

## Union Square Neighborhood Council - First Meeting December 19, 2017

### Attendance

USNC Voting Members:

Mike Firestone, Rachel Weil, Michele Hanson, Andrea Lizama, Erik Neu, Bill Cavellini, Ann Camara, Pennie Taylor, Afruza Akther, Tori Antonino

- Via Skype: Joanne Berry, Ben Bradlow

Neighborhood Members:

29 Attendees

Motion to nominate a facilitator: Jacob nominates Bill Cavellini

### Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
  - a. Bill Cavellini welcomed the group to the meeting and began introductions
  - b. Bill gave an overview of the agenda
2. Election of officers: co-chairs + secretary + treasurer
  - a. Mike Firestone nominates Bill Cavellini as co-chair
    - i. Michele seconds
  - b. Jacob Kramer nominates Rachel Weil as co-chair
    - i. Ben Bradlow seconds
  - c. Afruza nominates Pennie as co-chair
    - i. Jacob seconds
  - d. Pennie prefers to run as treasurer and withdraws her candidacy as co-chair
    - i. Result: Bill Cavellini and Rachel Weil are co-chairs
  - e. Pennie Taylor nominates herself as treasurer
    - i. Motion to institute Pennie as treasurer by acclamation
      1. Unanimous "ayes"
  - f. Ann Camara nominates Joanne Berry as secretary
    - i. Afruza seconds
  - g. Jacob Kramer nominates Ben Baldwin as secretary
    - i. Mike Firestone seconds
  - h. Ben Baldwin and Joanne Berry gave statements as candidates for Secretary
  - i. Board agrees to take vote by secret ballot
  - j. Tori Speaks in favor of Joanne based on note-taking skills
  - k. Erik praises Ben Baldwin's planning
  - l. Pennie speaks in favor of Ben Baldwin
  - m. Point of order from Andy Greenspon – the minutes state that all votes not otherwise specified must be done in public
  - n. Resolved to vote in public
    - i. Joanne: 7
    - ii. Ben Baldwin: 7
    - iii. Tied!
  - o. Rachel proposes Co-Secretaries
  - p. Ben Bradlow asserts that officers can be added as needed
  - q. Jacob suggests a second poll because the office of secretary is crucial
  - r. Andy greenspon suggests 2 6-month terms
  - s. Michele suggests a second ballot
    - i. Seconded by Andrea

- t. Joanne:3
- u. Ben:10
  - i. Result: Ben Baldwin is Secretary
- 3. Establishing committees:
  - a. Bill gave an overview of relevant bylaws
  - b. Recommendation of the following committees:
    - i. CBA negotiation committee
    - ii. Communications/outreach committee
    - iii. Built environment advisory committee
  - c. Ben Bradlow suggests to establish a delegation of members of the board to generate a proposal for the characteristics and skills required for each committee and bring proposal to the next meeting
    - i. Jacob- We should have an overview of what each committee does so that they aren't duplicating efforts, frequency of report-backs, protocol for actions of committees
    - ii. Mike Firestone- committee structures gives opportunity to neighbors who are not on the council to engage
    - iii. Tori- Gives potential committee-members the chance to align with a platform
    - iv. Erik- Point of clarification- if someone lives outside boundaries, are they only able to participate through working groups?
    - v. Bill – Are we appointing committees or soliciting volunteers?
      - 1. Jacob- Council board is given power to select a board for CBA negotiation
    - vi. Ben Bradlow- Committee to create committees will do nothing more than present the skills required of each committee at the next meeting
      - 1. Change the name of the “CBA negotiation committee” to the “CBA committee”
    - vii. Mike Firestone- Suggests a proposal to amend bylaws to clarify 7.1 that non-council members can serve on committees. Current language is unclear.
      - 1. Michele – Nonvoting members can participate on committees but not vote
    - viii. Ben Bradlow- Are there any other committees that we want to explore? Proposal to solicit a volunteer to present committees at next meeting
      - 1. Michele - Eventually we will need a bylaw committee
      - 2. Pennie- bylaws include code of conduct committees, membership committees
  - d. Mike Firestone seeks a volunteer for the Communications & Outreach Committee
    - i. Pennie Taylor nominates herself
      - 1. Erik Neu- point to point conversations can be had via email but board level discussions must be made public
      - 2. Resident- Communications committee should determine the procedures for communication
      - 3. Mike Firestone- short term solution can be between current web site coordinator (Mike Gintz) and current Secretary (Ben Baldwin)
        - a. Long term solution can be determined but C&O Committee

4. Mike Gintz - Official board announcements would have to go through secretary
  - a. In the interim- should we put emails on the web site?
  - b. Pennie Taylor- motion to make posting of contact info opt-in only.
  - ii. Michele- Clarification: We will make the Tiny mailbox the only official announcement source?
    1. Yes-Adopted by acclamation
- e. Michele- What is the built environment committee
  - i. Erik Neu – Zoning, planning board, etc
  - ii. Bill Cavellini- All built environment related things will be held within this one committee for now.
- f. Mike Firestone- seeks a volunteer to give an overview of the Built Environment Committee
  - i. Tori Antonino nominates herself
- g. Ben Bradlow volunteers himself to draft a description of the CBA committee
- h. Ben Bradlow suggests forming a bylaw committee
  - i. Jacob nominates Mike Firestone to draft a description
- i. Results- Presentations at next meeting will be the following
  - i. Ben Bradlow on CBA committee, Ann Camara & Pennie Taylor on Communications & Outreach, Tori Antonino on Built Environment, Michele Hanson and Mike Firestone- Approach to board of alderman for recognition
4. Recognition by Board of Aldermen
  - a. To be reviewed at next meeting by the Board of Alderman recognition committee (Mike Firestone)
5. Scheduling next meetings
  - a. Tori- need to contact business community regarding best meeting days and times
    - i. Bill - Get that input between now and next meeting for presentation
  - b. Ben Bradlow- Proposal to meet January 3 and January 10
    - i. Jacob seconds idea for two meetings but dates to be determined based on input from Tori and business community
    - ii. By Dec 27th Tori will provide input from Union Sq Main Streets to determine second date
    - iii. Pennie raises issue of scheduling too many meetings in quick succession given the stringency of the section 3.3.4 of the bylaws where 3 absences can cause removal from board.
      1. Mike Gintz- 3 absences does not necessitate removal it only allows for removal if it is necessary.
    - iv. Next meeting of the USNC will be Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30 in the public safety building
  - c. Tori- USNC has been invited to meet at Canopy – responding to concerns about meeting at the police station
    - i. Bill- Let's give folks the chance to see Canopy while agreeing to have next meeting at the Public Safety Building
    - ii. Tori makes a motion to have Matt Hoey from Canopy come make a presentation about his meeting space
    - iii. Jacob requests discussion on this.

1. Board agrees to check out space on own time
2. Resident requests vote wait until after the public comment period
- d. Ben Bradlow- Should the board vote to abide by public meeting law?
  - i. Mike Firestone- this is a serious discussion and the board should not agree to be held to open meeting law without more consideration.
  - ii. Vote tabled until next meeting
6. Review and approval of by-laws
  - a. Already approved in a referendum
7. Public Comment Period
  - a. Bill Cavellini- Future meetings should begin with a public comment period before business agenda. Motion to move public comment periods to beginning of agenda
    - i. Mike Firestone Co-chair gets to design meeting agenda
    - ii. Unanimous acclamation vote to move public comment to the front of the agendas
  - b. Resident- Showcasing cool spaces- Greentown Labs is willing to provide meeting space. Anyone who has a suitable facility should be eligible to host a meeting
  - c. Resident- SCATV is not here and they had agreed to cover all our meetings. Will check for next one
  - d. Resident- Public comment can include 1 or more times on the agenda
    - i. Best not to get bogged down in bylaws while US2 and the mayor fast track the development
  - e. Resident – Membership meetings should be scheduled “well in advance” so the next meeting probably can’t be considered as such
    - i. What is “reasonable advance notice” with regards to child-care?
      1. Pennie- agenda for next meeting can include how we respond to this concern
    - ii. Spaces- there will be a need for committee and working group spaces so we will be able to take advantage of many spaces
    - iii. Placing public comment at the beginning of agenda could lead to a lot of time taken away from main agenda
  - f. Resident- Express concerns about reaching out to business community during the holiday season and a request to extend time until next meeting
  - g. Resident- If approved by board at next meeting, Canopy can welcome the council to the third meeting
  - h. Resident- unclear if the USNC can get an agreement with the city if we are not abiding by open meeting regulations
    - i. US2 doesn’t operate under open meeting laws and the city is negotiating with them
      1. CBA expects to result in use of public money, which necessitates abiding by city-defined rules.
  - i. Resident- City doesn’t currently have a plan or requirement for where community benefits ordinance is directed (eg funds can be put toward a local nonprofit rather than USNC). Covenant states that US2 must enter good faith negotiations with USNC, solicitor moves to make negotiations between US2 and a local nonprofit. Under deliberation.
    - i. Distribute minutes from legislative committee to the board on this topic

- ii. Resident- good for the council to speak to other boards and committees in the city and planning offices.
  - iii. Resident- this is ambiguous. Get an opinion from state ethics commissioner
- 8. Determining co-facilitators for next meeting:
  - a. Board to email out to USNC to solicit co-facilitators
- 9. Bill: Motion to adjourn