

## **Minutes of the North End Neighborhood Association (NENA) Zoom Meeting, April 27, 2021**

**Virtual board of directors meeting was called to order by Acting President Sarah Foregger at 7:03 p.m.** Total of 46 participants. Sarah welcomed neighbors and guests.

**Roll Call:** Acting President Sarah Foregger, Secretary Daniel Foregger, Director Carlos Coto, Director Sitka Koloski, and Director Tory Spengler. All directors were present.

### **Meeting Facilitator:**

Acting President Sarah Foregger explained the board has asked North End neighbor Tami Springer to facilitate the meeting. Tami introduced herself: she holds a law degree and has had seven years experience in law practice followed by six years project management experience. She invited all neighbors to join the discussion on ways to move forward in resolving NENA governance issues, with an emphasis on civil discourse and a path forward.

**Report on the status of the North End Neighborhood Plan by Deanna Dupuy, city of Boise planner:** Deanna explained the process of creating the North End Neighborhood Plan was launched in 2019 and involved public engagement sessions in January and March 2020. A draft plan was released and open for comment in February 2021. She indicated that comments would be accepted until May 11. She would be willing to report back to the NENA board at the May 25 meeting.

**Report on Hyde Park Fair:** Contractor Carl Schneider, Gruntworks, reported that planning for the 2021 Hyde Park Street Fair was progressing. Highlights from Carl's report:

- Booth size would be enlarged to accommodate social distancing.
- Increased number of porta potties and sanitation, which would increase costs about \$250-400.
- He had not yet heard from Cadwell Transportation on shuttle bus services.
- Vendor confirmation was about 40 short from previous years, with 79 total applicants (48 carryover from 2020 and 31 new). May 3 is the current deadline but it can be extended.
- He is looking for a new service provider for the children's play area (Giraffe Laugh is not in a position to manager it this year).

### **March 30 Meeting Minutes Adopted:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 30,2021 MINUTES OFFERED BY: Acting President Sarah Foregger**

**SECONDED BY: Director Carlos Coto**

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**North End Neighborhood Association Governance Issues:** Tami Springer urged attendees to raise questions and offer comments. Neighbor Julie Varin emphasized the position of the North End Alliance is to hold a new election in which all 15 seats will be up for election.

**Recruitment Committee Report:** Secretary Daniel Foregger reported that the recruitment application process was adopted at the March 30 meeting and indicated that six people expressed interest but none had applied for a vacant board seat. There was some discussion about why the recruitment process failed, with neighbors Erik Hagen and David Klinger expressing disappointment. Tami challenged everyone to offer ideas on ways to rectify the current recruitment challenge.

Erik Hagan identified two paths forward: 1. Board continues its recruitment efforts and appoints eligible people to the board. 2. Special election is held, with the question of whether the five board directors who were elected in October are required to also stand for election. As a first step forward, he urged everyone to stop calling the board directors "recalled board."

Julie Varin and Julie Madsen insisted that all 15 seats be open in a special election. Acting President Sarah Foregger noted that the overwhelmingly negative attacks on social media since last October has fostered a very hostile environment that would not be fair to the elected board directors.

JoAnne Lighty, Bylaws Committee chair, reported that the Bylaws Committee had identified a guiding principle that new board members be voted on in a special election then appointed by the board, to fulfill the current bylaws requirement that the board appoints board members when vacancies occur before the annual election cycle.

Tami invited neighbors and board directors to continue discussions on what a special election would look like.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Newsletter:** Director Tory Spengler reported that the newsletter had been published and was in the process of distribution. She thanked all volunteers and invited input on topics and photos for the next issue. She also invited people to join the committee to help with advertising and publication.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance sheet shows assets of \$115,697. Outstanding April bills include: Margaret Parker for newsletter typesetting, Treasure Valley Litho for newsletter printing and insurance to cover the Earth Day festivities.

It was noted that there is a Legal Defense Fund balance of \$30,545.63. Neighbor JoAnn Lighty recommended that the board set limits on who the board attorney

responds to, which Acting President Sarah Foregger responded that this safeguard has already been put in place. Sarah emphasized that attorneys fees from the board election lawsuit last fall have been covered by the board's insurance.

**Planning & Zoning Committee:** Chair Erik Hagan introduced himself. He is a practicing architect who relocated with his family to Boise from California. His wife Emily is Director of Education at the Discovery Center. His priority on this committee will be to work with all sides of an issue to find consensus. The other committee member is Brie Katz. The committee will establish a Google form for neighbors to submit comments on pending P&Z applications.

Pending P&Z issues in the North End:

- Longfellow School Conditional Use Permit and Variance - allows for reduction of Sherman street side setback to 5 feet for proposed parking spaces (code requires 20 feet).
- Parilla and 13th Street Grill in Hyde Park - pending variance application has been withdrawn.
- Convert the ground floor of a residence on Franklin Street to a salon (home on upper level).
- Triplex at 1607 W. Ressidue has been approved.
- Several ADUs in the North End have been approved - Erik presented a great slide on ADUs.

**Historic Preservation Committee:** Co-chair Kate Henwood reported on actions taken by the Boise Historic Preservation Commission at their monthly meeting the previous evening. A report was presented by the Veteran's Administration on the construction of a new 22,000 sf building and 100 car parking lot on the VA campus. Since the VA falls within the North End Historic District, they must mitigate any adverse impacts on the historic campus. Kate reported that St. Lukes is building a recreational trail to connect existing foothills trails to the Union Street Gate, which has been supported by NENA in the past. She and co-chair Suzanne Yehle are working to set up a meeting with the commission's senior staff and noted that the Trees Subcommittee would likely spin off to become its own committee in the future.

**FINE & School Grants Committee:** Director and Committee chair Carlos Coto reviewed school grant applications from Washington, Lowell and Longfellow Elementary Schools and North Junior High. He recommended holding off on approving these grants until the May meeting but was open to holding a board vote this evening, depending on member input. Neighbor David Klinger urged the board to take a fiscally conservative approach to these grant applications due to pandemic uncertainties. Several neighbors, including Director Tory Spengler, urged the board to approve the school grants as presented. Final action on these grants was deferred until the March 25 meeting.

**Bylaws Committee:** Joann Lighty, chair, provided a brief update on the work reviewing and rewriting the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. The committee met April 5 and 19 and established three conditions:

1. No member is involved in a lawsuit against NENA.
2. Not get bogged down in editing.
3. Hold special election to fill vacant seats.

**Streets Committee:** Committee member Kelly Olson very briefly reported that there were several active projects but would defer to a later meeting for more detail. These projects include Harrison Boulevard traffic study and temporary traffic calming; 13th Street traffic calming construction to begin in August; petitions underway to initiate traffic calming on 8th and 9th Streets.

**Engagement Committee:** Committee member Kelly Olson reported on the North End Service Day projects scheduled Saturday, May 1, at Memorial and Elm Grove Parks and thanked Director Tory Spengler for her leadership and everyone who participated in the Earth Day festivities on April 24. Acting President Sarah Foregger reported that this committee would be organizing the annual North End Garden Tour and invited neighbors to nominate their gardens and participate in the tour. More details will be forthcoming.

Adjournment approved:

**MOTION TO APPROVE ADJOURNMENT AT 10:19 PM OFFERED BY: Director Tory Spengler**

**SECONDED BY: Acting President Sarah Foregger**

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **SUMMARY OF NENA MEETING MOTIONS**

**APRIL 27, 2021**

1. MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 30 MINUTES OFFERED BY: Acting President Sarah Foregger. SECONDED BY: Director Carlos Coto. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

2. MOTION TO APPROVE ADJOURNMENT AT 10:19 PM OFFERED BY: Director Tory Spengler. SECONDED BY: Acting President Sarah Foregger. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY