

District 6 Planning Council-Board of Director's Meeting
Monday October 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Matt Sletten, Keith Allen, Alison Warford, Steven Struhar, Patrick McGuire, Noel Nix, Betti Ingman, Rich Holst, Katheryn Schneider, Ethan Osten, Shannon Eckman, Karen Groening

Absent: none

Rich Holst called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Approval of the consent agenda. M/S/A

September meeting minutes were approved with the following correction: Karen Groening was absent.

Profit and Loss Statement and Balance sheet were approved.

Phase III By-laws – Betti

Betti first reminded us who was on the By-Laws committee: Ethan Osten, Shannon Eckman, Amanda, Jeanette Jones, Steven Struhar,

She did a recap of the process: The committee reviews changes with the board a month before we vote on them, then we vote on the changes. We need a 2/3 vote of the full board to approve changes to the bylaws.

Last month we voted to approve committee structural changes in Section 5.

This month they would like to ask for a change to the name from District 6 Planning Council to North End Community Organization. This would change Article 4 section 1 of the bylaws. This name was used prior to the current name for a few years. Discussion followed:

Keith and Noel wanted to know what the history was around the name change and if we were bringing back a name that might have negative connotations for some in the neighborhood.

Some in the audience liked the name change others did not.

Some board members felt that the name change would help us recruit more people. The new name seems to describe better what we do.

A question was asked about cost. It would not cost anything. We would continue to use materials until we ran out and for the most part Kerry prints on a need to have basis. So there are not a lot of materials in the office.

Legal the name would not change we would file as North End Community Organization (NECO) DBA District 6 Planning Council.

Another suggestion was made that we should get input from the neighborhood.

Someone else suggested that we should create a campaign to introduce the name change after it happens.

Then the fire alarm went off and we had to adjourn for 15 minutes.

While on break we talked to the Fireman that drove the truck, he was raised in the North end and liked the idea of changing the name.

The committee suggested a different name: North End Neighborhood Organization (NENO). Discussion was had about the acronym doesn't flow off the tongue like NECO but perhaps it was better because there was no history to the name. It was a way to move us forward.

The committee might get more input by putting it on Facebook.

Rich ended discussion.

The next section that bylaws committee would like to review is Article 4 Section 1 Elections

The committee had sent out a document prior to the meeting with some discussion points around the election process. The board spent time discussing:

One of the suggested changes was that nominees would need to submit name and brief bio between March and one week prior to Annual election and there would be no floor nominations and no write in candidates.

Many people felt like this might hinder getting new people on the board.

Another discussion point was proving eligibility to vote. Voting – residents will register upon arrival and must provide proof of residency – utility bill – DL – something with address – would we allow someone to vouch for someone?

Having people prove that they live in the neighborhood seemed a little restrictive. Is there a problem with people from outside the neighborhood voting in our elections? Are we trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist?

Comments were all positive for changing Precinct to Quadrant.

No proxy voting –no comments

No business voting –no comments

Vacancies -

Add Special Elections in July, Oct, January to fill vacancies – candidates need to submit name and bio no later than a week prior to board meeting for vote from the board meeting expressing interest in running.

Special elections by secret ballot – only board members in same precinct can vote for candidate unless District wide seat or student seat.

Executive committee Vacancies – filled by appointment until board meets for next election of executive committee

NO Midterm elections or filling of vacancies 3 months prior to annual meeting general election.

Annual meeting does not count toward annual meeting requirement.

If these changes are made it is even more important that we as a board start recruiting people to the board. It was suggested that we start a task force for this.

Discussion ended. The bylaws committee will take all of the discussion points into consideration and bring back recommendations next month.

Rich asked if anyone that is eligible to be Treasurer is interested. (To be eligible must have been on the board for a year. None were interested.

He then asked if anyone was interested that was not eligible because we could amend our bylaws if we wanted to. Shannon noted that she felt like it would be better to have someone that was experienced from the board as treasurer. No one was interested in being treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

Amy Perna from District 10/Como and the League of Women Voters spoke to us about their upcoming 2017 Mayoral Candidate Forums. There was one last week and 3 more. She also said that there are none in the North End and if next year we wanted something for the Governors race they would love to work with us. They only do it when asked by a group.

Oct 21st board members are asked to come to the D6 office at 10am to volunteer for a housing survey. The Intern from the Center for Urban Affairs will be guiding the group. Grilling will occur afterwards.

The North End Land Use and Housing Committee submitted their purpose and structure to the board for approval. It was m/s/a.

Motion was made to accept the current membership plus Shannon as members of the newly formed The North End Land Use and Housing Committee. S/A

Land Use and Transportation have reviewed a recommendation from the NEDT regarding the Rice Street Redevelopment. Craig told us that there are 3 main points: That changes be made in such a way as to slow traffic, consider businesses parking needs and make Rice Street safe for pedestrians and bikes.

There is disagreement on the finer points but we can all agree at a high level that this is what we want. Therefore it seems that it would be good for us as a board to support the recommendations made by NEDT so that we are coming to the county with one voice.

Discussion occurred. Most agreed it would be good for us to support it. M/S/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig from the Music Academy and NEBA told us that Sprockets (a youth organization) was putting on its own Mayoral Forum on Thursday, Oct 5 from 6:30 – 8:30 at Mt Aires off Jackson.

He also reminded us that the Rice Street Study will have a conversation at Washington Tech on Wednesday, Oct 4 from 6 – 7:30. They will be discussion Maryland south to the Railroad Tracks.

Fire Alarm started going off again.

We adjourned at 8:05pm