

Equity Committee Meeting Minutes 7/26/21

Attended: Melissa Pappas, Ben Bauer, Mohit Kumar, Jessica Willman, Jeff Standish

Welcome/Introductions

Meeting procedures clarification

- *Discussed whether or not we need to be doing any more official approval of minutes or agenda. Looked over minutes from the previous meeting. All approved.*

Old Business

- Voter Registration
 - SEAL Resident Council Meetings will be held in person starting in Sept
 - Might be a way to partner with voter registration
Jessica reported on the HENS meeting, and that the next step for community councils would be voter registration/voter education. We can get involved because this is a topic and not a person that we are promoting. We discussed the possibility and interest of doing voter registration this fall. Discussed doing it at the SEAL Council meetings, which will be meeting in person in September. Decided it was still possible as the council meeting is the 3rd Tuesday, so we would have time to prepare and plan

*Decided to contact HENS and the Office of Voter Registration to see if we could get training on how to do voter registration at our next meeting. Also looking at getting information in multiple languages (English/Spanish/Somali/Hmong). **Jessica will reach out to HENS and Voter Registration about speaking at our next meeting.***
- Stubb Hall Update (Scott - Luther Contact/Ben - EC² Collab?)
 - *Ben reported that they haven't had an Environment Committee meeting yet, and there isn't an agenda yet, so he doesn't know if they're going to talk about it. We discussed whether or not we want to initiate doing something or just see if the Environment Committee is planning on doing anything and partner with them. Decided to see what gets discussed and work from there. The Equity Committee would be interested in partnering (maybe doing an event with a clean up in the morning and a community meal for lunch). **Ben will report back after the Environment Meeting.***
- Brightside (Jessica - Grant update, Melissa - Financial Meeting Update)
Melissa reported that at the financial meeting they discussed that there wasn't any back up plan for Brightside. There's money there, but we're unsure if we should use it for Brightside. Jessica said that the Good Neighbor Fund (the grant we applied for) is meeting this week and we should get more information soon. If we don't get it, we'll discuss plans for Brightside at the next meeting - seems like we should put some effort into maintaining this relationship.

- [Calendar](#) Update (Heather/Jessica)
 - *Jessica updated the calendar and will continue to update based on what we talk about at the meetings. **She will send out the calendar with the meeting minutes.***
- National Night Out
 - 862 Raymond Ave, St Paul, MN 55114
 - 765 N Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN 55114

*We discussed National Night out and why it is coordinated through the Police. Talk about hesitancy promoting something that is associated with the Police Department, but also realize that neighborhood relationships are important. Realized that it related to the larger issue of our involvement with partnering with the police. **Jessica would talk to Katherine about if D12 wants to promote it at all.***

New Business

- Partnership with SAP Community Foundation (Jeff Standish will be joining us)
 - Any interest in collaboratively (with SAFCF) putting together an educational/informational forum on the topic of homelessness/housing security.
 - *Jeff talked about a potential collaboration with SAPCF on an educational event regarding homelessness or home insecurity. He shared his personal experience with a couple experiencing homelessness in his neighborhood and how that changed his perspective on the topic and how little information is available. His idea was to try to get some experts from across the cities to educate and inform (and to do Q&A). The SAPCC's grants committee is working on a gap fund for housing insecurity needs and could structure a community forum around it. Our next steps would be to figure out some dates (this fall?) and reach out to experts (those involved in converting the warehouse to apartments, the city of St. Paul) to put something together.*
 - *Mohit mentioned that he would be more excited and willing to engage if very specific needs were identified (what the Equity Committee would need to do) and could be filled. Not quite sure how this would look. **Jessica agreed to connect with Jeff** and put together some next steps or decisions that Equity Committee would need to make at the next meeting.*
- Keep St. Paul Home Meeting Report (Jessica)
 - *See above (voter registration)*
- Equity Training on the Board (Board Meeting)
 - *Table for next meeting with more people*
- Statement on partnering with SPPD (Board Meeting)
 - *Ben had to leave the meeting, so we decided to wait until next meeting to discuss this topic, but in the meantime people need to think about viable options for our relationship with the SPPD. Options range from fulling engaging and promoting*

events with the SPPD (Walk for Me, Safe Summer Nights, National Night Out, Camara Watch) to completely disengaging, and various things in between (engaging in a productive way - community input, constructive criticism, working to make engagement equitable and educated). **Jessica will look at what some of the other Districts have done.**

- Community Event: Movie at Langford Rec Center | August 13th (Jessica)
*District 12 will have a table at this event before the movie. A great way to be present and build relationships with the community. Reaching out to Equity Members to join her at the table and do a craft or game with kids. **Will email and let the committee know how to participate.***
- Other discussions?
 - *Mohit was wondering if there was a way for gardeners to get produce to SEAL during the week if they miss the Sunday pick up. He said he would be willing to bring it over if there's a contact. Melissa said that Bob was the main contact and has been able to take produce during the week before. Jessica said she would get Mohit connected to Bob and Melissa.*

Upcoming Events/Discussion for August

- Voter registration training/information (presentation from HENS or Ramsey County)
- Ben report back on partnership with Environment Committee
- Jessica Update on Good Neighbor Fund
- Next Steps for Home Insecurity Education Event
- Discuss Equity Training for the Board
- Discuss Stance on Partnering with SPPD

Tasks for next meeting:

- Jessica will reach out to HENS and Voter Registration about speaking at our next meeting.***
- Ben will report back after the Environment Meeting.***
- She will send out the calendar with the meeting minutes.***
- Jessica would talk to Katherine about if D12 wants to promote NNO***
- Jessica will connect with Jeff Standish re: Home Insecurity Event***
- Jessica will research what other districts are doing regarding Police interaction***
- Everyone will brainstorm ideas of how we interact with SPPD***
- Jessica will email information about movie event at Langford***
- Jessica will connect Mohit with Melissa and Bob to deliver produce***