

EQUITY MEETING - October 25th, 2021

Attending:

Welcome/Introductions

Name/Pronouns

Breathing/What would you like this group to work towards?

John - Need to be recruiting for the committee - remind people that there are good opportunities for service. That's what people want. Scott was a liaison between the garden and seal with food deliveries from the garden- need someone to step in for that.

Melissa - being able to help with the problems Union Flats and Seal - resources - helping people moving into new buildings to become more of a community. People are getting fed up with the problems and they don't know what else they can do. Suggestions? Identifying renters resources - having a section on the website. That's something that Abdirahman has been doing - Homeline or Renter Assistance - Tenants Rights Hotline/Handbook.

John - Establish a budget so that we know what resources we have available. If we have a budget in our hand, we can make things available, have more money to spend on things we want to do for Equity. With a lack of people and time at least we could spend money. I wouldn't mind if Equity got involved in voter registration.

Scott - initially the idea was if we were going to stay true to the new bylaws, what does it mean to do that, should we start an equity committee who is going to always be a reminder that we want to do Equity, food justice and food insecurity (community garden), it's been a bit of a struggle to do meals since Covid - goal was to gather people around the table. Bring awareness to the community that lives in Seal and Union Flats. The hard thing is to keep in mind what is emerging that we can embrace and respond to - more voter things, inform others about things whose voices need to be heard in the community. Urge us to keep the message alive that this is something we do in every committee we have. Other committees - such as Land Use has more of an understanding of affordable housing. Has been hopeful that we have equity has been able to move away from older white male leadership - there have been pains and deliberate attempt to bring in female, people of color and younger voices.

John - movies in the park and other community events (bringing them together as one). We haven't been able to do that kind of thing. Need to push the other committees to take advantage of equity matters.

Old Items

- Voter Registration (October 12th) - Recap (What worked? What didn't?)
Voter registration went well - plenty of volunteers. Registered less than 10 people, but were able to connect with people about Rent Stabilization. For next time we need to look at having people who speak different languages and during a time when more people are going to be come down (community meal?). Ramsey county was great to work with and logistics were easy.
- Homelessness/Homing Insecurity Forum (THIS THURSDAY - October 28th 6pm)
 - Moderator: John Slade (MICAH)
 - Chat Monitor: Ben Bauer
 - Security/Host:
 - Questions: Jeff Standish
 - Panel: Mitra Jalali, Justin LaBeaux (Avivo), Rhonda Otteson (MN Coalition for the Homeless), David Katzenmeyer (People, Inc)

Everything is set up for the event and we have 50+ people registered. Decided to keep it as a regular zoom meeting and not a webinar. Going to ask people to do questions in the chat and not out loud. Making sure to set standards for respect and stand against racism in the chat. Expecting a lot of people to comment on Luther, but kind of want to keep the discussion more about the causes of homelessness and how we can help as neighbors. Scott is going to send some groundwork for etiquette.

- Statement on working with the police (John - have we gone anywhere with this?)
John made some calls and didn't get super far - the task for with the city are not done and there's nothing super far there. Goal would be to talk to someone from the Police Department that could do real talk with us. We don't have a solid perception of what we really want to do. I don't agree with the people who don't want to work with the police, I think we need to re engage with the police. I get why people are frustrated, but that seems like we are losing all around. We want to talk about the changes that are happening. Feedback from the council was split. Going to reach out with the police - leave this in equity and move forward to bring it to the council when we get something. Is going to reach out to the group that is overseeing change and the police department and understand what is going on. A lot of things are stagnating, but let's engage in it. Not creating an environment of attack and defend - will have more next month.
- Brightside Produce Distribution (Jessica - meeting and challenge)

Met with Brightside and placed an article in our newsletter - looking for subscribers so they can fund the corner store model. There are also volunteer opportunities available to pack the "pay what you can" boxes. Arranging for groups of volunteers to pack and deliver might be an easy way to engage people in food equity work.

New Items

- November Community Meal (***Saturday, November 13th***)
 - [Community Meal Overview](#)
 - Sent email to Co-op and haven't heard back (someone willing to call?) - Melissa
 - Sign up for their Halloween Party (who can make that?)
 - Available to deliver (what time?) -
 - Warming station?

Jessica has not hear back from the Co-op - should we check in with other restaurants/places. Is this too quick of a turnaround. We have the money and have volunteers, maybe we can pull it off. Jessica will keep contacting the Co-op and see if it works for them, if not, check out some other restaurants. Plan on 50 and get a sign up at Seal as soon as possible.

Ben, Melissa, John, and Abdirahman would be available to help hand out the meals.

- Review Equity framework and Plan 2022 Goals
 - Look at the last year's minutes (what worked, what didn't)
 - Jim Crow of the North Viewing
 - Community Meals
 - Equity Coaching
 - Brainstorm some things we're interested in doing in the next year
 - Brightside
 - Garden
 - Seal/Union Flats
 - Grants?

Next month we will be spending most of the meeting reviewing the Equity Framework and Planning the 2022 Goals. Come ready with ideas!

TASKS:

- Scott going to send etiquette ideas**
- Jessica checking in with co-op and other restaurants about food**
- Create sign up for Seal residents (50 spots max)**
- Abdirahman work on renters page for website**