

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Welcome:

- Spanish interpretation available from Courtney Acostagrates
 - All participants - at the bottom of your Zoom screen, please press the Interpretation (globe) button and choose English or Spanish
- Land Acknowledgement by Annette Pronk
- Welcome new members and guests
- Introduction of CAN board members in attendance
 - Josh Heumann, Chair
 - Annette Pronk, Member-at-large
 - Gregory Sotir, Member-at-large, Cully Air Action Team (chair), mailing list administrator
 - Isha Leinow, Vice-chair
 - Vena Rainwater, Treasurer
 - Talia Kahn-Kravis, Member-at-large, TIF committee member
 - David Sweet, Member-at-large, Transportation and Land Use (chair), TIF committee member
 - Maria Grzanka, Secretary
 - Chris Browne, Member-at-large, website administrator
- **VOTE: Approval of meeting agenda**
 - Maria motions to approve. ??? seconds.
 - In favor: majority
 - Opposed: none
 - Abstained: none
 - NOTE: apologies for missing details, agenda was approved based on my recollection

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Rigler Reading Program funding request

- Rigler PTA has asked for \$2500 CAN funding to support a reading program
 - Olga Castillo, PTA President, shares her experience with the program this May
 - Encourages children as well as parents
 - Many students have exceed the 30 minutes per day reading goal, or 10 hours per month
 - Parents are also learning how to support their children through the program and how to support teachers work
 - Parents are also gaining familiarity with the use of technology for learning
 - Prizes from the program help to encourage children to read more
 - Zoe, PTA Treasurer, shares details of the program, which was run in May and first shared at the CAN general meeting in May
 - Program set reading goal of 30 minutes per day per student
 - Prizes included
 - Lanyard and charms for daily goals
 - Pizza party for the whole family at Pizza Jerk for reaching monthly goal
 - Additional support was provided through an OCF grant for \$1000, \$1500 from school community, \$500 supply reimbursement, in-kind donation of \$800 for pizza party
 - Usual level of fundraising is \$5000 normally through bottle drop donations
 - Want to keep program going through next year, want to run in multiple months next year, want to add components to program like training for parents
 - Platform provides children with access to 100's books tailored to their own reading level
 - Tentative budget goal for next year is \$30,000, looking into other community grants, ask for CAN support in the amount of \$2500
 - Results from May campaign
 - 600 min per student
 - Average 300 minutes per student
 - 36 pizza parties
 - ~1700 charms distributed for reading more than 30 minutes
 - Program offered to K-8 grades
 - Question about if Chromebooks will remain with students when returning to in-person class
 - Yes, Chromebooks are intended to stay after in-person
- **VOTE: Approval of meeting agenda**
 - Isha motions for advisory vote from general membership to fund \$2500 to reading program. ??? seconds.

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- In favor: >20 (by show of hands on Zoom)
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none
- NOTE: apologies for missing details, if the vote is unanimous a final board vote is not needed

Gun violence as a public health issue

- Annette introduces topic and speakers, intended to inform about complexities impacting gun violence in neighborhood, 45% of Cully residents represent people of color, compared to 29% in rest of Portland, one of the most racially and ethnically diverse areas in Portland and Oregon
- Annette acknowledges by name lives lost in Cully over the last year and a half, asks community to reflect on
 - How did we get here?
 - What can we do?
- Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, District 2 Multnomah County shares recent budget approval and upcoming programs being worked on
 - Introduces Angela Donley, Policy Director
 - Will focus on effects to people, rather than numbers
 - County responsible for Health Authority, City responsible for police
 - Gun violence considered within context of neighborhood strategy, no one solution, multiple solutions, some immediate, some long term, involve community engagement, no one agency can deal with it [alone], [need] all of our systems working together to address this issue
 - What are we doing: County passed budget last week, significant investment will add \$4M to what we already do in terms of programming, investment used dollars from the American Rescue Plan
 - Programs focused on addressing root causes of violence
 - Experiencing spike in gun violence across the country, not just here, most people believe it has to do with stressors, isolation, economic distress
 - Also, many services cannot be provided in person during pandemic, ex: youth employment program, behavioral health workers that would go into community
 - Addressing gaps in service
 - \$4M combined investment for Health Department and Department of Justice, examples include
 - \$1.2M for a Behavioral Health Team, 7 member team focused on gang impacted youth and families
 - Expanding community healing initiative, wrap-around service for young people in or around people in the criminal justice system
 - \$500K for elevate program, focused on 18-2 year olds in the Latinx and African American communities

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- \$300K for community health specialists

- 2 principles for Cully: not police-based and includes community response
 - Working with a whole range of community organizations, such as SACO (Somali American Council of Oregon), IRCO (Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization), finding out what their ideas are for short- mid- long-term strategies

- What can we do now to bring community together?
 - Want to do a series of events in Cully to engage people and bring together
 - Ideas to bring people out of homes and bring people together?
 - How do we create hyper-local responses to gun violence?
 - Got \$250K for 2-3 neighborhoods, 1 will be Cully, next step is to come together as community coalition to work over the long-term to keep building strategies, used in other communities across countries
 - 30 years ago everyone knew what was going on on your block, as communities were displaced, that is not there anymore, these coalitions try to recreate that
 - Question about relationship between shootings and gang-related activity
 - Increase in both gang-related and domestic violence shootings
 - Don't know numbers on suicides, anecdotally haven't part of spike in recent months
 - Question about impact on people in area of shootings, some people are too afraid to come together, people involved are also those that hear, come close to shooting, what are we supposed to do? Is calling 911 the right thing to do? How are we supposed to report these, not only the deaths? One incident took the police 45 minutes to respond to.
 - Our behavioral health resources are intended to be applied in this way, to anyone affected
 - Clearly an issue on police response, people who want to call 911 should, folks might not feel safe doing that, understandable as well, need to keep elevating 911 response time, numbers don't capture [whole issue]
 - [Looking at what] other communities have used to make the street more safe, [such as] more people around, more lighting, [less] abandoned cars, environmental things that change the atmosphere [to create a] feeling of safety, interested to hear [your ideas]
 - Question about kinds of strategies that youth might find helpful, especially over summer months when students are not in school
 - Youth employment program retooling for year-round work [not just summer], ramping up after covid, directing Cully youth to program, additional funding for program from state

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- County budget [funds] for youth coordinator at Bienestar program
- Additional funding from state and county for [bringing] summer programming to the neighborhood, both academic and enrichment activities (music, sports, etc.)
- Question about programs for children or parents to talk with children.
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 - Yes, some programs are focused on parents

- Sam Sachs, Founder, No Hate Zone, Gun Violence Awareness Campaign (<https://www.thenohatezone.com/gun-violence-awareness-campaign/>)
 - Former Human Rights Commissioner (2000-2015), background in law enforcement and Black Studies, focused on community engagement
 - Over last 10 years 45% of people shot and killed in Portland were people of color under the age of 40, been going on for over 10 years, highest in 2013 at 70%, black men are shot and killed at alarming rates especially in the City of Portland
 - Teamed up with Dr. S. Renee Mitchell and Elijah Hasan to create campaign
 - Put up 4 billboards across city to bring awareness and dialogue
- Dr. S. Renee Mitchell, Founder, I Am M.O.R.E., specializing in research on the power of belonging and healing from racial trauma (<https://www.iammoreresilient.com/>)
 - Former columnist at The Oregonian, public school educator
 - [Research showed how] the effects of racism [impact groups by] devaluing themselves, increasing disconnectedness and self-hate
 - We are all in the same soup, affected in different ways
 - Came up with words for campaign, framed message around white supremacy, racism + self-hate = gun violence
 - , all of us are affected, understand how we are impacted, could only provide words, spreading the black joy virus, invited elijah to provide visual element
- Elija Hasan, filmmaker, photographer, composer (<http://www.elijahhasan.com/>)
 - Provided visual element to campaign
 - Wanted to show levels deeper to those who have guns in their hands
 - Bullet [image] as a vessel, thought of slave ship schematic, lack of humanity, suffering along the way, when vessel hits resulting [in] pain and death
- Question about current billboard locations
 - Fremont and 72nd
 - Milwaukie
 - ?
 - Lombard
- Survey about support of billboard in Cully
 - As of 6/10/21 12:00pm, 21 people responded, 85.7% support, 9.5% do not, 4.8% maybe, all 21 attended this meeting

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- Anyone can access the survey here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOvHnEkTi18JyiLQbIMgCt8dq8jpS3b6qp-eCbGpvrGY6j5w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Board and committee reports

- David Sweet, Transportation & Land Use (chair)
 - Update on Cully Community-led (TIF) District, focused on preventing displacement of people of color and low-income people in Cully, aligns with CAN's Cully Inclusive Policy adopted 5 years ago, state calls it urban renewal, not calling it that because traditionally that has been used to raise property values, intend to use same funding, but turn on its head to benefit low-income to help them to thrive
 - Next Tuesday 6/15, Transportation & Land Use Committee will host a presentation about progress so far, invite will be sent via CAN email
 - Preliminary report on a Cully TIF District:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Qg_cYLhlpTDrI1EivQgGYT-vfuyC6Fki/edit

- Gregory Sotir, Cully Air Action Team (chair)
 - DEQ fined Owens-Brockway \$1M for past pollution and providing incorrect information
 - DEQ hosting information meeting tomorrow (6/9) at 6pm

- Vena Rainwater, Treasurer
 - Income \$8,290.00
 - Expenses year-to-date \$2,096.31
 - Bank Balance \$27,326.30
 - Question about \$5000 increase in Income from April to May, where did it come from?
 - Grant support from CBA to support the newsletter
 - Cully Neighborhood News: <https://www.cullyneighbors.news/>, online only for now
 - **VOTE: Approval of treasurer's report**
 - Kathy motions to approve report, Carol P seconds
 - In favor: all
 - Opposed: none
 - Abstained: none

- Bruce Nelson, Tree Team
 - Putting up signs at Rigler Arboretum, 20 now, rest of 40 in the next month, up all summer, in English and Spanish

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- Concern about grove at 42nd ave where new bridge crossing over Portland Highway will be, Concordia and Cully played a role in this 10 years ago, challenges around houseless people parking there and creating a staging area for construction of the bridge
- Isha Lienow, Vice-chair, temporary interim newsletter liaison
 - Announcement postcards sent, expenses has not hit budget yet, updated mailing list, reserved some,
 - Looking for permanent newsletter liaison

Announcements

- Lanny Afrank, Trinity Lutheran - Administered 2nd inoculation for 400 people at Trinity.

Acceptance of prior meeting minutes

Bulk approval for both April and May general meeting minutes.

- **VOTE: Approval of April and May general meeting minutes**

- Talia motions to approve report, Lanny seconds
 - In favor: all
 - Opposed: none
 - Abstained: Bruce

Adjournment

- **VOTE: to adjourn meeting**

- Julie motions to adjourn, Gregory seconds
 - In favor: all
 - Opposed: none
 - Abstained: Bruce

Meeting Minutes recorded by Maria Grzanka, CAN Secretary. All CAN Board Meeting and General Meetings are open to the public to attend. Please reach out to a board member for more detailed information about discussion points.

Active Committee Chairs

- Cully Air Action Team: Gregory Sotir
- Transportation and Land Use: David Sweet
- Tree Team: Bruce Nelson

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- CAN email list: Gregory Sotir
- CAN website: Chris Browne
- CNN Representative: Michael Morrissey