

SGNA Board Meeting - 2025-11-17

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

Date and Time: November 17, 2025; 7-8:30pm

Physical meeting location: Encorepreneur Cafe, 1548 NE 15th Ave, Portland, OR 97232

Agenda link (this document):

<https://workdrive.zohoexternal.com/external/writer/5bd67584313e3d19b87e24837a9b9dce762a5524bfefd1ccb1dc225c779746cf>

Facilitator: Matt Zajack

Notetaker: Susan Bickerstaff

Board of Directors Attendance

Name, Duty	Present	Absent	Excused
Babs Vanelli, Neighborhood Coalition Rep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dave Brook	<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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quorum (5 required)	Yes		

Neighbors Present in-person and virtual

1. Ines, Lee Kilbourne, Mary Kinnick, Lynne Coward, Laurie King, Linda Fahrenkopf, Peg Johnson

Agenda and Notes

Welcome

1. Public Comment:
 1. Lynne: appreciate the opening question about what people are reading. Liked hearing the variety.
 2. Mary: Interested in a community garden. There is one located behind Broadway Grille, but the garden is managed by people who live in the house next store. Trip was interested in getting that started.
 3. Matt: Gordon's Fireplace was purchased recently. Heard that they are going to turn it into housing.
2. Calendar of upcoming events:
 1. December 15, next Board meeting
 2. December 19, Leaf Day, no parking in the Gulch (Volunteer leaf raking in the week leading up)

Updates and Ways to Get Involved

1. SGNA year in review - Matt
 1. Accomplishments for the year
 1. Spring meeting with tabling from many organizations
 2. Tree Team launch
 3. 36 registered Yard Sales
 4. New website and new communications platform
 5. Gulch-o-rama
 2. Demographics of the Gulch
 1. 8% are less than 18 years old; 19% are 65+
 2. 4500 residents (increase of ~1000 from 2010)
 3. Homeownership rate is 32%, one of the lowest in the city
 4. Median household income \$75K
 5. Median gross rate is \$1428
2. Invitations to get involved
 1. Linda Fahrenkopf, Volunteer Manager, Store to Door

1. Store to Door is a small, local nonprofit. Have been in the area for 37 years. Mostly serve home-bound seniors and people with disabilities. We shop at the Hollywood Fred Meyer as well as the FM in Beaverton. We're heavily volunteer run. Friday friendly calls to combat loneliness. Partnered with a food pantry. Clients are guaranteed a free food box per month. Most pantries require you to go in person, but we can deliver.
 1. Volunteer roles: Mondays and Tuesday - order takers call the same clients every week, which helps with isolation. Wednesdays and Thursday are shopping days in the morning. Then a separate set of volunteers deliver to the same clients every week. On Fridays we do friendly callers and food box pantry operation. Lots of opportunities to get involved.
 2. Where does funding come from? Foundations, corporate sponsors
 3. To get involved, create an account in the volunteer hub. Some opportunities are weekly and require a 3-month commitment. But also opportunities to fill-in or do a more short-term commitment.
 4. Website: <https://storetodooroforegon.org>
2. Laurie King, CEI Hub Task Force
 1. Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub is a 6 mile stretch of 500 tanks near the St. Johns Bridge. Store toxic fuels. We currently have an opportunity to reduce risk. CEI policy project is working on reducing risk. Will amend the comprehensive plan and zone code. First draft was just written on the Bureau of planning and sustainability. Public testimony opportunities will be available along the way. We will be having a press conference - stay tuned for more information about the exact date. December 16th at 3pm the planning commission will begin working on the 2nd draft. We'll pass along the exact location and provide talking points for testimony. Some loopholes need to be filled - for example the

trans-loading limits are being increased which will increase the volume coming through the hub via train.

3. Mary Kinnick, Tree Team

1. Back in 2014 the SGNA tree team was very active. Worked with urban Forestry to create a tree inventory - still available online, you can filter by our neighborhood. We are now restarting, as of June 2025. Mary, Ted, and Lee are involved. Long term goals of Urban Forestry is 35% street tree canopy in each neighborhood. 95 neighborhoods and only 5-6 active tree teams. Trying to figure out our relationship to Urban Forestry; trying to figure out what they do (provide street trees) and what we can do. What tree teams do depends on the skills and interests of the group. We currently have a core group of about 10 people who have been involved. In 2026-2027, Sullivans Gulch will be eligible for street trees. Urban Forestry has identified 43 spots for trees in our neighborhood. Recently adopted a mission statement and goal for 2026

1. Mission: Promote a healthy and sustainable urban forest where all neighbors can share in the benefits of trees.
2. Goal: Plan and conduct education and outreach activities designed to motivate residents and property owners to plant trees.
3. Short-term objectives for 2026: plan and conduct a series of tree walks; support SGNA's Gulch-o-Rama
 1. Looking for other ideas for ways to outreach to the neighborhood
4. Meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm of the month at HPP

2. Discussion:

1. Phone app to identify a tree "Picture This". Google app search bar will also identify trees/plants.
2. Can we find out the effect of heat event from a few years ago? Learning which trees are most vulnerable and ways to make them healthier.

4. Matt has been working with Trip Longworth on building a volunteer club within the neighborhood. When we have things that need to get done. Will lend a hand for other activities. Creating a task list. For example, raking before the leaf pick-up day. Other ideas: Foundseed Garden behind Broadway Grille. Garden at 26th and Multnomah owned by APM. Refreshing street paintings. Time and weather-based activities - responsive to snow/ice on the streets and at curb crossings. Helping things happen faster. Placing flags at troublesome crossings. Trip is going to help coordinate it. Also need support with administrative tasks. Reach out to Matt or hello@sullivansgulch.org to get involved.

Elections

1. Roles and Responsibilities of members of the Board of Directors: attend 90-minute meetings, once per month; serve on a committee or help plan an event
2. Call for new Board members: no nominations
3. Current board members with terms ending: Keith Iding, Dave Brook, Babs Vanelli, Matt Zajack
 1. Babs is absent; we can appoint her at a future meeting
 2. Dave will be stepping down (Keith will take Dave Brook's library of historical documents)

Motions / Nominations / Resolutions

1. Motion to vote in board members by acclimation
 - a. Matt motions
 - b. Keith seconds
 - c. All in favor and none opposed
2. Motion to reelect Keith Iding and Matt Zajack
 - a. Keith Adamson motions
 - b. Sue seconds
 - c. All in favor and none opposed
3. Motion to close the meeting
 - a. Matt motions
 - b. Sue seconds
 - c. All in favor and none opposed