

# EQUITY MEETING - February 28th, 2022

**Attending:** Jessica, John, Alyssa, Melissa, Kyle, Ben

## Welcome/Introductions (10 min)

Welcome New Members/Meeting Overview and Engagement

- Intro, Old Items, New Items, Action Steps
- All participants are welcome to speak, share ideas/feedback, add to our agenda

Name/Pronouns

Breathing/What are you excited about right now?

## Old Items (30 min)

- December Community Meal
  - Feedback
  - Next Community Meal (in March?)
    - Innovation fund needs to be spent by April (\$2,500)
      - Donate to Brightside (for meal delivery)
      - Do something bigger than planned (boxed meals instead of warmer) - Soup?
      - Do more events at different places
    - Another Box Meal?

*We discussed that people seemed to really like the Afro Deli meals and they would be a good one to partner with again. The boxed meal format doesn't allow for a lot of relationship building, but worked well and some people did stay and eat. Discussed another community meal before the Innovation Funds ran out. While Seal would likely be open to doing a community meal event, the committee was not sure that it was ready to do that due to Covid. Maybe this spring/summer.*

*Discussed what to do with the extra funds and decided to donate it to Brightside as sponsorship money for their pay what you can programming. Voted - all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.*

- December Community Conversations
  - Feedback
  - Add another to the calendar (in May?)

*Discussed that it was a good conversation, but we wished there were more people there. Maybe if we had specific topics, people would be more interested. Maybe combine it with an event (movie for the kids, discussion for the parents). For sure plan more of these in the year.*

- Union Flats Meeting
  - Feedback
  - Next Steps

- How can we support the Resident Advocacy Group

*Thought it went really well and hoped the residents got what they wanted. Jessica updated on the fact that the residents are looking to form an association. Members expressed wanting to support them in any way we can - maybe doing a community meal/event for them this summer. Hoping to do a meeting at Union Flats this summer.*

- 2022 Goals - create a calendar for the year, sign up sheet, responsibilities, movies in June, link community meal to a get together

## Goal #1

Foster coalition building to meet community needs within the district and across districts.

### How might we do this?

- Quarterly Community Conversations - host meetings or events that connect community organizations with residents that can benefit from their work or expertise.
- Continue to partner with Brightside Produce to encourage community produce subscription and connect neighbors in need with pay-what-you-can options
- Continued partnerships with the Community Garden delivering produce to the Seal Hi-Rise
- Community meals with Seal Hi-Rise, Union Flats, or other communities
  - Early February
  - Late May
  - Early Summer (with NNO?)
  - Focus on meals in outdoor months to safely gather outside?
- Support creative, approachable public events that bring awareness of diversity and equity issues in the community

## Goal #2

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

### How might we do this?

- Make meetings more accessible to diverse communities by advertising the meetings and hosting them at Seal Hi-Rise, Union Flats or in other accessible public spaces.
- Make meetings more desirable to attend/incentivize meeting attendance from guests/community members

- Leave an agenda item at the end of every meeting where any guests can identify a topic to discuss.
- Hold a committee meeting before, during, or after a community meal
- Provide snacks, food at meal if in person
- Follow up with guests after attendance at meetings
- Quarterly Community Conversations - host meetings or events that connect community organizations with residents that can benefit from their work or expertise
- Support creative, approachable public events that bring awareness of diversity and equity issues in the community
- Conduct diversity, equity, and inclusion training among the broader SAPCC.

*Group looked over the goals above. John stated that we should start putting together a calendar of events from these goals. Jessica will start putting something together and we will plan details at our next meeting. Hoping to be able to add Movies in the Park back in - looking to contact some of the former members for information on how that was done.*

- Recruitment
  - Went out in Bugle, Newsletter, and with Boxed Meals @ December Meal
  - Other ideas (each take a place to put up Equity Committee flyers)
    - UofM
    - Coop
    - Library
    - Elementary school
    - Finish Bistro board
    - Union Flats Facebook Page
    - Seal Monthly Meeting

*Talked about how the Bugle Article was really effective. Thinking that we could do more posterings at local businesses. Jessica will be tabling at the Library at the end of March - will bring flyers about Equity Committee at that event.*

### **New Items (30 min)**

- Renter's Advisory Council (Javier Miranda)
  - What would it look like?
  - How to get started?
  - Who could we talk to?
    - HENS
    - Union Flats Group
    - Seal RC

- Notes - maybe separate entity, check in with other district to see how it's working, clear about their purpose, building relationships with neighbors - side note: neighboring

*Javier wasn't able to make it to the meeting, so spoke more generally about the group and what it might look like. Agreed that it was a good idea, but need to make sure that we have a clear goal and vision for the group. Did get some feedback from the newsletter (people interested in it). Will Javier and maybe the district that started something like this come and speak at our next meeting?*

- Asset Based Community Development
  - What is it?
  - How can we incorporate it?

*Alyssa shared a short training with us about Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) what it looks like and how it's implemented. Melissa brought up that SAPCC has done some asset mapping and maybe we could pick up where that left off. Jessica said she'd talk to Kathryn about that information. Thinking to use ABCD as we determine our events and contacts for the year.*

- Seal Requests (Jessica)
  - Bench
  - Dog Area

*Jessica went to the Seal Resident Council meeting. They expressed interest in some benches where people naturally gather and a dog area. Asked committee to keep an eye out for funding sources for something like this.*

- Equity Comm Hangout
  - As it gets warmer
  - Brewery? - urban growler
  - Comfort levels?

*Wondering if people were comfortable for a get together - will be looking at a Monday in April at Urban Growler. Jessica will send out Doodle poll.*

### **Ongoing Conversations (15 min)**

- SAPCC Relationship with Police

*Checked in with John about this topic - he has not pursued it, but the taskforce has been around for a while, so he will check in again. We're looking for some sort of liaison to talk about what has been happening with police reform in St. Paul. Usually Patty Lammers is the one who reps the police department, but doesn't think her job is to update on reform. Looking for someone to let us know what's happening.*

- Keep St. Paul Home (ongoing partnership)

*Update on Rent Stabilization. The Bill has passed, but the city is now responsible for implementing it, so we're waiting to hear how that's happening and keeping accountable for that.*

- Brightside Partnership

*Hoping to find ways to promote Brightside weekly produce subscription. Will include information at tabling events and in newsletter/bugle. If there are more ideas, let Jessica know.*

**TASKS:**

- John - talk to Kathryn about donating the rest of the Innovation Funds to Brightside
- Jessica - start forming a Equity Committee Calendar of Events to go over for the March Meeting
- Jessica/Javier - reach out to Javier to talk more about the Renter Advisory Council - reach out to other district who has started one to have them talk at the March meeting
- Jessica - send out a Doodle poll for a EC get together in April
- John - pursue the policing task force about a liaison to speak into police reform