

**Southeast Uplift Board Meeting Minutes – DRAFT**  
**May 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm – 9:15 pm**  
**Via Zoom Conference Call**



**Mission Statement:**

*To collaborate with the SE Portland community to build informed, inclusive, and participatory neighborhoods that support our social and ecological well-being.*

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Brooklyn – Stuart Zeltzer  
Buckman – Ashley Gale  
Foster-Powell – Lotus Romey-Yu (Secretary)  
Kerns – Dave Weaver  
Laurelhurst - Janet McManus  
Montavilla – Lindsey Johnson (Vice Chair)  
Mt. Tabor – Sam Noble  
North Tabor – Stephanie Kaza  
Richmond – Allen Field  
Sunnyside – Ash Hester  
Woodstock – Anna Wechsel  
Portland Mercado – Ambar Solarte (Treasurer)  
Portland Community College – Amy Bader  
Portland Bus Lane Project – Jessie Maran  
At Large – Cat Davila  
At Large – Estefania Zavala  
At Large – Catherine Diaz  
At Large – David Gruber  
82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue – Nancy Chapin  
South Tabor – Tina Kimmey (Chair)

**SE Uplift Staff in Attendance:**

Leah Fisher (Interim Executive Director)  
Paola De La Cruz (Communications and Outreach Manager)  
Eaen Goss (Operations Manager)  
Matchu Williams (Community Liaison Program Manager)

**Guests:**

Commissioner Mingus Mapps  
Cliff Jones (Guest Presenter from Capacity Building Partnerships)

**7:00 pm**  
**Introductions and Announcements**  
**Via Zoom Chat**

This section is copied verbatim from the Zoom chat:

- Good evening all! **Nancy Chapin, 82nd Ave. Business Assn.**
- **Tina Kimmey, board chair, she/her: South Tabor** has elections this month.
- **Anna Weichsel, Woodstock NA**
- Hi everyone. **David Gruber, at-large member.**
- **Amy Bader (she/hers), PCC** - no updates
- **[Allen Field] Richmond NA:** Our annual election is May 11. Otherwise, the RNA was sued for \$10,000, and 2 board members have been sued for \$10,000 and \$20,000. Waiting for a copy of the current Director's & Officer's Policy from SEUL.
- **Lotus (she/her), Foster-Powell.** We are doing a lot of service work: Providing dinners to shelters 3 times per month, monthly neighborhood clean ups, and starting to organize for planting more trees in perking strips in the neighborhood.
- If anyone would like to volunteer to help provide meals to folks in the shelters, you can send an email to [volunteer@foster-powell.com](mailto:volunteer@foster-powell.com) - all are welcome to help <3
- **Ambar Solarte (ella-she-her) Hacienda/ Portland Mercado.** No updates.
- **Janet McManus, interim SEUL rep from Laurelhurst.** Elections this month as well.
- **Matchu Williams (he,his,him):** FALL 2021 APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS JUNE 1 AND CLOSES JULY 15. SEE BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS.
- <https://oregoncf.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/community-grant-program/>
- **Lindsey Johnson (she/her), Montavilla.** METBA recently hosted a clean-up event (April 24). Rahab's Sisters is seeking a new ED.
- Matchu Williams (he,his,him): Oregon Community Foundation grant opportunity above
- **Estefania Zavala (she/her), At Large.** No announcements!
- **Ashley Gale (she/her): Buckman Board** updates - we will have elections in June so we are working on recruiting for 5 open board seats. We had a discussion about what is happening at the St. Francis site - they are looking to create a restaurant that would have a culinary program to provide skills for houseless.

**7:05 pm**  
**Approval of April Meeting Minutes**  
**Tina Kimmey**

**Approving April 2021 Minutes:** Nancy Chapin makes a motion to approve, Estefania Zavala seconds

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>In Favor: 13</b> |
| <b>Opposed: 0</b>   |
| <b>Abstain: 1</b>   |

**7:10 pm**  
**Executive Director Report**  
**Leah Fisher**

- See written program updates (emailed to board)
- Alexander (temporary Land Use staff) took another position
  - o Will not fill this position until ED is hired
- Received final contract/scope of work with Civic Life
  - o Need to have insurance updated, getting waiver
  - o Required to conduct a financial review (possibly by end of August)
  - o Inputting our own program-specific goals into contract
  - o In conversation around budget for next year

**7:15 pm**

## **Q&A with Commissioner Mapps**

### **Commissioner Mapps**

- Deep roots with SE Uplift
- New Commissioner on Portland City Council
  - o In charge of 3 bureaus: Water, Environmental Services, Emergency Communications. New updates:
    - New water filtration plant rolling out soon
    - Cleanup of Willamette River
    - Pilot project for Portland Street Response teams
  - o City-wide priorities: COVID recovery, houselessness, and public safety
    - Getting aid to small businesses, helping folks recover from losses during COVID
    - Office is deeply engaged with trash cleanups
    - Gun violence and police oversight board
- **Q: Hear that Portland is a “dying city” – what do you say?**
  - o A: Going through enormous challenges as a city. What are we going to do as a community to revitalize our city?
    - City will have a new normal, a lot of progress with opening the city again
    - New resources to help businesses that are struggling
    - Still have a ways to go with COVID recovery, about a year away, but definitely have turned a corner
- **Q: Does the city have a budget to address neighborhood dumpsters?**
  - o Significant new dollars coming in for trash clean-up
  - o Focus on getting out into community to clean up in spring and summer
    - Ask for neighborhood leaders to organize neighborhood cleanups – reach out to city hall to get connected to these services
    - Ash: Haven’t had a consistent way for trash to be removed, biggest hurdle that they don’t have dumpsters or a way to bring trash to the dump
      - SOLVE is still in waiting period to partner with the city
    - Mixed success with dropping off dumpsters in communities, reach out to [mappsoffice@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mappsoffice@portlandoregon.gov) if help is needed in this area
      - Make clear in subject line that trash support is being requested
- **Q: Community clean-ups that we used to do in the NAs with volunteers?**
  - o SOLVE receives these funds, can partner with them
- **Q: Asked about report on Civic Life and if it will be seen by the public**
  - o Hoped to have seen by now, will maybe know more in a week

- Except announcements about Civic Life this week
- Not sure if he will see the full report
- Civic Life has been structurally challenged for years
- Audit of Civic Life in possession of city attorney
- **Q: Any further updates on what is next for the Shelter to Housing Continuum? Is the city willing to partner with neighborhoods to identify vacant land?**
  - Set of reforms makes it much easier to renew houseless shelters and organize new camps
    - Significant increase in services for houseless community
  - Debate on which funds are invested in permanent camps vs affordable housing
    - Not nearly enough transitional housing options
  - Made it easier for non-profits to set up shelters
  - City is currently conducting an internal audit to identify excess lands that could be used for alternative shelters/housing
  - Need to do a better job of engaging neighborhoods in this discussion
  - Ash: Any insight on Homer Williams?
    - In communication with him

**7:40 pm**

### **DEIA 101 Training Part 3**

#### **Cliff Jones, Consulting Partner at Capacity Building Partnerships**

Third part of DEIA 101 training, focused on interrupting bias. This is an important skill and practice because it impacts how people feel in a space. Presentation covered:

- PowerPoint slides
- Confronting Bias document (pdf shared in chat)
- [scenarios](#) from first training

**8:50 pm**

### **Executive Director Search**

#### **Tina Kimmey/Leah Fisher**

- Tina putting together a committee, who is interested in joining?
  - Email Tina if wanting to join
- Consultant from last search is interested in working with us again, Leah feels she will be a good fit
  - Will likely need to pay for reserves to pay for consulting firm, no specific numbers yet (last search cost over \$10,000)
- Committee will help with decision
- Ash: That seems expensive
  - Ambar: There was a bid last year and this was the least expensive option
- Cat: When will process start?
  - Leah: As soon as possible
- Dave: After ED is found, will Leah go back to LU position?
  - Leah: Yes, doing both jobs right now so it will be easy to go back to LU work
- Ambar: If anyone has any reservations around hiring this consulting firm they are welcome to shop for alternatives
  - Stephanie: Finance committee is making a well-considered decision

**9:00 pm**  
**Other Updates**  
**Tina Kimmey**

- Ambar stepping down at end of the month
  - o Appointing new treasurer at June meeting
  - o Contact Leah or Tina if interested

**9:03 pm**  
**Approving Small Grants**  
**Matchu Williams**

- Matchu gave presentation on small grants program, criteria, grants review committee, and other aspects of the process
  - o Over 32 applications this year, over \$100,000 in requested funds

Ambar Solarte makes a motion to approve. Estefania Zavala seconds. **Board approves list of recommended Community & Civic Engagement Small Grants for 2021**

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>In Favor: 15</b> |
| <b>Opposed: 0</b>   |
| <b>Abstain: 0</b>   |

**Next Meeting June 7, 2021**  
**7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

## Addendum A: Zoom Chat

19:02:46 From Nancy Chapin to Everyone : Good evening all! Nancy Chapin, 82nd Ave. Business Assn.

19:03:14 From Tina Kimmey, board chair, she/her to Everyone : South Tabor has elections this month.

19:03:24 From Anna Weichsel to Everyone : Anna Weichsel, Woodstock NA

19:03:34 From David Gruber (he/him) to Everyone : Hi everyone. David Gruber, at-large member.

19:03:58 From Amy Bader (she/her) to Everyone : Amy Bader (she/hers), PCC - no updates

19:04:56 From Richmond Secretary to Everyone : Richmond NA: Our annual election is May 11. Otherwise, the RNA was sued for \$10,000, and 2 board members have been sued for \$10,000 and \$20,000. Waiting for a copy of the current Director's & Officer's Policy from SEUL.

19:05:04 From Lotus (she/her) FPNA to Everyone : Lotus (she/her), Foster-Powell. We are doing a lot of service work: Providing dinners to shelters 3 times per month, monthly neighborhood clean ups, and starting to organize for planting more trees in perking strips in the neighborhood.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help provide meals to folks in the shelters, you can send an email to [volunteer@foster-powell.com](mailto:volunteer@foster-powell.com) - all are welcome to help <3

19:05:27 From Ambar Solarte (ella, she, her) to Everyone : Ambar Solarte (ella-she-her) Hacienda/ Portland Mercado. No updates.

19:06:20 From Janet McManus, she/hers to Everyone : Janet McManus, interim SEUL rep from Laurelhurst. Elections this month as well.

19:07:15 From Matchu Williams (he,his,him) to Everyone : FALL 2021 APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS JUNE 1 AND CLOSES JULY 15. SEE BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS.

<https://oregoncf.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/community-grant-program/>

19:07:33 From Lindsey, she/her to Everyone : Lindsey Johnson (she/her), Montavilla. METBA recently hosted a clean-up event (April 24). Rahab's Sisters is seeking a new ED.

19:07:47 From Matchu Williams (he,his,him) to Everyone : Oregon Community Foundation grant opportunity above

19:08:12 From Estefania Zavala to Everyone : Estefania Zavala (she/her), At Large. No announcements!

19:09:15 From Ashley Gale (she/her) to Everyone : Buckman Board updates - we will have elections in June so we are working on recruiting for 5 open board seats. We had a discussion about what is happening at the St. Francis site - they are looking to create a restaurant that would have a culinary program to provide skills for houseless.

19:24:29 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone : Hi All, if you haven't seen already, the Mayor released their 2021/22 budget -

<https://www.portland.gov/wheeler/news/2021/4/29/mayor-wheeler-releases-proposed-budget-fy-2021->

2022#:~:text=Mayor%20Ted%20Wheeler%20today%20released,community%20safety%20services%3B%20and%20equity.

19:24:41 From Nancy Chapin to Everyone : 82nd Avenue's lack of lighting, speeding, and unsafe street crossings need to be addressed. Is that on the City Council's agenda?

19:26:17 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone : It would be great if PBOT would allow Block parties this summer.

19:27:56 From Stephanie Kaza to Everyone : Follow-up, does he know about community clean-ups that we used to do in the NAs with volunteers?

19:31:21 From Allen Field - RNA to Everyone : BPS did the CCE program

19:31:42 From Tina Kimmey, board chair, she/her to Everyone : Thanks Allen

19:33:39 From Lotus (she/her) FPNA to Everyone : What's the best way to get in touch with Commissioner Mapps about support for clean up work?

19:38:52 From Nancy Chapin to Everyone : is there a public meeting about the budget on Wednesday evening?

19:42:03 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone : Yes, Nancy - City Council is listening! Join the community and City Council for virtual events focused on the City of Portland budget.

- Wednesday, May 5, 6:00pm-8:00pm – Mayor’s Proposed Budget Hearing

- Thursday, May 13, 2:00pm-5:00pm – Approved Budget Hearing

- Tuesday, June 8, 9:30-11:30am – Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission Hearing on the Approved Budget

20:56:39 From Allen Field - RNA to Everyone : Are we going to vote in the Committee tonight? A vote is needed to form it

20:57:00 From Tina Kimmey, board chair, she/her to Everyone : Just looking for volunteers tonight, will vote in a committee next month.

20:57:10 From Allen Field - RNA to Everyone : Thanx

20:57:33 From Cat Davila (she/her) At-Large to Everyone : I’m interested again, but depends on timeline

21:15:44 From Leah (she/her) SE Uplift to Everyone : If anyone can support the others, it would be wonderful. Matchu and staff are planning to provide any technical assistance to others as our capacity allows. So many great projects!