

SECIA Board & Community Meeting – Minutes: Tuesday, August 10th, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93923944154>

(Agenda finalized by the Exec Committee 8/4/21)

Board Members: Present - Steve Peterson, Karl Smith, Greg Thompsen, Jim Nyberg, Ben Brummel, Tom Weist, Grave Sweeney, Quinn Oteman Absent - Phil Roban Excused – Kathy Knudson , Holly Day

Other Participants: Senator Kari Dziedzic, Lila Smith, Wasima Farah (SECIA Intern), Taya Gilmer, William Architect

Motions: Minutes of July 13, 2021

Ben: approved

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Roll back SECIA Covid plan to previous version that included mask mandate for staff and volunteers.

Ben: approved

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Approval all 2021 GNF agreement letters

Unanimous approval

Meeting Called to order at: 6:46 pm

1. Introductions (5 min)
2. Review [SECIA Meeting Norms & Agreements](#) (3 min)
3. Community Updates & Guest Presentations (up to 30 min; 2-3 minutes each for routine updates/Q&A, depending on number present + up to 20 minutes each special guest presentations/Q & A)
 - a. SD60 Senator Kari Dziedzic, 60A Representative Sydney Jordan, 60B Representative Mohamud Noor (if available)
 - i. Senator Dziedzic
 1. Rental arrangements moving along with Federal funding. 1.3 million distributed on Monday
 2. Mnhousing.org
 3. Another Special Session is September
 4. Message from Senator Dziedzic - Hi Everyone - Thanks for letting me join you. I wanted to ask that you let anyone you know who is behind in their rent to contact MN United Way help line by calling 211 or going to www.renthelpmn.org. Community Action of MN has money for utility payments. you can go to www.caphennepin.org or call 952-930-3541. For mortgage assistance, go to mnhousing.gov Kari reported on state and federal actions with respect to an eviction moratorium and mortgage assistance; for further information she referred tenants and landlords to the site Renthelppmn.org and homeowners to MN housing.org.

- b. MPD Second Precinct Representative and/or UMPD Community Engagement Team (CET) Representative (if available)
- c. Van Cleve Park – Mike Fox (if available)
- d. Park Commissioner – Chris Meyer (quarterly in-person updates)
- e. City Council Members – Kevin Reich, Ward 1; Cam Gordon, *Ward 2 Report*
 - i. CM Gordon emailed that he had a conflict and would join later if possible. He sent a monthly update [link]
- f. Stacy Sorenson, Review Range of NRP Housing Program Options (15 min)
 - i. Housing
 - ii. Alternatives
 - 1. Tool library
 - 2. Plan book
 - 3. Training and advocacy
 - a. Renter support and advocacy
 - b. CEE program renewal extended to the end of 2021 (not September)
 - 4. Chat from Stacy - Tonight, we're going to talk about housing funds.
 - Majority of NRP funds need to be allocated to housing and housing related activities. (Program-wide, 52.5 %, P2 Plan 70%.
 - Most common: Home Improvement Loans and Grants and Homebuyer Assistance programs
 - SECIA has a contract with CEE – started in 2000 - Over 220 of loans provided - with a balance of a little over \$169K.
 - That said, not as much traction in recent years.
 - Ben introduced a discussion of SECIA's retention of CEE housing services, outlining the alternatives available to the board: continuation, cancellation, or a temporary pause. Since no action is necessary before the end of the year, it was the consensus that Ben and Jessica should further discuss the implications of any action and plan to recommend board consideration at a future meeting.
 - Needs and priorities change, and this seemed like a good time to talk about the full range of ways you can use your NRP funds.
 - Recognizing that it may still be worthwhile to offer target programs (energy efficiency, aging in place, emergency or code abatement programs)
 - Financial Literacy Trainings
 - Credit Verification without Social Security
 - Affordable Housing
 - Cooperative Housing
 - Housing Navigators
 - Bilingual Advocates
 - Tenant Training – Beltrami
 - Help with UD's (Navigator) + Legal Services
 - Facilitate Tenant – Property Owner Connections
 - Housing Development (perhaps with rent caps)
 - Energy upgrades
 - Laws/Ordinances -Research
 - Education/training
 - Question - Dwayne - suggestions for alternatives - Stacy - send to Stacy for legal review

- Question - Lila - Could it be used in the reuse of the Tuttle Building?
 - Stacy - yes if it's used for housing or housing planning. Can't be used for commercial purposes.

Stacy reported that certain SECIA funds could be devoted to housing purposes only, but such uses could include contributions to a housing trust, help for renters, and a wide variety of additional housing-related uses. She also advised that NRC is allowing neighborhood associations to defer decisions with respect to continued CEE services until the end of the year.

4. Announcements (up to 10 min)

a. Meeting/Event Reports:

- i. Drop-in Day for Unsheltered Neighbors, Thursday, July 15, 5:00-7:00 pm at University Baptist Church - Dinkytown (SECIA-Marcy-Holmes collaborative)

Ben reported on recent SECIA meetings, including the Drop-in program for the homeless, the Pollinator Party, and the Produce Distribution event, and plans for the upcoming rain garden diverter dedication August 11 at 9:30 at 15th and Talmadge.

- 1. See [MN Daily article covering Drop-in Day event](#)
- ii. Pollinator Party (GNF grant project) - July 24, 2021
- iii. 1st Harvest Season Produce Distribution event, Thursday, July 29th, 5:00-7:00pm, Van Cleve Park (SECIA-ESNS-Arbonne Fraser Library collaborative)

b. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- i. **Diverter Rain Garden Dedication**, Wednesday, August 11th, 9:30 am - 10:00 am , 15th Ave. SE & Talmage Ave. SE
- ii. **Talmage Crossing Prairie Garden Care**, Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 5:00-7:00 pm, 2094 Talmage Ave SE
- iii. **SECIA Land Use & Development Committee**, Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 7:00-8:30 pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)
- iv. **Accompanying Unsheltered Neighbors - Como Cares/Marcy-Holmes Collaborative**, [rescheduled August date TBD], [Zoom meeting link](#)
- v. **Como Corner Community Garden Care**, Tues. August 17th, 2021, 6:30-8:30 pm, 1000 22nd Ave SE
- vi. **SECIA Community Project/Joint Committee Meeting Night** – Next meeting -- Tuesday, August 17th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, (led by Ben Brummel, while Jessica out on vacation), [Zoom meeting registration](#)
- vii. **Como Kids! Meetup: Arbonne Fraser Bookmobile visit & Summer Arts Program**, Wednesday, August 18th, 6:00-7:30pm, Van Cleve Park
- viii. **Diverter Rain Garden Care**, Wednesday, August 18th, 6:00-7:30pm, 15th Ave. SE & Talmage Ave. SE
- ix. **Accord Native Plant Garden at 15th & Como Ave SE**, Saturday, August 21st, 10-11:30AM
- x. **Marshall Field Pollinator Patch at 13th & Como Ave SE**, Saturday, August 21st, 11:30-12:30PM
- xi. **Como Kids! - Bonus Meetup, Movies in the Park at Van Cleve: Toy Story 4**, 8:00 pm meetup; 9:00pm showtime
- xii. **SECIA Environment Committee**, Weds., August 25th, 6:00-7:30pm, FairShare Farms (22nd & Fairmount) (inclement weather, via [Zoom meeting link](#))
- xiii. **2nd Harvest Season Produce Distribution event**, Thursday, August 26th, 5:00-7:00pm, Van Cleve Park (SECIA-ESNS collaborative)

- xiv. **Talmage Crossing Prairie Garden Care**, Saturday, August 28, 2021, 10:00am-12:00pm, 2094 Talmage Ave SE
- xv. **Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group**, Tuesday, September 7th, 6:30-8:00pm, [Zoom meeting registration](#)

c. Other Developments

- i. Review and discuss: Revisit COVID safety and plans to return to in-person / hybrid format for meetings, in light of escalating Delta variant COVID cases and evolving CDC/MN Dept of Health guidance (5 min)

Ben led a discussion of adherence to CDC recommendations with respect to Covid and recommended SECIA continue to conduct meetings virtually and, at physical gathering events, require participants be masked.

Motion: Roll back SECIA Covid plan to previous version that included mask mandate for staff and volunteers.

A resolution to those effects was adopted unanimously.

5. Board Business (up to 45 min)

- a. Review and approve: [July 13, 2021 board meeting minutes](#) (Holly) (2 min)
 - i. **Motion: Approve July Board meeting minutes**
 - 1. **Unanimous approval**
- b. Financial reports: (10 min)
 - i. Review periodic accounting reports: [#37 CPP Draw budget](#) (Jessica) (3 min)
 - ii. Review [June 2021 CEE Housing Program report](#) (Jessica) (1 min)
 - 1. (*Updated 8/9/21*): Review and vote: CEE contract up in ~~September~~ December 2021 -- 3 options: (5 min)
 - a. To continue as is (but move to \$2,500 / year plus a 10% origination fee per loan (minimum = \$500, maximum \$1,500) and \$500 per grant);
 - i. [SEE 8/9/21 email from Jim Hasnik, CEE](#)
 - b. "Pause" the contract for a set period while further considering options to modify or replace the NRP housing funded program (BUT -- annual fee can't be prorated); or
 - c. End the contract?
 - d. Tom Weist - stay with the program and revising our guidelines. DeWayne - Land Use and Development Committee will address this.
- c. Update: SECIA First Draft Equitable Engagement Plan - work in progress (Jessica & staff/board members of Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group) (up to 10 min)
 - i. *NOTE*: SECIA First Draft Equitable Engagement Plan to be subsequently submitted for board review and approval, prior to submission to NCR.
- d. Review and approve: [2021 Good Neighbor Fund grants approval](#) and agreement letters:
 - i. [2021-04: Como Cares Grant](#)
 - ii. [2021-05: SE Como Energy & Sustainable Living Fair](#)
 - iii. [2021-06: SE Como Organics Recycling Outreach](#)
 - iv. [2021-07: The Works Science Museum](#)
- e. **Motion: Approval all 2021 GNF agreement letters**
 - i. **Unanimous approval**

6. Committee Updates (20 min) – Up to three (3) minutes per update

- a. Reimagining SECIA & Racial Equity Work Group (Jessica, Work Group members)

- i. Equitable Engagement & Racial Equity work group update
 - 1. Welcome Packet distribution/outreach in collaboration with UMN-Off-Campus Living - call for volunteers!

Ben summarized the reports of several committees, commenting on Welcome Packet distribution, neighborhood organizational training, a review of by-laws and policy documents for adoption at the annual meeting, a future Como Cares food distribution, the Talmage Triangle rain garden, the results of the Tuttle transformation survey, and the possibility of achieving some efficiencies by sharing certain services with Prospect Park.

Ben commented on plans to implement the following projects: a program devoted to Tenants right, a program devoted to city charter proposals likely to be on the November ballot, a Ward 2 candidate forum, the Como Cookout scheduled for October 2, possible dates of a fall neighborhood clean-up campaign and the completion of the decorative wrapping of all neighborhood utilities boxes.

- 2. Revisit: CURA Board/Staff/Volunteer Racial Equity & Neighborhood Organizing Training
 - a. *Training goals & objectives 1-pager; proposed training date (TBD)*
- ii. Governance & Finance work group update
 - 1. Brief on template policy review process updates; timeline to complete by Oct 12th board meeting
- b. Como Cares Work Group (Jessica)
 - i. Update: Call for volunteers & garden veggie donations - 2nd Produce Distribution event with ESNS, Thurs Aug 26, 5-7pm; and 3rd Produce Distribution/Drop-in Day Resource Event, Weds. Sep 22, 4-6pm, both at Van Cleve Park
- c. Land Use & Development (DeWayne T. Pat E.)

DeWayne reported that the Land and Development Committee had addressed the imminent development of properties at 16th and Hennepin, 18th and Como, and 17th and Rollins and had submitted comments on two of them to the city planning commission.

- d. Environment & Gardens: (Kathy K. / Peggy B.)
 - i. Update: Gardens (Lila, Kathy, Laszlo, Izzy)
 - ii. Talmage Triangle Rain Garden design, project next steps (Lila)
- e. Tuttle Ad Hoc Committee (Ben B., Kathy K., Katie F.)
- f. University District Alliance (UDA) (Jessica, Katie F.)
 - i. Prospect Park Association interest in exploring shared resources structure (staff, office space) with another neighborhood organization
 - ii. GNF 2021 - delay in grant response/approvals - expected mid-July

Ben reported that all four of SECIA's Good Neighbor Grant applications had been approved by the University and a resolution to implement the four projects was approved unanimously.

- g. Projects - Gardens, Utility Box Wraps, etc. (up to 2 min. Per project update; up to 10 min)
 - 1. Updates: Arts program (Holly)
 - 2. Updates: Como Kids! Meetups (Jessica, Missy D.)

3. Updates: Fall 2021 Housing Forum Series (Ben B., DeWayne T.)
4. Updates: Joint Ward 2 Candidates forum in collaboration with other Ward 2 neighborhoods; League of Women Voters - tentatively scheduled for Tues. Sept 21st; (*tentative*: Ward 1 candidates forum?)
5. Updates: Como Cookout: October 2, 11:00am-3:00pm (Jessica)
6. Preliminary discussion: Fall Neighborhood cleanup?
 - i. Date? Sun. Sept 26 (day after UMN Homecoming; but 1 week before Como Cookout) - move back to October?
 Updates: final Utility box wraps now complete (Lila) - Update Utility Box Project Completed. Check out the newly wrapped utility boxes at 25th & East Hennepin. Butterflies!

7. New Business

- a. Begin Annual Meeting / Board Elections planning: Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Ben introduced a discussion of the need to nominate candidates for SECIA elections in November. It was the consensus that efforts should be made to recruit tenants to serve on the board.

- i. Committee Co-chair volunteers?

8. Adjourn 8:20 pm

SECIA Minutes August 10th, 2021:

Note taker____Steve Peterson and Karl Smith_____ ; Exec reviewed 9/1/2021 ; Board approved:
