

Humboldt Neighborhood Association meeting

Date: Monday April 27

Location: Baker Building, 5511 N Albina Ave

Present: Lynne, Ross, Madison, Jeremy, Josh, Kyle

Multiple residents of Falcon (Stacy, Heather), Mark (hosting the new space we're meeting in), Jason and Beth, Leeda

Called in - Jona Davis, Yvette Rosales, Jon, Jen

CALL TO ORDER (6:30pm)

Note: Our goal is to hear from as many neighbors as possible in our meetings. Please be mindful of the time given to your own comments and others. If we cannot self-monitor and respect each others' time during our meetings, we will ask speakers to finish their comments immediately.

ROLL CALL

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[March minutes - Dan Ryan visit](#)

Kyle to prepare meeting minutes for Board to review before May's meeting (March and April will both be reviewed and presented for approval for next month)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (IF ANY)

PCC Strike Update (5m) - Yvette Rosales

New agreement was ratified. Lump sum to cover most strike members, retroactive pay for cost of living increases. Sibling union (Federation of classified workers, clerical, janitors, groundskeepers) settled earlier and didn't get as good of a deal. Both unions and student government passed motions of no confidence in the president. The Board has not responded to any of the concerns to hold Pres accountable. Recently Yvette wrote a substack post with more details. Helpful for community to know how property tax money is being used in local education.

[Adopting revised bylaws](#) - Joshua

Incorporated feedback from Portland's Office of Civic Life and NECN's lawyer. The Board has reviewed these changes and recommends their adoption.

Presented and voted on.

All 6 board members voted yes on the updates

NECN updates from Jona Davis

Board meetings highlights. Funding discussed for not yet incorporated NA's.

About \$2000 available for HNA based on last year pre-incorporation (this is carry over).

Additionally, there is more money set aside annually for communication funds. To pay for

zoom, website, fliers, survey advertising supplies. Can also apply for small grants, typically \$2000-\$4000 for HNA. Insurance available through NECN, general liability and x. Google classroom etc is available to all boardmembers, whoever we share the password with. The same password and login for any and all users.

NECN newsletter available for everyone, and the Board meeting is open to anyone in the neighborhood to attend in person or online.

From Ross of HNA - semi-formal thanks to Lydia from NECN for all her support, especially while NECN is only 2 people.

NEW BUSINESS (7pm)

7:15pm, visit from Councilor Elana Pirtle-Guiney - The Councilor will share some of what she's been working on (15 minutes) and we'll open it up to questions (15 minutes)

One of our 3 city councilors in District 2 (North/Northeast Portland). She has the goal to attend at least 1 meeting/event from each Neighborhood Association.

Her background, work, goals: work with labor unions. On Gov Brown's staff on workforce policy, state policy. Private policy consultant before running for office.

Focus on workability of policy, both immediately and decades down the road for the city.

Spoke to recent updates to committee structure. She chairs City Life Committee. To some degree, all the things people want about a city that aren't a part of the core ~4 actually funded primary services of a city.

Also on the Housing and Permitting Committee, chaired by Councilor Candace Avalos, for commercial/residential zoning, homeless services, etc.

Councilor working on keeping benefits of keeping green spaces (pocket parks, animal space, cooling, u-shaped greenspaces, condo back yard, etc). Further out planning, finances are harder to sort out. But need to now protect green spaces even as we build new housing.

Questions asked of Councilor Pirtle-Guiney:

- Unspent housing funds - old system had incidental incentive to "go along to get along". If you find an issue, you were effectively in charge of fixing it. Investigation of money made available for Covid era housing assistance. Pot of money that wasn't used, and a separate larger pot of money that wasn't being accounted for correctly.
 - Old accounting processes were not acceptable, but catching them is a good thing.
 - Asking Chief Budget Officer - what do they need from the Council to get all the data needed for accounting
 - What to actually do with this unaccounted for money (legally and with long term consequences in mind)?
 - Get half-finished housing finished
- Example of lot bought by developer for a building that doesn't seem to make sense to locals (that ended up getting canceled)
 - how to fill existing housing? and people love U-shaped brick style housing, counter-example to huge tall apartments.

- The City currently incentivizes ****any**** housing. Seems like too many studios and 1-bedrooms. Current subsidies are per-unit. Councilor working on switching to per-bedroom subsidizing.
 - Also could give space incentives for certain size units (family units, etc)
- Any red tape for developers getting in the way?
 - We are ahead of our past benchmarks, but behind population growth. We need to have a fee to keep up with infrastructure, but are waving that fee for now to kickstart development for the next 2-3 years.
 - Institutional funding: big dollar investors don't have an interest in Portland. Waiving fees is a tactic to bring investors in who
- Making it easier for small businesses to stay and function: mixed responses of tax costs vs loss of potential customer foot-traffic
 - When taxes are easy to pay, few people complain. Business taxes are difficult to pay in Portland (figuring out if and how you have to pay, and refundability is hard if even possible). These issues are real, but were less of a concern to folks
 - Portland is working on increasing the value seen from taxes.
 - New Office of Small Business is supposed to help.
 - Make permitting so easy, they don't mind
 - In person shopping hasn't increased in Portland, like other cities.
 - Is it just a holdover from Covid? Discomfort with homeless folks? People "out of practice" shopping in person, or don't see many other folks shopping in person?
- Land development protection for the present neighborhood against outside parties?
 - Hard so far to get support from the city
 - idea of "putting in trust" a plot of land for folks displaced from the neighborhood
 - Proud Ground
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - SEI in East Columbia
 - Ecological and economic displacement is a concern for the neighbors, but the city mostly is set up to care if a homeowner is being displaced directly
 - Could make a pitch to planning commission, then to the council
 - Can community members apply for rezoning? Maybe? Faisal does outreach and engagement on Councilor's team.

