

RNA August 10, 2020 Minutes

Minutes by Allen Field

Meeting via Zoom was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Debby Hochhalter.

Board Members Present: Debby Hochhalter, Brian Hochhalter, Allen Field, Kamal Belkhaty, Peter Forrest, Claire Cofsky, Madeleine Anderson-Clark, JoAnne Knowles, Denise Hare, Leslie Poston, Simon Kipersztok, Albert Kaufman, Heather Flint Chatto

Others Present: Doug Klotz, Kira Smith, Tamara Olcott, Michael Hall, Christina Estime, Dennis Hopkins, Katharine Wannamaker

July Meeting Minutes: Leslie moved, Peter 2nd, passes unanimously w/ Denise abstaining.

Announcements: Christina announced that SEUL has a new board member form for contact information. Debby will send out.

Crime & Safety: No officer present.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **BES Watershed Health Grants and Native Plant Certificates:** Kira Smith, BES, described grant program that is to encourage green infrastructure projects to complement the pipe sewer work happening throughout the summer. There are \$100 grants and \$10-\$20K grants for community oriented projects. There are rolling deadlines. She will provide a blurb that can be sent to listserv. Her contact info is kira.smith@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-5729.
2. **Letter of Support Request – ban on gas leaf blowers:** Michael Hall and Tamara Olcott of Quiet Clean PDX presented to request letter supporting its effort to ban gas-powered leaf blowers. Movement has grown from local to national movement. Besides noise concerns, there are also health and safety issues. Homeowners have mostly converted to electric leaf blowers, so focus is getting contractors to switch. Much of presentation was in form of Q&A:

Simon: What is end-goal? Michael: To get gas powered leaf blowers banned.

Allen: Are they ok with a letter of support just on banning gas leaf blowers instead of the request in their draft letter for open-ended support of their organization, what about a ban just on 2-stroke engines which really are the problem, and wouldn't their ban disproportionately impact people of color since professional yard care contractors mostly use gas blowers and they are predominantly people of color? Michael: They're ok with a letter focusing just on banning leaf blowers. They are just focusing on gas leaf blowers in

general. Electric blowers have as much capacity as gas blowers, and their hope is that contractors will switch to electric tools.

Kamal: Why not a ban on all 2-stroke engines, all 2-stroke engines are bad? Michael: They do want to get rid of all 2-stroke engines, but their efforts are focused for now on leaf blowers.

Peter: Seconds Allen's point that this would fall harder on people of color, who are the majority of the contractors using gas leaf blowers for their work. Michael: They are looking into some type of procurement process to make it easier for contractors to get electric tools.

Leslie: Commented that banning gas leaf blowers still leaves electric leaf blowers in play, which does not solve the problem with leaf blowers: blowing pollutants, chemicals, poop residue, allergens, and germs from the ground into the air.

Motion by Simon, second by Denise: For RNA to support the work of Quiet Clean PDX with regards to banning gas-powered leaf blowers. Yes: Albert, Denise, Claire, Brian, Heather, Simon, Joanne. **No:** Kamal, Leslie. **Abstain:** Allen, Debby, Peter, Madeleine. Motion passes 7-2.

3. **New Board Member Orientation:** Allen summarized: fiduciary duties of Oregon nonprofit board members (duties of due care, loyalty and obedience), ONI Standards and Open Meetings rules (no voting or discussions on issues to be voted on unless in public meeting, 5 person quorum triggers if there's a "meeting"), went over Code of Ethics rules, giving background and explanation of some of the COE rules.
4. **Elect Officers:** Debby offered to be Chair again, Allen offered to be Secretary again but hoped someone would take over Treasurer. Co-positions ok. Kamal expressed interest to be co-Secretary and Simon expressed interest to be Treasurer, but wanted to learn more about responsibilities.

Simon moved, Heather second for: Debby as Chair, Allen and Kamal as co-Secretary, Simon as Treasurer. Passes unanimously.

5. **Committee Chairs and Liaisons:**

Rep. to SE Uplift Coalition: Debby gave background and summarized the Aug 4 letter from SEUL Chair Tina about SEUL's July 6 meeting, which was put on shared screen. SEUL's letter quoted Section 6 from SEUL Bylaws:

Section 6. Removal

Any Director may be removed with or without cause by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors then in office. Neighborhood association Directors may only be removed with the consent and approval of their neighborhood association. A Director may also be removed

by their nominating neighborhood association, business association, or other community group acting in accordance with its bylaws. All Directors must be given ten (10) days written notice of a meeting which includes removal of Director(s) on the agenda.

SEUL requested that another rep be chosen instead of Allen with reference to trespass issued against Allen, SEUL Sept agenda will vote on whether to remove Allen as SEUL Board Member, but SEUL Bylaws requires the RNA to consent and approve to such removal. Debby requested SEUL to send her the Zoom audio of July 6 SEUL mtg so she could send to the Board to hear how the issue was handled in the July 6 SEUL meeting and to learn about the issues since SEUL's letter doesn't explain anything about the trespass or give any background information. SEUL never provided the Zoom recording despite repeated requests.

Discussion ensued about the (1) Trespass stemming from Brian and Allen trying to attend the public meeting of Inner SE Action and being told to leave as soon as they arrived, (2) leftover bad feelings of, and issues with former RNA board members who stepped down in 2019, (3) how this relates back to Grievance over 2018 election when election results overturned and bylaws vote improperly cancelled, and (4) SEUL should not dictate who a NA rep should or shouldn't be, SEUL should respect NA's choice to represent it, the RNA does not consent and approve to removal of Allen or approve of SEUL dictating who our rep should be or removing our rep. from SEUL.

Allen stated if someone else wants to be Rep, he could be the alternate, but if RNA wanted him, he'd be glad to continue as Rep. Leslie was NA Rep to Coalition for another NA and said she could be the Rep. if the RNA wanted. Kamal offered to be the alternate. Several board members stated their support for Allen to continue as Rep.

Motion by Peter, Leslie second: Reappoint Allen as SEUL Rep. with Kamal as alternate. Passes unanimously.

Other Chairs/ Liaisons/Reps:

Debby went down list of Committees to see who wants to be reappointed or be a new Chair. Based on interest expressed by board members: **Motion by Peter, second by Brian to appoint:**

- Allen as Tree Planting Liaison
- Kamal as Sustainability Chair
- Heather as Land Use/Transportation Chair
- Heather as PDX Main St Design Initiative Rep
- Leslie as Division/Clinton Bus. Assoc Rep.
- Heather as Hawthorne Bus. Assoc Rep
- Simon as Newsletter Editor
- Allen as Community Spaces and Sewallcrest Park Rep.
- Allen as Liquor Licenses and GNAs Rep.

Passes unanimously.

No time for Committee reports.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 pm