

SGNA Board Meeting - 2026-04-20

Meeting Details

Date and Time: 2026-04-20 7pm-8:30pm

Physical meeting location: Steeplejack Broadway

Board of Directors Attendance

Facilitator: Matt Zajack

Notetaker: Sue Bickerstaff

Name, Duty	Present	Absent	Excused
Babs Vanelli, Neighborhood Coalition Rep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keith Adamson, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keith Iding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matt Zajack, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sheehey, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Bickerstaff, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ted Schenck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quorum (5 required)	Yes		

Neighbors Present in-person and virtual

1. Viv (transportation educator), Jo (from Holladay Park Plaza), Jenny, Eren, Stephanie

Agenda and Notes

Have a question, suggestion, or idea? Email us at hello@sullivansgulch.org

Welcome

1. Calendar of events
 1. 5/9 - SOLV Neighborhood Cleanup (9-11:30am)
 2. 5/17 - Volunteer Corps clean-up event

Speaker: Viv, Transportation Advocate and Educator

1. Introduction: Viv conducts research and runs a traffic school for pedestrians, bikers, and drivers: <https://portlandbicycleschool.com/>
 1. I teach behaviors and laws regardless of street design
 2. SGNA context and interest: we have about 200 people every week at Our Corners; what rights do we have to stop traffic as crossing guards?
2. "The Basic Rule": speed is limited for what is safe for the conditions at the time; it's a shift in thinking; all of transportation rules build on this; if I see a crowd I need to slow down
3. Question: As crossing guards, we tend to go out into the intersection when we have the light. What about someone who is crossing against the light? In strict legalese, the police report will not fault the driver if the pedestrian crossed against the light
 1. Viv: We're bad at turning as drivers. Turning is a leading cause of pedestrian injury/fatality. Drivers often do not check the bike lane before making a turn. Speed and excessive conditions are the cause of pedestrian fatalities.
 2. Vision Zero: the city and state are designing streets that are safer. They need to hear from neighborhood associations that street safety is a policy.
4. Question: I'm under the impression that Broadway is safer after the redesign, do we have any evidence of that?
 1. Viv: haven't yet seen that. Would need several months to a year of data.
 2. Matt: I put up a traffic monitor on a house at 24th and Weidler; before the redesign 95% of cars were taking the turn at faster than 15 mph. After the

- redesign, most cars are going less than 15 mph.
3. Keith has seen cars cutting through the bike lane to make turns on Broadway. Maybe they could put some planters
 5. Matt received notice from PBOT about speed bumps on Multnomah between 16th and 21st. The average speed in that area is 29 mph, which is 10 mph over the limit.
 1. Perhaps in response to concerns about street racing at Lloyd Center
 2. Viv: 20 mph will result in 5% of chance of pedestrian death. It increases with every mph increase. That's why they say "20 is plenty"
 6. Keith: Interaction with pedestrian in a marked crosswalk while traveling below the speed limit.
 1. Viv: We cannot control things coming perpendicular. By law pedestrians need to put a part of your body into the crosswalk to indicate your intention to cross. Then traffic must safely stop, which may take time to decelerate. Every corner is a crosswalk. Green bike lanes - best practice to treat as a crosswalk.
 7. Viv: City has a lot of engineers who know the benefits of safer street design. Hold them accountable to their own plans. As a group, decide on your priorities. If you are tracking things, share the data. If you can, make it as easy for the city as possible. It gives them political cover if they can show the neighborhood wants this.
 8. We should advocate for crossing signals where they would be helpful.

Standing Items

1. Secretary update
 9. Board approves February and March meeting minutes
2. Treasurer update
 1. Received and deposited the NECN 2025 Communication Grant (\$1000)
 2. Current bank balance: \$2,545.93
 3. Board approves reimbursement of expenses (\$365) for Tree Team from their EMCSWD Grant
 4. Board approves paying \$50 for annual registration with the State of Oregon
3. D2NC/NECN rep update
 1. Compliance is completed except for recent meeting minutes, which will be

uploaded after tonight's meeting

2. NECN hired consultants late 2025 to develop a Strategic Plan to improve the overall functioning of NECN in order to provide better service and resources for all 28 D2 Neighborhoods. Only a handful NAs have representative involved in NECN. Planning to have the plan ready to present to the NECN board in June, and it would go into effect in .
3. 2026 Communication Grants are not dependent on next fiscal year's city budget; they (the draft of which was just released today)
4. Executive committee
 1. Communications Grant 2026 (via NECN) application was submitted, requesting \$1,000
5. Communications:
 1. Website:
 1. Added an events calendar; Board members can access and add events, including community events (e.g., alley movies)
 2. Pete received an error message when trying to submit an RSVP for the tree walk/volunteer corps form; Trip to explore
6. Land Use and Transportation:
 1. Lloyd Center Redevelopment - Urban Renaissance Group;
 1. Two groups appealed the design committee ruling; the hearing will be on June 24th at 9:30am
 2. Keith will come to the May meeting with a proposal for discussion and further input
 2. Matt: Sandy Blvd sewer and water work planned between NE 12th-24th, beginning in July 2026
 1. Provides an opportunity to think about redesign of Sandy Blvd (road diet). It's been in the Transportation System Plan for a long time, that Sandy should be a bikeway and pedestrian way. Currently PBOT says they have no plans for Sandy.
 2. Coordinating with with Kerns, Buckman, and other adjacent Neighborhood Associations to craft a letter to remind them of their plans and encourage action
7. Safety and Livability:
 1. Tree Team

1. 4/19- Tree Team Walk was cancelled at the last minute because the guide was ill. A lot of interest from neighbors; filled quickly.
 2. Tree planting at the Fontaine will happen this weekend. Keith is organizing volunteers for Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
 3. Keith I: Are there trees that stressed in the neighborhood?
 1. Matt: Has heard that Western Red Cedars are not recommended due to climate change.
 4. Our neighborhood should be eligible for city tree plantings. Mary has information and contacts. DJ Heffernan and Mary met about possible policy changes to increase city responsibility for trees on parkways.
2. Volunteer Corp
1. 4/19- Volunteer Corp Garden Prep; 12 people signed up; 6 people came to volunteer. Right amount of people for the task. Next month will help install a new free pantry at Grace Memorial. Maybe sidewalk clearing.
 2. Block-Level Resiliency: Community Small Grants application (via NECN):
 1. Matt and Trip submitted a proposal to fund a Bloc Captain program; planning on launching that this fall.
 2. \$3,923.75 for Stop-the-Bleed kits, mesh radio nodes, 5-gal water jugs, information stickers about water sterilization
 3. "Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association (SGNA) is building a leading-class block-level resiliency program. We will build local leadership, disaster preparedness, and robust mutual aid in a highly dense, diverse, low-homeownership neighborhood, serving renters, homeowners, and elders. With your funding for life-saving disaster supplies, our program will be a force multiplier, where we could only recruit. You will enable volunteer Bloc Captains to train in Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET) disaster scenarios on techniques that save lives."
 4. Trip: Disaster Preparedness Fair and Musical planned for August
3. Yard Sale: July 11th
1. Sue to create sign-up link with a suggested donation of \$15
 1. Sue will write to NECN to inquire about Paypal link to collect payments
 2. Sue needs support for yard sale planning, particularly print advertising in

the week before

Motions / Nominations / Resolutions

1. Board unanimously approves Tree Team purchases for vests and other materials, including signs, vests, printing, water, drawing from their EMCSWD grant \$365.96
 - a. Keith motions
 - b. Pete seconds
2. Board unanimously approves February and March meeting minutes
 - a. Matt motions
 - b. Keith seconds
3. Board unanimously approves \$50 for registration with State of Oregon
 - a. Matt motions
 - b. Pete seconds