

SECIA Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, May 11th, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93923944154>

Board Members: Present -Jessica Focht-Perlberg (Executive Director), Ben Brummel, Holly Day, Thomas Weist, Cody Hoerning, Karl Smith, Caitlin Johnson, Steve Peterson, Jim Nyberg, Andrew Norton, Kathy Knudson, Greg Thompsen. Absent-- Phil Roban, Quinn Oteman

Other Participants: Lila Smith, DeWayne Townsend, Laszlo Marton, Alex Kincaid-Beal, Laura Schlotterback (intern), Larry Crawford, Wasima Farah (intern), Cam Gordon, Grace Sweeney, Aryca Meyers, Izzy Voigt.

Motion to review and approve [April 13, 2021 board meeting minutes](#)

Moved to approve by: Stephen

Seconded: Ben

Motion passes unanimously

Motion to appoint UBS account Authorized Representative and Account Signers

Karl—moved

Steve—seconded

Motion passes unanimously

Motion to create Tuttle Ad Hoc Committee

Ben—moved, also move that Kathy and Katy cochair committee

Seconded—Jim

Motion passes unanimously

Motion to send letter to school district regarding garden with dollar amount not to exceed \$500

Ben--moved

Cody—seconded

Motion passes unanimously

Motion: prize drawing to incentivize the tenant survey not to exceed \$200

Ben—motioned

Karl—seconded

Motion passes unanimously

Meeting Called to order at:

1. Introductions (5 min)

Board member Lynn Anderson passed away May 5—it was quite unexpected. There are no funeral arrangements yet so, but since this was a priority community for him we will be kept updated. Dorothy Charging Hawk is handling his arrangements.

2. Review [SECIA Meeting Norms & Agreements](#) (3 min)

3. Community Updates (up to 15 min; 3-5 minutes each for updates/Q&A, depending on number present)

a. City Council Members –Cam Gordon, Ward 2 Report

[Cam Gordon's Ward 2 Report](#)

Cam--I'm doing a Police Oversight forum as well as setting up a hearing on evictions and notifications of evictions. Our attorneys are waiting to see what happens in St. Paul after the eviction moratorium is lifted. This has the potential to help some folks.

4. Board & Community Training (up to 40 minutes)

a. Neighborhoods 2020 Transition Board & Community training #2: Transition to Neighborhoods 2020 and Preparing SECIA's Equitable Engagement Plan (Aryca Meyers, NCR Neighborhood Specialist)

i. [Aryca Meyers' Powerpoint presentation](#)

ii. Review NCR [Equitable engagement plan template](#); and [NCR Neighborhood Organization Recognition Requirements](#) and Mission Guardian / Birken Law templates process

CPP contracts will be extended to the end of the year due to everything that's been going on this year. The original deadline was July 1, but it makes more sense to extend it to the end of the year. This way the neighborhoods have access to their CPP money for a lot longer.

The city of Minneapolis has funded neighborhoods for the past 30 years but not culture organizations, and I feel that people want there to be a partnership between neighborhood organizations and other culture-based organizations.

iii. Review Jul-Dec 2021 Neighborhoods 2020 transitional funding: Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund allocation (\$12,500 per neighborhood) and [Equitable Engagement Fund allocation for 2021](#)

This is kind of like the CPP fund but it's focused on equitable engagement, reaching out to folks that are under-engaged and allocations are assigned to neighborhoods with an up-to amount involved. With the engagement fund, there will be an engagement plan and a budget to go along with it. The plan will look different for every neighborhood depending on demographics of each neighborhood. First draft engagement plans are due September 1, and document will be treated like a living document opened to amending.

Lila—Partnerships with churches and mosques—is that allowed?

Aryca—I think it needs to be a nonprofit 5013C organization.

Kathy—I believe my church is a 5013C and we’re partnering with other 5013Cs.

Lila—The office for off-campus living is an important partner with our organization as well.

Aryca—I believe there is a restriction regarding religious institutions

Jessica—It has to be a secular, nonpartisan organization.

Greg—the Mosque is also a 5013C organization.

Steven—Should we plan on this as a back and forth issue, where we send you a document, and you send it back with your ideas, and we go back and forth until it’s done?

Aryca—Yes, it’s a living document and we’ll give out lots of feedback from experts on everyone’s projects. We want neighborhoods to succeed and to get their projects funded, so there’s no punitive motive in this.

Ben—I’m curious about the possibility of sharing funds with neighborhoods for projects.

Aryca—For this year, they had to take out some of that money and put it in other projects. After next year, the collaboration fund will be gone.

1. Announcements (10 min)

a. Meeting/Event Reports:

i. Apr. 24th Earth Day Neighborhood Cleanup (Cody, Jessica)

Cody—It was a great event. A bunch of people came out, we hit quite a few streets. Coffee was donated by Black Coffee.

Jessica—I think we had 25-30 participants. We partnered with the Office of Off-Campus Living.

Ben—Pat and I came by and got rid of a bunch of TVs lying around.

ii. Apr. 29th 1st Virtual Arts Kids’ Programming: “Stories About Pets” (Holly)

Holly--First class was fun—hoping to have another one at the end of May. Still looking for instructors for programs, possibly adult classes.

iii. May 8th Drop-in Day for unsheltered neighbors (Cody, Jessica)

Cody--Passed out supplies to unsheltered neighbors. Planning to partner with East Side Neighborhood Services for produce distribution.

iv. May 10th Let’s Talk Tuttle Ideas Forum (Ben)

We just asked for really broad feedback at the meeting to see what people wanted for the site. Hopefully with the guidance of a steering committee we can formalize some proposals for the site.

v. Eid al-fitr Prayer at Park—either Wednesday the 12 or Thursday the 13th, depending on the first sighting of the moon.

Greg—one of the things that came up was that in order to engage some of the groups that haven’t been included in SECIA, the notion of try to go to them instead of trying to pull them into our meeting. Wasima and I brainstormed a bit a few weeks back, and this is the very end of Ramadan, and the Eid prayer is taking place at Van Cleve Park Thursday morning. Hundreds of people from the area will be there, and we’re going to try to

set up some tables and set up some outreach at the event. We're hoping this will go well—it's a once-in-a-year opportunity to hit so many people. Jessica—We're going to set up tables, pass out information and flyers, and hopefully be able to invite some new folks into our meetings.

b. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

i. Talmage Crossing Prairie Cleanup, Wednesday, May 12th, 4:00-6:00pm, 2094 Talmage Ave SE

ii. SECIA Land Use & Development Committee: Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00-8:30pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

iii. SECIA Chat in The Garden, Thursday, May 13th at 4:00-5:00pm, Fairshare Farm

iv. Accompanying Unsheltered Neighbors - Como Cares/Marcy-Holmes Collaborative, Tuesday, May 18th at 9:00 - 10:00am, [Zoom meeting link](#)

v. SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night – Next meeting -- Tuesday, May 18th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Zoom video conference and breakout small group meetings, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

vi. Como Cares Team meeting, Thursday, May 20th, 7:00-8:30 pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

vii. SECIA Environmental Committee, Tues., May 25th, 6:00-7:30pm, Van Cleve Park (inclement weather, via [Zoom meeting link](#))

viii. Virtual Coffee Hour, Thursday, May 27th, 10:00-11:00am, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

ix. Social Justice Study Community, Thursday, May 27th, 4:00-5:00pm, [Zoom meeting link](#)

x. Talmage Crossing Prairie Planting, Saturday, May 29th, 10:00am-12:00pm, 2094 Talmage Ave SE

xi. Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group, Tuesday, June 1st, 6:30-8:00pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

xii. **Save the Date:** Bike Fest, Saturday, June 12th, 1:00-4:00 pm, Van Cleve Park, details TBD

xiii. **Save the Date:** Pollinator Party, Saturday, July 24th, Van Cleve Park, details TBD

c. Other Developments

Andrew Norton—I have gotten into a PhD program at the University of Madison so I will be leaving and I'm actively seeking someone to join SECIA to fill my place.

1. Board Business (up to 20 min)

a. Review and approve: [April 13, 2021 board meeting minutes](#) (Holly) (2 min)

Moved to approve by: Stephen

Seconded: Ben

Unanimously approved

b. Hiring/Personnel update: Accountant transition upon forthcoming retirement of Elizabeth Raasch-Gilman (2 min)

Jessica—Elizabeth is one of the few accountants that's familiar with the neighborhood associations accounts. Her replacement, Clair, is a fairly new accountant who is being trained by Elizabeth for a few months before she officially retires. Betsy is hoping to complete her retirement by July, but if we can go forward to hire Clair she will set up some training times with her and do the accounting with her for a month as backup through the summer. Executive Committee can look over her resume and we can plan an interview.

Kathy—is Clair also working with other neighborhood association as well?

Jessica—That's the plan.

Karl--Mike Wilson is also retiring?

Jessica—Yes.

c. Financial reports: (5 min)

i. Review periodic accounting report: (draft) Fiscal YTD, through April 2021; and [CPP Draw #35 budget](#), (Cody, Jessica) (3 min)

ii. Review [March 2021 CEE Housing Program report](#) (Cody) (2 min)

Karl—Is the CEE fund an investment that collects interest, or is it just a fund that declines?

Jessica—It does collect interest.

Karl—I know the loans collect interest, but it's a pretty good chunk of money, and I was wondering if we should invest it somewhere.

Cody—I haven't seen any information re: interest it's collecting.

Jessica—We do need to go over this to see how to best use the money to continue to promote affordable housing in the neighborhood.

d. Review and approve:

Motion to appoint UBS account Authorized Representative and Account Signers

Karl—moved

Steve—seconded

Motion passes unanimously

e. [UBS Signer Form](#)(Cody, Jessica) (2 min)

f. Review CPP 5th Amendment [contract](#) and [budget](#) documents (2 min)

i. We don't have to have this budget finalized until July 1, but I do suggest we review it according to the Reimagining SECIA plan so that we don't have to do it all over again.

g. Other governance/financial updates:

i. March 31, 2020 Form 990EZ tax update; 990EZ tax preparations for fiscal year ending March 31, 2021 now underway

Jessica—Thankfully, our 990 was filed later than usual due to the pandemic. We initially got correspondence from the IRS that we didn't qualify for that extension and there was a \$1100 fee associated with it, but that has been resolved.

ii. West Bend / Wagner General Liability Insurance review & update complete

Jessica--We were able to update our policy to cover the Fair Share Farm gardening activities and other SECIA activities, as well as covering all our volunteers and activities.

h. Affirm Apr. 27th remote vote: [SECIA's Updated Statement in Response to Chauvin Murder Trial Verdict and Killing of Daunte Wright](#) (2 min)

Ben—Updated statement to reflect the Chauvin verdict.

i. Review and vote: Formation of The Future of Tuttle Ad Hoc Committee (Ben B., Kathy K., Katie F.)

Motion to create Tuttle Ad Hoc Committee

Ben—moved, also move that Kathy and Katy cochair committee

Seconded—Jim

Motion passes unanimously

Kathy—We need to solidify members and start having meetings.

Ben—I leave it to you to run this and pull in anyone you need.

Kathy—We are planning to have a table at the Como Cookout and have people suggest ideas for what they want to have the building used for.

Ben—I gave a very brief overview at the meeting last night. Possibly converting it to senior housing, daycare, accessibility for skateboarders, a co-op, the Birchwood Café has interest in setting up something there.

Kathy—The parking lot could be shops, student housing, lots of possibilities.

Greg—I think the big takeaway is that we could have a lot of impact in steering this is we put together a package and groomed a developer who was interest in our plans. We could then steer the whole project and present it to the school board.

j. Review and vote: MPS Tuttle Garden Request Form for Como Cares food sharing garden

k. [Draft MPS Gardens on School Property Request form for the Tuttle Garden](#)

l. Review and vote: Motion for approval of expenditure from unrestricted donations for prizes to incentivize community/tenant survey.

Jessica—The goal is to utilize the Tuttle Garden plot. Emily Quast has previously worked on planning a garden and maintaining a garden with eth CURA grant at Tuttle, and has knowledge and connections. The plan would be to use a garden to grow food for a food sharing program to confront the food scarcity issues in the neighborhood.

Izzy—Our main idea is to have one of the existing gardens be a Salsa Garden and the second garden being a Pickle garden, just to have a theme for the gardens.

We're also thinking of having potential cooking classes to go with the gardens, and we could give out ingredients for the classes from the gardens.

Laszlo--Pending approval, we're going to get up a cleaning date before we start planting.

Jessica—this will also be part of the new partnership with East Side Neighborhood and their foodsharing plan with unsheltered neighbors.

Kathy—you should be able to get all the plants and seeds from Minnesota Green and borrow tools from the Fairshare Farm.

Lila—Where are you going to do the cooking?

Izzy—Not sure if it would be a virtual class on in-person. That’s more than just an idea right now.

Karl—Have you arranged for watering?

Jessica—That is part of the request to the school district, and might end up being a small financial piece.

Motion to send letter to school district regarding garden with dollar amount not to exceed \$500

Ben--moved

Cody—seconded

Motion passes unanimously

m. Tenant survey

Jessica—we’d like to set up a prize drawing to incentivize the tenant survey. It doesn’t have to be a lot of money—maybe a couple of gift cards or discount cards. We have at least \$1900 in unrestricted donations from our campaigns in November that we can use funds from.

Ben—I think this is a good idea to encourage participation. I do think we should set a dollar amount—maybe \$200.

Motion: prize drawing to incentivize the tenant survey not to exceed \$200

Ben—motioned

Karl—seconded

Motion passes unanimously

n. Discussion: Como Cookout in September?

Ben—Should we have a cookout in September? I think it depends on whether the park is open, and I’m not sure we have a close or firm date.

Kathy—Mike says he thinks the park will be open in September. We would need to coordinate the date with him.

Karl—Is the U going to support the Como Cookout?

Caitlin—I think the U is having Welcome Week this year, so I think they’ll support Como Cookout.

Ben—I think we should plan on having it, but push it back to October to make sure everything’s open. I think we should start planning and make sure our partners are on board.

Jim—I think we’re learning every month on where we’re going, so I think things will be a lot clearer the closer we get.

1. Committee Updates (15 min) – Up to three (3) minutes per update

a. Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group (Jessica, Laura; Work Group)

i. Work plan update: Invitation to join new Governance, Finance & Structural Review work group

ii. Invitation to join spring/summer survey launch / outreach campaign

iii. Upcoming board, staff & volunteer training: racial equity & neighborhood organizing

8. Jessica—Wants to know if Board would support using Project Night to break into the Racial Equity Work Group. CURA has offered to do racial equity training with neighborhood groups some time in May. We're hoping to have a one-page put together so that people know what to expect from the training and to bring in more people to the program. We're also talking about organizing tenants to create a support group for tenants and their issues.

a. SE Como Housing Forum - next steps. Reimagining Community Safety / Como Cares Work Group (Cody H., Andrew N.)

i. Update: Como Cares/gardening food sharing collaborative

Como Cares will be passing out supplies to unsheltered residents next Thursday.

b. Land Use & Development (Ben B.)

c. Environmental: (Kathy K. / Peggy B.)

We're planning on having pizza parties at the Fair Share farm and discuss the Environmental Committee and our projects.

d. University District Alliance (UDA) - Updates on exploring future collaboration potential with UDA neighborhood orgs (Jessica, Katie F.)

Jessica—the scope of the study has now gone to cover Marcy Holmes incorporating the nearby unincorporated university neighborhood.

e. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc.

i. Update: completion of final 3 utility box wraps (designs voted on in 2019)

(Lila)

Lila—3 utility boxes in 2019 have been approved by the Minneapolis Public Art Commission. We've sent the designs in and they will wrap them this summer. Boxes may need to be cleaned of graffiti and damage before they can be wrapped. We have a new sign at the diverter rain garden and we're planning a dedication on June 24.

ii. Update: Garden season underway! (Lila, Kathy, Laszlo, Izzy)

f. Update: Como Congregational Church project (Larry C.)

Larry--We are now at the stage of this where we can start planning out some of the grant writing as building ownership changes hands and it's possible to put in requests for funds. One of the ideas we have is to move the SECIA offices into the building. There's an auditorium right next to the offices which could be attractive to SECIA. The office would be on the second floor with rooms for four desks and shelving. Downstairs we plan to have a conference room with a break room and a small kitchen as well as rest rooms. There is also space for gardens and ADA access to the first floor. The rental cost for the office space would be comparable with the 15th Avenue office space rent.

Ben—Our commitment was originally for the theater project, so we need to talk again about committing for this project. It's good to see another opportunity besides the Tuttle Building project for possible office space.

Adjourn 8:47pm

SECIA Minutes May 11th, 2021:

Note taker _____ Holly Day _____; Exec reviewed 6/2/2021 ; Board approved:
