

February 21, 2021

Meeting Minutes of the North End Neighborhood Association (NENA).

Virtual board of directors meeting was called to order by Acting President Sarah Foregger at 7:05 p.m. Sarah welcomed neighbors and guests. She observed that after nearly a full year of Covid social distancing and virtual meetings the neighborhood was vulnerable to losing touch with what makes us unique but also draws us together. She noted that six new directors, who are our neighbors, were elected to the board by a majority of votes at the annual meeting in October, and although the transition has been difficult everyone was looking forward to getting on with the important business of Boise's North End. She encouraged everyone to focus on little acts of kindness and move beyond the divisiveness of the past four months. She asked Secretary Daniel Foregger to take the roll.

Roll Call: Acting President Sarah Foregger, Treasurer Chrystal Allen, Secretary Daniel Foregger, Director Carlos Coto, Director Sitka Koloski, Director Anne Hausrath and Director Tory Spengler. All directors were present.

Meeting Agenda: Secretary Daniel Foregger presented the meeting agenda. Acting President Sarah Foregger called on Director Anne Hausrath who asked that three additional topics be considered and 30 minutes be set aside for membership input at the end of the meeting. Additional topics included:

- lawsuit update
- recruitment committee update
- status of board liability insurance

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Secretary Daniel Foregger shared the January meeting minutes. Director Anne Hausrath asked that time be set aside in the near future to discuss the format for presenting meeting minutes. **Secretary Daniel Foregger made a motion to approve the January 26 meeting minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Carlos Coto, and approved unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chrystal Allen provided account summaries but indicated that she could not provide any project funding details at this time:

Checking: \$ 4,603.53

Savings: \$ 125,959.36

Total assets: \$ 130,562.89

Secretary's Report: Secretary Daniel Foregger summarized several recent board actions:

1. The board voted to designate Acting President Sarah Foregger as communications chairman. More than one board director will have website sign-in credentials to avoid a future disruption in communications.
2. All actions and votes will be posted on the website. All documents will be shared with directors to bring everyone up to speed.
3. Website was scrubbed during the transition and must be reconstructed. A new hosting platform is under consideration.
4. Directors are agreeable to participate in a conflict resolution process advocated by Director Anne Hausrath who was researching facilitation services.
5. Director Chrystal Allen has been elected Treasurer. Both Chrystal and Acting President Sarah Foregger have been granted fiscal signatory authority.
6. Winter NENA newsletter will be delayed at least one month.
7. The board terminated the legal services of prior counsel Brian Ertz. The board retained Coeur d'Alene attorney Daniel Keys on a limited basis (\$1,000 fee) to help review petitions for special meetings and a recall election and address the question of what constitutes NENA membership. Mr. Keys is a widely recognized expert in laws governing Idaho nonprofits and has argued similar cases before the Idaho Supreme Court. Many neighbor petitions have been received but none have met the required threshold of 100 signatures for a special meeting.

Director Anne Hausrath asked that the board designate a lead person on all major topics and committees to ensure effective communications with one another and the membership.

REPORTS

Recruitment Committee Update: Director Tory Spengler reported that the Recruitment Committee had not yet met but she thanked member David Klinger for his very thoughtful input. She planned to send out a doodle poll to find a suitable time for this

committee to meet. David Klinger was given a few minutes to ask a clarifying question about when board decisions would be made (monthly meetings and work sessions which will be open to the public membership). Director Anne Hausrath asked to join this committee.

Member question was posed: What is a quorum for conducting NENA meetings?

Answer: 55 percent of seated board members.

Status of board liability insurance: Director Anne Hausrath felt it was very important that the board find out when the current insurance liability coverage expires and what the estimated premium would be for a policy renewal. Acting President Sarah Foregger asked Director Hausrath if she would volunteer to seek out answers to these important questions and she agreed.

Lawsuit Update: Acting President Sarah Foregger provided a brief report. She had asked Director Anne Hausrath to reach out to the attorney hired under the NENA liability insurance coverage to encourage them to conclude the lawsuit but they would not interact with Anne because she was not specifically named in the lawsuit. Sarah reported that the appellants had asked the lawsuit be settled expeditiously, given that the new directors had been seated, which was the crux of their lawsuit. There was no explanation for why the NENA attorney had not agreed to conclude the case.

Historic Preservation Committee: Director Carlos Coto reported that the Historic Preservation Commission met on February 20 and the NENA reps. Carlos Coto and Suzanne Yehle agreed with staff recommendations on two North End demolition requests - HR2127 (staff recommended denial as it was a demolition of a historic contributing structure/denied on vote 6-0) and HR2112 (staff recommended approval as it was a demolition of a non-contributing historic structure / tied 3-3 so was deferred). Carlos encourages more neighborhood members to join the Historic Preservation Committee.

Conflict resolution: Director Anne Hausrath reported that she had received unanimous approval by the board at the January meeting to seek out professional services for a

facilitated conflict resolution session involving the board and neighborhood members to help everyone navigate through the current divisiveness. She had received a proposal from BSU Director for Conflict Management Program Ashley Orme in the amount of \$2,200 but Anne was not recommending the board pursue this arrangement because of the cost and the facilitator's backward focus rather than a forward looking approach. Anne said she had no specific proposal on the table for consideration by the board at this time. **Member question from Nola Walker:** Has the board identified goals for this conflict mediation? Anne said that in her mind setting specific goals would be part of the facilitated process. She implored everyone to be open minded. She feels strongly that we all care about our neighborhood and we can all do better in how we interact with one another.

NENA newsletter: Director Tory Spengler said that she had stepped forward to get the quarterly NENA newsletter put together as soon as feasible, with a goal of publishing in the next month and a half. She was asking for volunteers on sorting and delivering. Tory introduced Chris Haechrel, owner and president of Treasure Valley Litho, the company that has published the NENA newsletter for the past 15 plus years. Chris gave a brief presentation, noting that his family have been North End residents for the past 20 plus years and feels very fortunate to be involved in the NENA newsletter. He is eager to work with the board on publishing the newsletter going forward.

Director Anne Hausrath appealed to the board to delay the newsletter to give the neighborhood time to achieve reconciliation. **Anne offered a motion to cancel or postpone publication of the winter newsletter edition. The motion was seconded by Director Chrystal Allen. The motion failed on a vote of 1-6.**

Hyde Park Street Fair: Carl Scheider, fair contractor, was introduced. Carl reported the date was set for September 17-19 and the application with the Boise Parks and Recreation was rolled over from last year's cancelled fair. He was optimistic with the Covid vaccination pace that the 2021 fair would be able to proceed. Last year the board agreed to an upfront flat fee of \$2,000 to help cover his overhead. Carl also reported that there would be a need for additional security and sanitation this year. Finally, he reported that 48 vendors had prepaid for 2021 (2020 fees rolled over).

New NENA Legal Counsel: After some discussion on retaining new legal counsel, **a motion was made by Director Carlos Coto, and seconded by Director Tory Spengler, to retain the services of Boise-based attorney Brit Kreymeyer with the firm McConnell, Wagner, Sykes & Stacey PLLC, including a flat retainer of \$2,000 and fees of \$195/hour. Secretary Daniel Foregger offered a friendly amendment to cap the retainer and all fees at no more than \$2,000 at the present time and to ensure an opportunity for the board to meet with Ms. Kreymeyer before disbursing any funds. The amendment was accepted.** Directors Anne Hausrath and Chrystal Allen raised concerns about approving a legal services agreement without receiving a specific proposal in writing. **The amended motion passed 5-2.**

Neighborhood member Lisa Brady urged the board to follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Covid vaccination assistance: Director Anne Hausrath shared her idea of North End volunteers reaching out to neighbors, particularly seniors, who might need assistance arranging appointments for the Covid vaccinations.

PRESENTATIONS

Longfellow Elementary renovations: report from Brook Thornton, LKV Architects in Boise, on the new addition and renovations their firm had been hired by the Boise School District to complete at Longfellow Elementary. This elementary school is the oldest existing school building in Boise, dating back to 1906. It was listed on the National Historic Register in 1982. The main goals of this work will be to preserve the 9th Street elevation as much as possible, repair the original brickwork, move all utilities underground, and add a new two story addition to the back of the main building to house the gym, cafeteria and library. The 1970s gym building along 10th Street will be removed, along with mechanical units. A neighborhood information meeting is scheduled March 9.

Austin Foudy, Director of Community Outreach & Volunteers for Inclusive Idaho: Director Carlos Coto introduced Austin Foudy. Austin provided an informative overview of the missions and primary work of Inclusive Idaho and Inclusive Idaho Outdoors. Inclusive Idaho's mission is to create a more inclusive Idaho for underrepresented, underserved and minoritized Idahoans. They work to promote inclusion and belonging

for their wide ranging constituencies through advocacy, education, community engagement and policy change.

Hannah Sharp, Jesse Tree (one of the recipients of NENA Aid Fund) – Hannah provided great background on Jesse Tree, a 20 year organization that has worked to provide emergency rental assistance in Ada and Canyon Counties. Jesse Tree is the lead organization in the two-county region to prevent family homelessness. They have provided more than \$20 million in rental assistance over this period. Their primary metric for success is sustainability, with a goal of 95% of clients safely housed after three years. They achieved 97% success rate. In 2019, Jesse Tree received a NENA aid grant to establish a pilot program to assist 13 families. As of December, \$6,500 had been spent, with \$7,500 remaining from the grant.

Chris Davis, Women's and Children's Alliance (one of the recipients of NENA Aid Fund) – Chris gave an excellent update on WCA services and priorities in ensuring safety, freedom and healing for their clientele. They provide secure shelter for people in need for 120 days (up to 8 months in emergency cases). In 2020, WCA's hotline saw an 87% increase in calls related to domestic violence. For more information WCA can be reached at info@wcaboise.org

NEW BUSINESS

Karena Youtz, 14th street neighbor, gave a presentation on a proposal she was working on to submit to the ACHD Community Grant Program. This proposal would request approval and funding for a four way stop and other traffic calming at the intersection of 14th and Eastman, in anticipation of increased young pedestrians and bicyclists as well as cars after the opening of the TRICA children's arts school on the northwest corner of that intersection. Karena invited anyone to join her effort and can reach her at Karenayoutz@hotmail.com. Director Anne Hausrath indicated that she would like to meet with Karena to discuss her proposal.

Concerns about absentee Airbnbs: Director Carlos Coto reported that he had been approached by several people about concerns about absentee owned Airbnbs and suggested that NENA poll its members on specific concerns so we can weigh in on potential city policies. Director Anne Hausrath cautioned that this was a complex issue

and that opinions varied within the North End neighborhood, as noted in the draft North End Neighborhood Plan. She urged the board not to rush into any specific actions and suggested that we reach out to the city of Boise and other neighborhood associations to see where policies currently stand. Carlos concurred with Anne's suggestions.

Open Membership Engagement: Acting President Sarah Foregger called on neighborhood members for two minute comments and questions.

- Sarah & Dax Wandling, 1605 N. 22nd St. – How many positions are open on the board? **Answer:** The Articles of Incorporation stipulate 15 seats, with 7 currently filled.

- JoAnn Lighty, 702 N. 16th St. – Status of committee membership? **Answer:** There is a form posted on the website for neighbors to submit. These are just now trickling in so the board hopes to get these committees organized as soon as practical.

- Drew Alexander – Will the new lawyer retained in tonight's motion be involved in any pending litigation (concerns about potential conflicts of interest). **Answer:** no.

- Sarah Wandling – raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest in litigation involving current board members.

- Nola Walker – Can neighbors serve on more than one committee? How does one nominate someone or themselves for an open seat? Will North End school grants be continued in the future (\$1,000 grants)? How does a resident find out about NENA meetings? **Answers:** Neighbors can serve on more than one committee. Anyone can nominate a potential board member. Send nominations to board@northendboise.org. Once financials are sorted out, the board intends to resume North End school grants. NENA is getting a new website established and has posted all meeting announcements and zoom links. The communications transition has been challenging.

- Michael Herman questioned why the board rejected his offer to continue to provide content and assistance during a two month transition in board director leadership.

- Ellen Burrie stated that Director Carlos Coto should apologize to Stephanie Matlock Allen for some remarks he made on social media.

- Katie Fife – Who voted to retain the services of the Coeur d'Alene attorney? **Answer:** Anne abstained, Chrystal voted no, and Sarah, Daniel, Carlos and Sitka voted yes. This attorney was retained for the purpose of advising on what constitutes NENA membership for purposes of determining certain challenges, such as recall petitions.

- Sheri Edmonds – what was the urgency for a legal opinion? **Answer:** There were deadlines triggered by previous board actions and ongoing petitions received by the board.
- Diane Hughes – why the discrepancy on membership count between the 10,000 discussed this evening and the 300 plus that former president Chris Wagner stated in the January meeting? **Answer:** This issue has been part of the misinformation that has complicated the transition.
- Kate Henwood – If the website was disabled for a period of time, why was the board not communicating through other channels? **Answer:** Access codes to the Facebook and Instagram accounts also were not made available until very recently.
- Ryndi Williams, 2230 N 27th St – Why isn't Sitka more involved in the NENA communications committee with his extensive HP experience? **Answer:** Sitka made a clear distinction that his skill set is in enterprise applications and not administrative desktop functions.
- Sarah Marang, 1411 Eastman St. – reported that she had contacted most of the other Boise neighborhood associations and did not find any that maintains an active membership list.
- Brooke – Urged the board to post information on Facebook.

Next meeting: Work session scheduled for Monday, March 1. Zoom session will be open to the public.

A motion was made by Secretary Daniel Foregger, and seconded by Director Carlos Coto, to adjourn the February meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at about 9:50 p.m.

SUMMARY OF NENA MEETING MOTIONS

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

1. Secretary Daniel Foregger made a motion to approve the January 26 meeting minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Carlos Coto, and approved unanimously.
2. Director Anne Hausrath offered a motion to cancel or postpone publication of the winter newsletter edition. The motion was seconded by Director Chrystal Allen. The motion failed on a vote of 1-6.
3. A motion was made by Director Carlos Coto, and seconded by Director Tory Spengler, to retain the services of Boise-based attorney Brit Kreymeyer with the firm McConnell, Wagner, Sykes & Stacey PLLC, with a retainer of \$2,000 and fees of \$195/hour. Secretary Daniel Foregger offered a friendly amendment to cap the retainer and all fees at no more than \$2,000 at the present time and to ensure an opportunity for the board to meet with Ms. Kreymeyer before disbursing any funds. The amendment was accepted. The amended motion passed 5-2.
4. A motion was made by Secretary Daniel Foregger, and seconded by Director Carlos Coto, to adjourn the February meeting at 9:50 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.