

SECIA Board Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Board Members: Present - Ben Brummel, Karl Smith, Jim Nyberg, Alex Farrell (Executive Director), Kathy Knudson, Wendy Menken, Bill Dane, Cody Hoerning, Sloane MacSwain, Steve Peterson, Greg Thompson, Quinn Oteman, Phil Roban; Absent - Katy Baker, Aaron Tilleson; Excused – Lynn Andersen
Other Participants: Amber Wiebe (Community Building Intern), Sydney Jordan (MN Representative 60A), Laura Schlotterbach (Grant Writing Intern), Nick Juarez (CPD), Katie Fournier (Liveability Committee and UDA rep), Maribel Morales (Community Building Intern)

Motions:

1. **Supersede the May 30th, 2020 motion with the following revised Como-Emergency Assistance Business Fund:**
 - a. **SECIA will make available \$5000 for securing the premises of a neighborhood business or non-profit to include:**
 - i. **Window Protection**
 - ii. **Window Replacement**
 - iii. **Fire suppression**
 - iv. **Materials and contracted services for protection installation**
 - v. **Graffiti removal**
 - b. **Up to \$350 for receipted costs per business or non-profit organization**
 - c. **Subject to approval by the City of Minneapolis**
 - d. **Mover: Cody, Second: Steve, Unanimous approval**
2. **Authorize SECIA executive committee to research available fund lines and recommend to the board which funds to move for the Emergency Assistance Business Fund and work with the city to move and contract funds.**
 - a. **Mover: Wendy Second: Steve, Unanimous approval**
3. **Approve May 5, 2020 SECIA Board Meeting minutes**
 - a. **Mover: Steve, Second: Wendy, Unanimous approval**
4. **Amend the housing grant program to include higher income seniors.**
 - a. **Mover: Steve, Second: Wendy, Majority opposed (3 yes, 5 no, 3 abstained), Motion failed**
 - b. **Motion tabled pending more information**

Meeting Called to order at: 6:33 PM

1. **Introductions (5 min)**
 - a. **Moment of Silence to Honor George Floyd**
 - b. **Alex Farrell: In addition to remembering George Floyd and those affected by his death, we would like to acknowledge and thank members of the community who provided positivity. To those who helped with cleaning up, businesses recover, with food and water, with medical supplies, kindness, listening, comfort, and protecting the vulnerable. Thank you to those who protested peacefully for highlighting the injustice, the need for change, and for supporting others. And thank you to those who serve and protect our first amendment rights. It is the First amendment because it is the foundation of democracy and the freedom to communicate our agreements and disagreements. Tonight, we will exercise that right together, and we thank you for being here and for your contributions to improving this community.**
2. **Community Updates (20 min)**
 - a. **Sydney Jordan (60A rep)**
 - i. **Very sorry about murder/death of George Floyd**
 1. **Inexcusable**

2. Everyone failed by policy makers
3. Sydney is accountable to us and wants us to know she is a partner in the fight
 - a. Will hold us accountable for holding her accountable for social justice
- ii. State has resources for keeping people safe right now
 1. Heard reports from people about scary cars and flammable devices
 2. DPS link
https://twitter.com/MnDPS_DPS/status/1267944100877262858?s=20 <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/news/10399/30019>
 3. Call 911 for real emergencies
 - a. Text also okay
 4. Phone lines are still open
 5. Report criminal activity and vehicles without licenses
 6. Fireworks, weapons, plans to target, tips on George Floyd's murder - report to FBI and tip line and 911
 7. Set of policies laid out where number of bills are being proposed
 - a. Special session is being started by the legislature
 - b. Investigation of officer-involved death
 - c. Increase accountability
 - d. Raise standards and officer excellence
 - e. Partner officers with communities that they serve
 - f. Officer residency requirements
 - g. Repairing and donating to help the community
 - h. More details in above links
 - i. Reach out to Rep Jordan with questions and ideas
 - j. This is only to address policing - however the legislature is aware of long-standing racist issues
 - k. Reinventing who we are and what we are about
- iii. Questions
 1. Karl - Listened to Governor's comments today and heard leadership in Black community was not included in the discussion
 - a. Rep Jordan was not involved in this decision making and hasn't heard address yet
 - b. Doesn't know details, but would be happy to look into it
 - c. Rep Jordan stresses how important it is to have proposals coming from the community and the Black community who experience this violence
 2. Wendy - Minneapolis instituted civilian community method for policing a while back
 - a. Community safety teams
 - b. Minneapolis started going down that path, but it's been dismantled
 - c. Maybe building on this is a way to make progress instead of starting from scratch
 3. Quinn - Read that Dallas police department were sending in social workers for mental health calls
 - a. Social workers have the proper license for this and Police don't
 - b. Jordan - this point was also made by teachers
 - i. Wants to make sure all of our units have the resources for this
- iv. Closing - Everything is on the table at this point
 1. "There are no bad ideas"

2. "This has been an abject failure"
3. "I apologize for how you have been failed by the government"
4. Hold me accountable for making sure our government doesn't do this again
- b. MPD Second Precinct Representative and/or UMPD Community Engagement Team (CET) Representative
 - i. Nick Juarez
 1. There are responding officers designated to follow up on mental health calls
 - a. One social worker assigned to 2nd precinct
 - i. They are extremely busy - many calls to follow up on
 - b. Great program, but needs more resources
 - c. Cody - 2PAC meeting - officer presented how they could use another social worker
 2. Phones are back up and running, but best way to contact is via cell
 - a. Doesn't know when CPS will be back in the 2nd precinct
 - b. Communication has been very bad
 - i. People were unable to get ahold of the right people
 - ii. Look at block club and neighborhood watch again
 3. Several business in Como suffered damage
 - a. Damage to property
 - b. Quarry Target was looted
 - c. Pharmacies were looted
 - d. Damage to buildings and hardware store
 - e. Como Tap suffered damage
 - f. Adam's was looted
 - g. Mannings
 - h. Park building
 - i. Gas station broken window
 - j. Overall have fared better than other areas
 4. No word on UMN decision yet on whether classes will be held in person for 2020-2021 school year
 5. Lots of opportunities to build community partnerships
 - a. Nick is assigned the precinct south of Broadway St.
 6. Big program suffered budget cuts
 7. Don't hesitate to follow up
 - c. Van Cleve Park – Mike Fox - no report
 - d. Park Commissioner – Chris Meyer (quarterly in-person updates) - no report
 - e. City Council Members – Kevin Reich, Ward 1; Cam Gordon, Ward 2 - no report
 - f. University and 4th roadway improvements - SRF Consulting (Jono Cowgill) (Postponed until July 7th meeting)
 - g. Meeting/Event Reports
 - i. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Third Tuesday – Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Zoom video conference
 - h. Upcoming Meetings/Events
 - i. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Third Tuesday – Next meeting – Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Zoom video conference
 - ii. Other Developments
3. Board and Organization Business (20 min) – Final Agenda set by Executive Committee, 5/27/20.
 - a. Board Business
 - i. SECIA's response to killing of George Floyd
 1. Brought to us by our intern staff
 2. Worked on by a multitude of SECIA members - Interns and board members

3. Approved by all board members who were able to respond
- ii. Review and approve May 5, 2020 Board Meeting minutes (attached)
 1. **Motion: Approve May 5, 2020 SECIA Board Meeting minutes**
 - a. **Mover: Steve, Second: Wendy, Unanimous approval**
- iii. CEE tiered loan/grant guideline amendment
 1. Approached by neighbor interested in senior grant program
 - a. Has an idea of a 1:2 match option as he does not meet income limits
 - b. Alex reached out to our loan vendor
 - i. Appears to be easy to adapt within our guidelines
 1. Income amounts
 2. Loan limits
 - c. Will be presented as a revision proposal for review before next board meeting
 - d. Steve - can we advertise the guidelines?
 - i. They have been in all of our newsletters
 - ii. Should give community the opportunity to submit proposals
 - iii. Possibly adding a segment to existing program where if you're above an income limit you can apply for a match instead of a grant
 1. Maybe next season
 - e. Money has been sitting dormant
 - i. We really want to make use of it
 - ii. Money is for homeowners and not renters
 - f. Should assess loan program interest rate
 - i. Loan program is available for people with higher incomes
 - g. Katie - take any opportunity to get the money out
 - h. Lots of options for how to proceed
 - i. **Motion: Amend the housing grant program to include higher income seniors.**
 - i. **Mover: Steve, Second: Wendy**
 - ii. **Discussion:**
 1. Ben - Maybe we need more information
 2. Quinn - we could gain more knowledge with a survey
 3. Ben - we went through this process last year, do we have time to work it out to be better?
 4. Wendy - Happy to do more research
 - a. But personally don't have time, needs someone else to champion
 - b. Needs a structured way - surveys ...
 - i. How many seniors in the neighborhood
 - c. Amber - would be happy to help with this
 5. Steve - seniors might come forward with more advertisement
 - a. We have been advertising in all of our newsletters
 - i. 3 people have joined in the last 3 months
 6. Alex - can these funds be reallocated?
 - a. No, loan program revolves back and we've been able to retain money from the city

- b. Has been earmarked only for housing programs
 - iii. **Mover: Steve, Second: Wendy, Majority opposed, motion failed**
 - iv. **Motion tabled pending more information**
 - iv. Reenvisioning SECIA
 - 1. City is planning to cut funding to neighborhoods
 - a. May be as little as \$10k/year
 - 2. Originally thought about developing 1035 14th ave SE into community center
 - a. Recent meeting focused this
 - i. Support for reenvisioning the organization in a similar way
 - ii. What is the future of SECIA?
 - 1. Can we gain a physical location?
 - a. Church
 - b. House
 - c. Tuttle School
 - d. Storefront
 - b. Discussion of what we think about what the organization could do
 - i. Establish what our goal is
 - ii. Laura - started with the 14th ave church
 - 1. Requests our input
 - iii. Wendy - envisions our beautiful neon sign in a window in a visible location where someone could walk in
 - 1. What services and information can we help with?
 - a. Tools, empowerment, goals
 - iv. Karl - What does it mean to be a part of a community organization?
 - v. Katie - is there some way we could become more inclusive? Especially in light of the current situation?
 - vi. Karl - need for neighborhood groups is greater now than most of the time.
 - 1. May not be a wise time for Minneapolis to stop funding neighborhood organizations
 - vii. Jim - the need is only going to grow - 2 huge problems at the moment
 - 1. Another problem on the horizon - climate
 - a. Will affect young people in coming years
 - 2. Need will be greater for community
 - 3. What will people need and want us to do?
 - a. Can we do these things without proper funding
 - 4. Find a way to advocate for changing minds about what we can do for the city
 - 5. What can we do about it?
 - viii. Katie - Push the city to help neighborhood organizations to combine with each other
 - 1. We already have a four neighborhoods that work together in the UDA district
 - ix. Karl - large group of people 60+ and not as many <20 years old

1. Given system for caregivers, there is a huge crisis coming
- x. Ben - combining resources between neighborhood orgs is a good idea
 1. Northeast neighborhoods already do that - shared newsletter and some events
- xi. Quinn - envisions organization being centered around community organizing
 1. Special events - bike fest ...
 - a. Potentially more powerful than some of the other things we do
 2. Ways to bring the community together
 3. Integrate communities together
 - a. Letter we just wrote was from SECIA to the broader Twin cities
 4. Can work with other neighborhoods to make SECIA a great place to live and make other neighborhoods better
- xii. Kathy - all of the neighborhoods should get together and approach the city council to make sure we get funded properly
- xiii. Bill - Back in the 80s when he first joined, the org received ~\$3k/year
 1. Archives were in a volunteer's basement
 2. Met at the park, but had no space
 3. Had a strong identity nonetheless
 4. NRP boost brought in millions
 - a. Now we're trending back towards the support level of the 80s
 5. How can the city not see the benefit of all of the time and effort organizations invest into the neighborhood?
 - a. Councilmember Gordon appears to be for neighborhood organizations
 - b. We need to bring this to the council
 6. Reagan administration had the brilliant idea to cut the legal services organization
 - a. Restricted what legal services can do
 - b. One of the republican senators who initially voted for it put a stop to it
 - i. People came to the senate and higher levels when no one was there to listen on the local level
 7. UDA alliance did many good things, but is currently on the sidelines - has had no value to neighborhoods for a long time
 8. SE Como has to react to both the city and the university
 - a. Puts more pressure on the neighborhood
 9. We have to be realistic and understand that their goal is to make us disappear

- a. We don't have to disappear even if we are not funded
 - b. Can still meet and push for things - make people in city hall uncomfortable
- 10. It's a good time to have this discussion while things are up in the air
- xiv. Sloane - Happy SECIA took a stance on George Floyd
 - 1. Represents the influence that we have
 - 2. Has consistently been impressed by the influence we have - the connections and guest speakers
- xv. Greg - Is there some sort of model where we can become self-sufficient?
 - 1. The mosque has to solicit donations to keep the bills paid
- xvi. Karl - Develop a set of scenarios
 - 1. Total volunteer org with maybe a tiny bit of funding
 - a. How can we have the greatest impact?
 - 2. Fully funded staff
 - 3. Something in between
- xvii. Laura - talked about many options
 - 1. What if we had an Americorps person to help with volunteers and staff work?
 - 2. What if we had a board that fixates on executive pieces of the organization?
 - a. Staff could do more outreach and programming.
- xviii. Katie - Could one of the scenarios be combining with several other neighborhood orgs?
- xix. Ben - we should make an action plan
 - 1. Prioritize what we would like the outcome to be
 - 2. Try to make priority #1 happen and plan for alternative scenarios
 - 3. Priority #1 should be to maintain or increase city funding for neighborhood organizations
 - a. Can we organize other neighborhoods or a committee to put pressure on the city council?
- xx. Steve - we seem to be becoming a social organization
 - 1. What we are dealing with is whether to go beyond that
- xxi. Karl - stats on neighborhoods
 - 1. We are the smallest population and highest median income
 - a. Hard to believe the income data
 - 2. We are among 3 predominantly white neighborhoods
 - 3. It will take a lot of effort to pull together four neighborhoods
- xxii. Wendy - city has been trying to go to a regional model and group together neighborhood orgs
 - 1. Concerned about this path with power structure

- 2. Can still collaborate
 - a. Previous environmental coordinator served multiple neighborhoods
 - 3. What could we do with certain resources?
 - a. Can we make positions that are a shared resource?
 - xxiii. Alex - Scenario summary
 - 1. SECIA is defunded, absorbed or combined or limps along with little funding
 - 2. SECIA Fights for more resources
 - a. We have one year to do so
 - b. Fight the city on it
 - i. Marshall the troops
 - 3. SECIA Looks elsewhere for funding
 - a. Go after grants
 - b. Executive director needs guidance on this
 - xxiv. We need to do something and we need to do it now!
 - 1. Laura - very happy and excited to lead small group meetings on this
 - 2. Will talk with Alex this week to gather thoughts on small groups
- v. Executive Director hiring
 - 1. Update on executive director hiring process
 - a. Met last week and put out position description
 - i. Will distribute tomorrow
 - b. Determined budget numbers
 - i. \$22-26/hr
 - ii. 0.6 full-time equivalent
 - iii. Keep position open until filled
 - iv. Will review applications starting 6/17
 - c. Email Cody with suggestions for where to post this
 - i. Will distribute as widely as possible
 - ii. Katie - try CURA
 - d. Hoping to finish the process in August
 - i. 1-2 months, then onboarding
- vi. Board member recruitment
 - 1. We need to start recruiting early
 - 2. Good if people can find replacement recruits
 - 3. Can be very difficult to find people
 - 4. Hugely helpful if we can motivate people to run
- b. Committee Updates (30 min) – Up to Five (5) minutes per update
- vii. Project Night/Joint Committee – Alex
 - 1. May 19th meeting (next meeting: June 16)
 - 2. Amber's emergency relief fund
 - a. Meeting tomorrow at 1pm
 - 3. Cody - bike lane planters
 - a. Attached in the meeting packet
 - 4. 1035 14th ave project
 - a. Further discussion tonight
 - 5. University and 4th St. Development
 - a. Will update at next month's board meeting

- viii. Grant Writing Committee – Alex
 - 1. Current status of grant writing, board involvement planning
- ix. Community Building & Communications – Jim
- x. Zoning – Joan
- xi. Environmental – Kathy/Peggy
- xii. Housing - Wendy
- xiii. Livability & Housing Implementation – Katie
 - 1. Diverter progress
 - a. Taking shape on 15th and Talmage
- xiv. University District Alliance (UDA) - Katie & Alex
- xv. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.
 - 1. Fairshare Farm - Moving forward
 - 2. Diverter Project - 14th & Talmage
 - 3. Pollinator Patch
 - 4. Bicycle event - Luis is working on this
 - a. Instead of a physical event we are donating the bikes that have been collected along with any other bikes people have to offer
 - b. Also donating helmets
- xvi. Safety – Cody Hoerning
 - 1. 2PAC
 - a. **Motion: Supercede the May 30th, 2020 motion with the following revised Como-Emergency Assistance Business Fund:**
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 - 2. **Window Replacement**
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 - i. **Mover: Wendy Second: Steve, Unanimous approval**

b. New Business

4. Adjourn: 8:29PM (1 hr 56 min)

SECIA Minutes June 2, 2020:

Note taker: Ben Brummel; Exec reviewed: June 24, 2020 ; Board Approved: July 7, 2020