

EQUITY MEETING - September 27th, 2021

Attending: Scott Simmons (no longer a part of the board/this group), Melissa Pappas, Abdirahman Ali (intern), Jessica Willman (Community Organizer)

Welcome/Introductions

Name/Pronouns

Breathing/What's good in your world right now?

Old Items

- Voter Registration (October 12th) - do we need to let them know that we're doing this?

*It would be good to let them know that we're going to be there, but because we spoke at the meeting and Melissa knows, we should be fine. **Jessica is going to get email addresses for the President, Beth Forest, and management to make sure it's communicated.** The mobile market will be there that day, so this will be a good time to get in contact with the Seal community.*

- Pick up translated registrations (Voter Office): **Abdirahman**
- Contact Seal about doing the registration: **Jessica**
- Drop off registrations: **Ben Bauer**
- Voter information sheet: **Abdirahman/Jessica**
- Other tasks: Tables, tents, SAPCC information (recruitment?), computers, masks, hand sanitizer, extension cords (*Melissa will check on electricity*).
- Volunteers: Leah Steinberg (experienced election judge - leah.e.steinberg@gmail.com)
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- Homelessness/Homing Insecurity Forum (October 28th 6pm)

We have three speakers confirmed, looking for one more person. Will be checking in with city of St. Paul to see if they are able to participate. Looking for candidates for moderator - Scott suggested not having a white male do it, but those were the first people to pop into his mind (John Maurer and Mike Russell). He later looked up and suggested Naima Farah as a panel member or moderator. Jessica will contact.

- Moderator:
- Chat Monitor: Ben Bauer
- Security/Host:
- Questions: Jeff Standish (Jessica will contact)
- More Contacts: Naima Farah, Program Manager at Propel Nonprofits On board of Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.
- Statement on working with the police -

John was not at the meeting, so will report on it next time. Scott said that he thinks that initiating dialogue is the way to go on this issue. We tend to overcorrect, but to have a conversation, express needs for accountability, reform and effect change through communication. We need to find a common ground to have a civil discussion. Will make sure John can present next time.

- Brightside Produce Distribution

Jessica was in touch with Brightside. Wondering if she should meet with them or if they should be invited to a meeting. Scott said Jessica should meet with the time difference (they're in South Africa) and also to have a staff connection to Brightside. Jessica will meet with them and report back on how we can build that relationship.

New Items

- Street Painting Event on Seal Street - IF YOU CAN COME, YOU SHOULD. [Sign up here](#).
- November Community Meal (Melissa Williams - unable to attend, but sent steps) - this event is usually a Harvest Dinner/Party with the whole community invited to join. Due to Covid, we need to figure out what we're comfortable doing (some options below)

Talked about how we need to follow the Public Housing Authority guidelines. Melissa said that there are no restrictions at this time, but that could change. She thought a boxed meal might be better, but we could consider a regular event.

Scott was concerned about Covid especially going into winter months. Gave a bit of a background and how this has been a growing event. Thinks that boxed meals are better.

Jessica said we could check in with the Co-op about boxed meals and if Covid does get better before then, we could add in activities for community members and make it more of an event as it gets closer. Right now it seems like boxed meals are the way to go.

Jessica was worried about volunteers. Looks like we delivered 30-35 boxes last time and it was mostly Melissa and one other person delivering it. Would like to have 5-6 volunteers if we're delivering them to the apartments. Wondering about making it available to Union Flats. It's much bigger and Melissa didn't know how that might work cost and volunteers wise.

Other suggestions for the event are to make the sign up sheets available earlier (mid-October for a November event - advertise at Halloween Party?) Make it available in several languages. Said that the community meal folder has old flyers for reference.

Let's look at **Saturday, November 13th**.

If it's warm enough, we could offer a warming station also - hot cocoa and cider and pre-packaged cookies for residents. A way to connect even during covid.

- [Community Meal Overview](#)

Talked about the community meals throughout the year. Everyone agreed that early November, early February, mid-May and late summer would be good times for these events. Making sure we arrange around other large food events (Thanksgiving and Christmas and Easter) and try to find times when people might be feeling low.

- Stakeholder Workshop for Job Training and Workforce

Need to advertise these things to the broader community with the train yard being in our community. Jessica will post these things on social media and on the listserv.

- October 6 | 3-5pm
- October 20 | 3-5pm
- November 3rd | 3-5pm
- [Rent Stabilization Study](#)

Last Comments: We really need to keep Covid in mind - it's not over yet. Need to make sure to balance activity with caution. Seems like the Seal community has changed during covid - more issues, more violence, ect. If we can advocate for the residents, we need to do that in a safe way. Jessica is going to try to go to more of the Resident Council meetings to see if there are ways that we can advocate.

Tasks:

- Melissa gets Jessica the email for the Resident Council President, the Seal Management, and the social worker.**
- Melissa check on the electricity for laptops for the event**
- Jessica will connect with Jeff Standish about writing the questions and with a potential moderator for seminar event**
- Jessica will meet with Brightside**
- Jessica will check in with Co-op about capacity for meals for November event**