

SGNA Board Meeting - 2025-09-15

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

Date and Time: September 15, 2025, 7-8:30 pm

Physical meeting location: Steeplejack NE 24th and Broadway and hybrid on Zoho

Link to this document:

<https://workdrive.zohoexternal.com/external/writer/3fb5e2f3a4b9584301ba64dbeea777662cac154a53e63c7f04b6ef1acc418d83>

Facilitator: Matt Zajack

Note taker: 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quorum (5 required)	Yes		

Neighbors Present in-person and virtual

1. Chelsea, Chris, Mary Kinnik

Agenda and Notes

Welcome

1. Public Comments
 1. NE Broadway Sidewalk Celebration, October 4th, Noon-6pm, hosted by NEBBA
 1. Cassie is NEBBA's new public engagement person. Sue or Matt to post on GulchNET
 2. HPP neighbor was concerned about speed of traffic on NE 16th when turning on to Clackamas. Is there anything we can do to slow travel?
 1. Keith suggests you could add jersey barriers to narrow the turn
 2. Babs could deliver the message to city councilors
 3. You could fill out a non-urgent form to PBOT
 4. Could submit a complaint to 311. Ted to submit a complaint.
 5. Could add a "Slow Down" Bennett Buddy yard sign; can get those free from PBOT and ODOT
 3. Free yard trees - you can register if interested
2. Calendar of events
 1. November 17th general neighborhood meeting, probably at Encorpneur Cafe
 2. Lloyd EcoDistrict 90 days of summer in Holladay Park is wrapping up
 3. Steeplejack is celebrating OctoberFest this weekend

Standing Items

1. Officer Updates
 1. Secretary: Approval of [recent minutes](#)
 2. Treasurer
 1. Took in \$285 cash in the raffle
 2. Unknown how much came in via PayPal to NECN
 3. Received a \$200 sponsorship from Costello's
 4. Spent \$600 for the band; \$450 for the portapotty; \$322 for food
 5. We have \$1600 in our account currently
 3. D2NC/NECN - Babs to provide an update on NECN legal / emergency meeting

1. Babs has taken on the role of Parliamentarian for NECN
2. Longstanding tensions have bubbled up recently. There are allegations of violations of state law; an attorney has been involved, but hasn't been able to give specific guidance.
3. One allegation related to duty of loyalty. Testimony in front of city council was seen as inappropriate. Another allegation related to use of space at King Elementary.
4. Meeting tomorrow night will address whether to hire an attorney for a training. Will form a grievance committee.
5. Next round of community grants will happen in October
6. NECN is the fiscal sponsor for SGNA

2. Committee Updates

1. Executive

1. Chairs to pitch for folks to get involved in the Board/SGNA
 1. Chelsey noticed the flyers around the neighborhood; Chris and Chelsey interested in getting more involved in Board or Tree Team

2. Communications (Matt)

1. Technology

1. New website to launch in October, demo at <https://sullivansgulch.zohosites.com/>
2. Current hosting ends on October 15th
3. Sue to begin moving content over

2. Newsletter

1. Sue suggests we can launch newsletter in association with website launch

3. Safety and Livability:

1. Tree Team (Mary Kinnick)

1. Gulch-0-Rama:

1. ~40-50 came by—tattoos; 20 joined the Tree walk
2. Interest in free yard trees; 4 interested in joining the Tree Team with three more interested in future events

2. Future activities being considered by Tree Team

1. Tree walks—seasonal ones with themes
 2. A workshop to learn how to access dashboard that allows you to identify specific trees in the Gulch and more about our urban canopy
 3. Support Buckman and Kerns neighborhood efforts to expand their canopy (currently lower than our 23%)
 4. Workshop on planting, watering and other care for new small trees; we lose trees due to too little watering
 5. Question about sharing information: what is the best
3. Interests of the Board? What would you like to see us do?
 1. Babs suggests connecting with 350 PDX
 2. Matt would like to see trees planted this year
 3. Question about which email to use: Matt and Mary to connect to troubleshoot email
 4. Sept. 29th at 7pm at Steeplejack—a meet up of several Tree Teams to exchange ideas (Arbor Lodge and East Moreland will be there)
 5. News about Emerald Ash Borer—in Portland; only 3 or 4 in our neighborhood; Fred Meyer park area has many Ash trees; eventually, they won't survive even with injections
 1. Tree Team can draft a letter and bring to SGNA board for co-signing
 6. Next Tree Team meeting (will confirm when know we have a reserved space—Oct. 1st at 7pm at Holladay Park Plaza, NE 16th and NE Multnomah
2. NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team)

New Business

1. Recap on the Gulch-o-Rama
 1. Takeaways: estimated 150 attendance; had about 12 volunteers; it was a smashing success

2. Reflections/suggestions for the future
 1. Have the Raffle list printed
 2. Could put more information on the back of the bingo sheet, including requests for donation
 3. Could put in for Play Street for the bounce castle (there may be a conflict with how the play street program is structured)
 4. Should have facepainting for next year
3. Waste management, minimal environmental impact
 1. Only had Matt's 3 bins
 2. Less than 1/4 of his garbage bin
 3. Half of recycling and compost bins
 4. Bottle drop donation went to Milk Crate Kitchen
 5. Babs requested a report on this for climate action committee
 6. School of Rock house band could be an option
4. Sue to send an email to volunteers
5. Resolution to reimburse \$322.49 Matt Zajack for food for GoR
 1. Motioned and approved

1. Fall General Membership meeting planning

1. November 17, 2025
 2. What speakers do we want?
 1. Quake folks (from Ecolloyd Quake Night)
 3. Outreach to potential new Board members in advance of the election
2. Invite Condo associations to have a rep with SGNA? And/or be involved
 3. Next Meeting: October 20, 2025 at Steeplejack

Motions / Nominations / Resolutions

1. Minutes from previous meeting approved
2. Resolution to reimburse Matt \$322.49 for food purchased for Gulch-o-Rama approved