

SGNA Board Meeting - 2025-10-20

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

Date and Time: October 20, 2025, 7-8:30pm

Meeting location: Steeplejack NE 24th and Broadway Conference room and hybrid on Zoho

Link to this document:

<https://workdrive.zohoexternal.com/external/writer/73c709411c323ef8565b902c8e33355dc81f74e2c399d5149c51389be55fb6d2>

Facilitator: Matt Zajack

Notetaker: Sue Bickerstaff

Board of Directors Attendance

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

Neighbors Present in-person and virtual

1. Lynne Coward, Todd Coward, Courtney, Ryan Richter, Bianca, Adam, Dave, Jacqline

Agenda and Notes

Welcome

1. Public Comments
 1. Neighbor on NE Weidler near NE 19th said she is very happy with the Broadway/Weidler roadway infrastructure changes; easier to back out onto Weidler; easier to walk and shop on Broadway (cars actually stop), and others chimed in with agreement
2. Calendar of events
 1. Halloween Dog Parade on Saturday 10/25 at 1pm, meet up at 26th and Clackamas
 2. HPP Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, November 8, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, Handcrafted items, baked goods, plants, note cards
 3. November General meeting (11/17 at 7pm)

Speaker

1. Nicholas Starin and Kevin Bond, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
 1. Presentation on the Central City Code Amendments Project, which will update zoning tools to encourage the development of new housing and support the economic recovery and revitalization of the city core. Currently in the early stages of community outreach and gathering feedback. The plan will go to the Planning Commission and City Council in 2026.
 2. Presentation: <https://workdrive.zohoexternal.com/external/9cf72b2b2e9cac2dceb52ea6a12eaf40e51f4daa980f095dc43427b91a4b5020>
 3. Contact info: Nicholas.Starin@portlandoregon.gov
 4. Sign-up for email updates: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORPORTLAND_ENT/signup/39732
 5. Website: <https://www.portland.gov/bps/planning/central-city>

Standing Items

1. Officer Updates
 1. Secretary: Approval of [recent minutes](#)
 1. Motioned and approved
 2. Treasurer
 1. Pete reports that as of 10/12/25 there is \$1543.75 in our account
 2. Need to check with Pete about income from Gulch-o-Rama about when that appear in our bank account (transferred over from NECN)?
2. Committee Updates
 1. Executive
 1. [Gulch-o-rama 2025 - Thank You! from the Chair](#)
 1. Will send this letter to the business who participated
 2. Request approval for [Tree Team letter to Fred Meyer regarding Ash tree grove](#)
 1. Motioned and approved
 2. Keith A. will bring the letter to Fred Meyer
 3. If the manager is unresponsive or unable to act, contacting the corporate customer service phone line may be a next step
 3. SGNA signed on to CEI HUB TASK FORCE, requesting the strongest divestment from the Critical Energy Infrastructure ([CEI](#)) [Hub Project](#)
 1. Background documents:
 1. https://multco-web7-psh-files-usw2.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/ECONW_CEI%20Hub_Feb%202022%20%281%29.pdf
 2. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EUCtndi0HG6JzgFxZJi_3x2aSRGfNrBZ/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110827458413630726224&rtpof=true&sd=true
 2. Babs: Offers a correction to the suggestion that this is a

loose coalition of organizations. There is a strong coalition of environmental groups have been working on this. Includes neighborhoods St. Johns and Linton. Babs is willing to connect with anyone who is interested in more information.

2. Communications:

1. Technology - Revamped website has launched this month sullivansgulch.zohosites.com

1. Weebly site license has expired, but the old site is archived and the content will remain available to us.

2. Communications hub: testing out <https://sullivansgulch.zulipchat.com/>

3. Land Use and Transportation:

1. Gordon's Fireplace has sold at auction for \$575,000. No info appears to be available on the buyer yet.

(<https://www.oregonlive.com/business/2025/10/blighted-portland-building-that-housed-gordons-fireplace-shop-sells-for-fraction-of-past-sale-price.html>)

4. Safety and Livability:

1. Tree Team update from Mary Kinnick & Ted Schenck:

1. As of our last meeting on Oct. 1st, we have 16 members, 6 from HPP and 10 others from the neighborhood.

2. The goal of the Team at Gulch-o-Rama was to let neighbors know how to sign-up for the Free Yard Tree program of Urban Forestry. Our six members stood out wearing lime green vests! We spoke with 40-50 neighbors with ~40 receiving removable "Tree Hugger" tattoos and 20 enjoying a neighborhood tree walk. Five expressed interest in attending a Tree Team meeting (and 3 did in Oct.)

3. One of our members attended a gathering of members from other neighborhood Tree Teams. A major take-away was that our Team needs to determine what we actually can do re: neighborhood tree canopy needs that accounts

for our current interests and skills and/or future skills we'd like to develop. We might want to consider talking with property owners about planting trees and the support we could provide.

4. I volunteered for one of the Free Yard Tree give-away events (Farragut Park) where ~450 trees were given away. Urban Forestry staff were well organized with useful tree and planting information distributed. See Urban Forestry website for more events coming up (Oct. 25th at OMSI and Nov. 1 at Mt. Tabor Nursery and a January date for Holladay Park). Free Yard Tree information has been posted on Gulchnet several times. We should be able to get data on how many trees were picked up by those in the Gulch neighborhood.
5. A letter to Fred Meyer was drafted and sent to the SGNA chair about the likely fate of the stand of Ash trees along NE Weidler and the park area. The emerald ash borer (EAB) that attacks and eventually kills ash trees is now in Portland. The SGNA chair finalized the draft, and the Tree Team supports it. Fortunately very few other ash trees are in our neighborhood.
6. **Next Meeting: November 11th 7-8:30pm at Holladay Park Plaza Club Room.** We will be developing a mission statement along with goals and objectives. We'll begin with the current 2014 Tree Team plan and go from there. **Board members are welcome to join us.** We hope to have a draft for the Board to review in either December or January.
7. **Alert:** Tune in or pre-record on Channel 330 the City Council Meeting scheduled for Wed., Oct. 22nd at 9:30a.m. Consideration of the Urban Forest Plan is #7 on the agenda. Google Urban Forest Plan for information on the Plan. You can register online for in-person or written testimony. I think the Plan is a huge step forward for the city and the goal of expanding our tree canopy with priority

given to neighborhoods with the least amount of canopy.
The goal is a 24% tree canopy for all neighborhoods.
Sullivan's Gulch is at about 23%.

2. Gas leaf blower phase out
 1. Ban begins on Jan 1, 2026
 2. Matt would like to educate property owners in the Gulch: Sullivan's Gulch is only 37% property owner - occupied, so need outreach to property owners (renters will eventually take the hit on violations)
 1. See [Infographic](#). Do we want to post these around or even hand them out? Matt has a stack of mailers available to distribute
 3. Leaf pick-up day in Sullivan's Gulch this year: 12/19/25
 1. Matt may organize a leaf raking day in the cul-de-sacs in advance of leaf day
 2. Keep in mind that many neighbors use walkers: leaves on the sidewalk is dangerous and it is the homeowner's responsibility to remove

New Business

1. Events planning updates / ad hoc committees
 1. November General Meeting (11/17 at 7pm)
 1. Possible speakers/topics: Quiet clean PDX and leaf blower phase out
 2. Board elections: Consider nominating yourself or someone else to get involved with the board! Spaces are available. Invite a friend or neighbor who might want to get more involved in SGNA
 3. Location - Encorprenuer may be a good option for a larger meeting
 4. Request that SGNA use the Yard Signs to advertise the general meeting
 5. Planning group will convene soon to work on meeting details
2. Street painting
 1. NE 21st and Clackamas refresh update (Spring 2026 activity??)
 2. Wasco cul-de-sac at NE 28th street painting interest - currently

investigating

1. Group in Portland called City Repair - responsible for painting intersections. They have a connection with Miller Paints for pain donations.
2. DJ has asked for reimbursement for \$60 street painting expenses
 1. Discussion: in the future these types of purchases should be run by the board in advance
 2. Motioned and approved
3. Other events
 1. Sports Bra was asking about Halloween events and hosting meetings, could be a good partner for future events.
 2. When is trick-or-treating? Friday 10/31
 1. Plan for a SGNA-sponsored Halloween event in 2026?
 3. Ryan would like to organize a winter indoor garage sale

Motions / Nominations / Resolutions

1. Approved [Tree Team letter to Fred Meyer regarding Ash tree grove](#)
2. Approved [recent minutes](#)
3. Approved reimbursement for \$60 street painting expenses