



Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association, c/o Holladay Park Plaza, 1300 NE 16th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97232
<http://www.sullivansgulch.org>

Minutes: Biannual Neighborhood Summary

Meeting Day, Date & Time: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 7:00p.m.

- I. Welcome, introductions, and announcements**
 - There is a new elections schedule -the next board election will be in the fall. Get in touch if interested in serving on the board or a committee.
 - The room is set up with round tables due to the planned discussion-based format of the land use section of the agenda.
 - The board is working on an update of the SGNA bylaws.

- II. Updates on Sullivan's Gulch Events**
 - a. Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Planning: Michelle Johnson & NET members:** We are approaching the first anniversary of the first cohort of Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) trainees. In the first year we have formally established a Sullivan's Gulch NET team, created an operations plan, applied for grant (unsuccessfully) and after welcoming the next cohort of trainees, will take on a Map Your Neighborhood project. We will look for volunteers to host meetings to get to know their neighbors and make an inventory of each other's skills, equipment, and special needs. You don't need to be NET trained to participate. Reach out to Chris, Daniel, or Michelle if interested in participating at any level – or reach out via SGNA website comment form.

 - b. Daniel Pirofsky – communications committee.** Thanks to the volunteers who delivered the recent SGNA newsletters. We will continue to fine-tune the delivery process and hope to keep people engaged. Helen Kennedy noted that in the past neighbors have also served to help deliver to their blocks.

 - c. Intersection Painting: Kelly Francois – safety and livability committee**
The proposed street painting design is available for distribution. A goal of the project is to have another avenue for people to engage and connect over a joint activity. Marty Rowe: HPP and Turner Construction have agreed to each donate \$125 toward the intersection painting.



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III. Discussion of Homeless Issues: Marc Jolin, Director, A home for Everyone/Joint Office of Homeless Services

Each year, Marc Jolin's office does an analysis of people who have died homeless on the street. Last year, there were 88. The average age was 45. 2000 people per night are sleeping unsheltered. Another 2000 are in shelters of various kinds, including a family shelter at 152nd and Stark that currently houses 200 families. There is a no turn-away policy at this shelter, which means it can be very crowded. For the single adult population, about half will self-identify as having a disability and the majority are sleeping unsheltered. Many shelters have required that residents be sober and participate in case management. They often do not allow pets, partners, or things. Recently a new couples shelter opened in Westmoreland. People can bring pets and belongings and can stay on their own terms. In last year and a half, the number of beds in the community has more than doubled. Still across neighborhoods and communities, lots of vulnerable people sleeping outside and in RVs. The problem is that we don't have enough housing. The greater Portland community is short 25,000 units of housing that can be rented at very low levels. 18,000 people in the community are on Supplementary Income (SSI) for disability and receive approximately \$700 per month. Also those on VA benefits and those working full time at minimum wage can't afford housing available on market. Portland needs to create more housing inventory.

Jack Frewing: Can you speak to what is unique around Sullivan's Gulch? Marc Jolin: Unsure of what is unique in Sullivan's Gulch. Right to Dream 2 is planning to be relocated near Rose Quarter. Deanna Hunt: What is the best gateway for getting help for homeless in need in the neighborhood? Marc Jolin: Call to 211 during business hours and facilitate conversation. Bud Clark Commons is a day center near the train station where people can connect with resources. Also there is a youth system for those under 24. You can also call police to request a welfare check. Neighborhood groups can help by welcoming services into the community. For example welcoming an outdoor shelter village and assistance to transition to permanent shelter. Rose City has VA shelter in a Methodist Church. Neighbors can volunteer at shelters. Food service, supplies, hygiene supplies all traditionally rely on volunteers. The Shleiffer furniture building is now housing 80 people, with mats on the floor, without a kitchen and could be adopted by a neighborhood. Oregon's budget is looking at significant cuts that would affect shelters. Neighborhoods can get involved in the political side, lobbying and educating around issues. DJ Heffernan: what about the distribution of services - downtown vs. neighborhoods or even state-wide? Marc Jolin: New shelters are getting established on edges of the city, not downtown. Regional distribution meets need where people are. However, clustering downtown allows for medical clinics and shelters to be co-located. A relatively small percentage of homeless came to Oregon homeless. People come from all income bands. Those with low income are more



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vulnerable. Question: Can you speak to homeless youth? Marc Jolin: Youth populations are 24 and under. With youth, the emphasis is on stabilization, education, employment opportunities – getting people launched. Summer Travelers pass through every summer. A subset of those can be challenging, causing trouble to public safety. The city is addressing this through community policing and attempts to identify exploitation. Question: Whatever happened to Dignity Village? Marc Jolin: They are out there and doing just great, supporting 60 people a night. It is an intentional community with an agreement with city to serve as transitional housing, with a maximum of two years. Kathy Hansen: Can they pass lessons learned on to new communities? Marc Jolin: Yes, that is what is happening now. Michelle Johnson: What do you know about the initiative to house homeless in ADUs? Marc Jolin: The pilot “A place for you” initiative encourages an increase of housing inventory through ADUs. The county will help put an ADU in place and manage it, housing a family in need of housing for five years. After five years, the ADU will revert to ownership of the property owners. The initial pilot is four houses and will launch this summer. 1000 homeowners from across county signed up. Kathy Hansen: the city is attempting to recover Zombie houses/foreclosed homes - is there plan to make these available to homeless? Marc Jolin: Not really, running single family homes is very expensive. DJ Heffernan: Is anyone anywhere looking at creative solutions, like using and modifying containers? Kari LaForge – knows of a builder who can build an apartment for \$66K, but city regulations boost cost prohibitively. Kari feels discouraged by high price tags and amount of work to be done and supports idea of requiring sobriety for access to shelters. Marc Jolin: Studies have shown that cost of living homeless is exponentially higher due to engagement with police and emergency rooms than providing a room in Bud Clark Commons, where they then have access to services. The Innovation question is fascinating, but doesn't represent real progress yet.

IV. Discussion of a new vision for Sullivan's Gulch: DJ Heffernan, Chair SGNA Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC)

LUTC is in process of updating the neighborhood plan. Following DJ's brief overview, each group will discuss three questions: What should be our primary N-S, E-W pedestrian routes through the neighborhood, incorporating better lighting, better furnishing, better sidewalks – leading to destinations; What are we going to do about parking; Where is our Park – where do we put it and how do we get it? DJ made a plea for greater rental/tenant representation on the committee. The Land Use committee meets the 4th Thursday of every month 6:30-8:00, usually in Holiday Park Plaza. Their current focus is on updating the neighborhood plan, which was put together in 1987. The neighborhood plan update will make it more consistent with the Portland Plan, with a focus on Climate Change, Social Justice and Livability (cool, calm, and connected). Each chapter will connect back to each of these objectives. The committee also



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monitors development plans and projects. The Lloyd Cinema is moving with 14 screens into the Sears building. The current cinema and parking lot will be redeveloped into 800 apartments. Discussion: Issue 1 – Pedestrian routes; Issue 2: Transportation Management – Limit visitor parking (parking district)?; build off-street parking?; reduce cars/add travel options? Issue 3: Where is our park? Buy a block, knock buildings down; use the street; use the gulch, co-located with trail? Small groups discussed each issue and the range of options and then left written comments for the consideration of the Committee.

VII 9:00 Adjournment