

SGNA Board Meeting - 2026-08-17

Meeting Details

Date and Time: 2026-08-17 7-8:30pm

Physical meeting location: Steeplejack Broadway

Virtual meeting link: <https://meet.zoho.com/jrku-ifp-auk>

Attendance

Board of Directors

Facilitator: Keith Adamson

Notetaker: Sue Bickerstaff

Name, Duty	Present	Absent	Excused	Conflict of Interest confirm No / Yes (describe)
Babs Vanelli, Neighborhood Coalition Rep	☒	☐	☐	☒ No
Keith Adamson, Vice Chair	☒	☐	☐	☒ No
Keith Iding	☒	☐	☐	☒ No
Matt Zajack, Chair	☐	☐	☒	☒ No
Peter Sheehey, Treasurer	☒	☐	☐	☒ No
Susan Bickerstaff, Secretary	☒	☐	☐	☒ No
Ted Schenck	☐	☒	☐	☒ No

Conflict of Interest (COI) Disclosure: *"To protect the integrity of the Association's decision-making processes, directors shall disclose to the Board any interest they have in a transaction or decision of the Board that may result in a financial benefit or gain to them and/or their business or organization, family members and/or significant other, employer, and/or close associates, and other organizations with which they are affiliated. The disclosure shall be recorded in the meeting minutes."*

Last Edited: 2026-08-03

Neighbors present: Jim Labbe

Quorum Verification: Yes

Agenda and Notes

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

Welcome and Opening Procedures

1. Meeting called to order
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Speaker(s) (~20-min each)
 1. **Jim Labbe, Your 2 Cents PDX campaign**, <https://your2centspdx.com>
 2. Grew up in Portland, served on youth advisory council in 80s, worked for Bird Alliance, have been working on participatory budgeting (PB) for almost 10 years, been working on school-based PB in Reynolds HS
 3. Most voters doubt that public spending is done efficiently and equitably; public budgets are the primary ways govt exercises power
 4. How it works: ordinary citizens have input on how to spend a portion of the public budget. Residents brainstorm ideas; government staff and budget delegates create feasible projects; binding vote of all residents; government implements winning projects
 5. PB started in Brazil in 1980; Chicago implemented in 2009; Seattle in 2016; launched in most major cities on the west coast; it has been growing in NYC. NYC put it in their city charter in 2018; Boston in 2021
 6. Benefits: expand and deepen civic participation, builds trust in government
 7. Have been working on plans for Portland since 2016 with support from city councilors. Currently working on a charter amendment:
 1. Policy: Can be annual or biannual; must be open to all residents (not just voters); binding decisions by residents; allows for district or citywide projects; funding would begin in 2028; must allocate

minimum equivalent of 2% of general fund discretionary resources (about \$16M), but may meet this obligation using any funds

2. This is on the ballot in November
3. Had 78,000+ signatures to put it on the ballot
8. Questions/discussion:
 1. It would cost \$1-2M per year to implement (including staffing, education, outreach/engagement)
 2. Voting is not overseen by election offices; voting can happen over a long period of time
 3. Has spread organically from city to city
 4. Seattle started in 2016 with a Youth-based projects, associated with parks and recs; never put it in their charter; last cycle in 2023; King County is still doing it
 5. It forces people to build coalitions around shared interests in projects; mixes technical knowledge of city staff and local needs of the community

Reports & Communications

1. Secretary's Report & Approval of Recent Minutes
 1. [July 2026 meeting minutes](#)
 1. List any corrections:
 2. Sue **motions** to approve these minutes (Babs seconds)
 1. Result: All in favor
2. Calendar of events review
 1. Disaster Musical Sing-a-long at Holladay Park Plaza - 8/22/26, fair begins at 4:30pm
 2. Gulch-o-Rama - 9/12/26
3. Officer Updates:
 1. Treasurer
 1. Approved the reimbursement for Matt from grant for Block Captain program
 2. Received \$97.63 from the Yard Sale via Paypal, waiting for check

from NECN

3. Adam asked for reimbursement for noise variance permit for Gulch-o-Rama: \$196

1. Keith **motions** (Sue seconds)

- a. Result: All in favor

4. Current bank balance: ~\$2700

2. NECN/D2NC Rep

1. NECN still in process of assessing policies, procedures, bylaws; strategic planning committee; attorney laid out things we need to do
 2. Group of North Portland neighborhoods who want to function independently from NECN; long history of tensions
 3. Awaiting final word from city council on funding for neighborhood associations for the next fiscal year

Committee Updates

1. Executive: Gulch-o-Rama

- a. Time and location confirmed: NE Clackamas btwn 24th and 26th. 9/12/26: 2-6pm
 - b. Many donations are coming in for the raffle
 - i. Sports Bra has committed a \$200 sponsorship
 - ii. Keith Iding offered to serve as photographer; also possible to store supplies in the garage
 - iii. Sue to put Keith A in touch with Adam re: porta-potty
 - c. Budget request for Gulch-o-Rama (continuing to actively pursuing sponsorships to offset):
 - i. Bloco Alegria (band): \$600
 - ii. Pomegrante (band): \$300
 - iii. Food: \$350
 - iv. Port-a-potty + hand-wash station: \$500
 - d. Sue **motions** to allocate \$900 to pay 2 bands (Keith seconds)
 - i. Result: All in favor

2. Communications: e-newsletter goes out the second week of the month; if you want something included in the newsletter, send it by the first week of the month
 - a. sngulgulchnet@gmail.com address is being phased out:
 - i. Will create auto-response that says "Not being monitored" and to update contact info to hello@sullivansgulch.org
 - ii. Will phase out this email address soon (it will bounce)
3. Land Use and Transportation - developments, construction, permits
 - a. Sign on to [Safer East Burnside Coalition letter](#) with Buckman and Kerns.
4. Safety and Livability
 - a. **Volunteer corps:** Block Captain program update
 - i. Reimbursement (from CSG / NECN) for the budgeted items
 - ii. See [SGBBC Budget vs. Actual spreadsheet](#)
 1. Sue **motions** approve grant expenses
 - a. Result: All in favor
 - b. **Street Painting initiative:**
 - i. Call for artists - Submit designs 1-week before Gulch-o-Rama (Sep 12) - Tabling for community on event date
 - c. **Tree Team updates** (submitted via email by Mary Kinnick)
 - i. Free Street Trees: 62 sites, Urban Forestry marking sites (white paint on curbs); postcards to property owners being sent out this month; if don't opt out tree will be planted between Sept.-March
 - ii. Tree Team and Urban Forestry tables at Gulch-O-Rama
 1. Information (Emerald Ash Borer/22 sites in Gulch)
 2. Affixing removable "tree hugger" tattoos
 3. 15-minute kids tree walks; demonstrate Kestrel
 4. Sign up for Sept. 13th guided tree walk
 5. Engage neighbors re: what they'd most like to see re: trees in the neighborhood in the future (new member Alonzo Kehn)
 6. Buy Sibley flashcards on Tree ID—as prize in drawing (100 trees)
 - iii. Transition to New Leadership After Nov. 30th when Mary steps down

1. Beginning discussion of possible leadership models: co-chairs, rotating chairs, small 3-4 member leadership team and more effort on identifying volunteer projects
- iv. Moda Center and PCEF funds (funds climate justice projects including expansion of tree canopy)

Closing Procedures

1. Announce next meeting date: September 21st
2. Any other business? (AOB)
 - a. None
3. Meeting adjourned
 - a. Sue **motions** to adjourn, Babs seconds, Result: All in favor