

Equity Committee Meeting Minutes 6/28/21

Attended: Melissa Pappas, Ben Bauer, Heather Humbert, Scott Simmons, Melissa Williams, Jessica Willman

Welcome/Introductions

The Why

Goodbye to Melissa

HENS Update/Next Steps- HENS got Rent Stabilization on the ballot (yay!) and are in a waiting period now as the paperwork gets processed. Jessica talked to Tram and she said that there will be some down time as they start working on the education piece and voter registration. Wondering if the Equity Committee would be interested in helping with the voter registration piece. People seemed interested, but wanted to wait until fall to see what happened with Covid and time it with events closer to elections. Some ideas below:

- Could we partner voter registration with SEAL or other of the apartment buildings lots of turnover. If so, we need to get information in different languages (Samali)
- Other events that we could do voter registration at: urban growler farmers market (not happening this year), 4th of July parade (too soon, maybe next year), Coop is not doing movies in the park, National Night Out in Hampton Park (August 3rd - too much of a rush), **SEAL residents council meeting (start in September)**, Music in the Park,
- keep an eye out for possibilities late summer/early fall - Scott proposes that we can't do anything right now, wait a bit

Sample Ballots

Volunteer Thank You - Thursday, July 1st, from 6-8pm at Lake Phalen

Stubb Hall Update

County invited to come and update on any ideas to curb littering and involve residents

Scott has already begun addressing the litter issue

Equity or Environment Committee involvement?

Good way to build relationships with residents. This might be a good time (since it's committed) to get connected. **Scott will check in with his connections to see if we could build some relationships over there.**

Let's be careful about it not becoming some public shaming activity (**Ben will make sure to communicate this in Environment Meeting**). Get to know you vs you're making this area dirty. Honor people and not shame them. We can start working with the seminary staff/students - think they would be interested in building those relationships also.

Brightside

Context: fully funded deliveries for 16 households in SAP for three months (\$2,304 or \$52/week)

Still waiting to hear about Good Neighbor Fund (should hear after July 12th)

Board approved \$2,500 match from Fund

Budgeted \$4,600 for food/events from 2021 Innovation fund

No Finance Committee representatives available to update on how the finances for this have been planned/will be planned. Melissa W mentioned that we've worked for 6 years to build up this relationship and we don't want it to get dropped.

We will find out about the Grant in July - if the grant doesn't happen, what is our plan. **Melissa P is going to bring it up at the Finance Committee meeting on July 6th.** Is anything earmarked for this or does it all hinge on the grant?

Equity Framework

History

Next Steps

Let's do this in Q4 for goals and framework.

Heather updated us on the Calendar:

- Hoped to do community events quarterly - start with Community Meal in NOvember/December (usually a harvest celebration), on in the winter (connected with Valentines day, one in April and then National Night Out in August)
- Would like to fill in with some pre-planning points (when do we need to start talking about things? Said that a large dinner will take 2-3 months to plan, a meal delivery is about a month.
- Was looking for the plan they did before Covid. **Jesisca will look on Drive for that and Heather will keep looking (maybe ask Kathryn).**
- Wanting to maybe see a pattern in how we can mix it up and move the meals around more. Could we look at different spaces and what relationships we have with those places. Jessica said that she and Kathryn have been looking at doing an apartment inventory to see what connections we already have at apartments.
- Didn't have much to plug in - Community Meal in November, hoped to do quarterly. August National Night out on there - talked about wanting to do it. Movies in the park with the Co op - January to touch base. Look for the calendar. Winter meal delivery (valentines day). Spring - ?. National Night Out. December.
- When we have our meetings we will make sure to add ideas to the calendar and revisit them when the time comes. Making sure that's a regular part of our meetings.

Side Note: Hampton Park National Night Out is looking for someone to take over to plan and advertise the event. Talked about whether or not it's something we could take on this year, but didn't find it feasible to pull it together. Talked about maybe volunteering for next year and focusing invites on renters in the area - has traditionally been mostly white home owners.

Equity Goals

Goal #6

Actively recruit and broaden diversity on the Equity Committee so that we're more representative of the neighborhood.

How might we do this?

Goal #7

Support creative, approachable public events that bring awareness of diversity and equity issues in the community.

How might we do this?

This was put on Q4 calendar so that we can have goals for 2022

Upcoming Events/Ideas

Tasks:

- **Check in on voter registration at SEAL Residents Council meetings (starting in September - will they be in person?)**
- **Scott check in with contacts at Luther regarding partnering with residents on a clean up, or how we can build relationships there (Jessica sent the complaint and Ramsey Co contact information)**
- **Ben will bring up a Stubb Hall clean up at the Environment Committee and make sure to communicate that we would like to use this opportunity to build relationships and not shame the residents.**
- **Melissa P is going to bring up Brightside at the Finance Meeting to see if we have funds earmarked for this and what happens if the grant doesn't come through.**
- **Jessica will look for the previous Equity Calendar (Heather will keep looking and we'll ask Kathryn)**
- **Jesisca will put topic discussed in this meeting on the calendar to re-visit closer to the dates**