

USNC Meeting 2/15/18

Board members in attendance:

Jacob
Rachel
Andrea
Ann
Bill
Ben Bradlow
Pennie
Afruza
Joanne
Erik Neu
Ganesh Uprety
Michele
Mike Firestone
Pennie Taylor

Item 1:

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Unanimously approved by board members

Item 2:

Built environment minutes stated letter from US2 was sent to board. board has not received this letter. Andy will correct.

Item 3:

(Tori arrived)

Conflict of interest forms need to be completed by board members. Only 3 have been received, 12 outstanding.

Item 4:

(Ganesh arrived)

CBA summits

~160 in attendance

Next steps

A report will summarize the inputs received in 2 meetings and issues that have arisen in previous processes

Ben Bradlow will bottomline report, would like help with it

Report will be presented to board for amendments and approval

That report will feed into more oriented process

Selection of negotiation team

Need to decide upon negotiating strategy

Recognition will have some bearing on that process

An additional stream of information will include direct concerns sent to board and group concerns sent to board. Written submissions were announced at summits
Will there be more public meetings?

Time consuming to plan but could be beneficial to host

Bill question: Ballpark of timeline for input and estimated timeline for report to be published. (ben) one week for submission deadline, report could be completed in 3 weeks from today. (erik) deadline for submission might not be adequate enough for group input, how is this going to be included in a report. (ben) 2 weeks is adequate (pennie) mar 1st good deadline (peter- public) group could start working on report now while submission is completed (tori) report completed and community will have ability to provide feedback (mike - public) should be consolidated, definitive, and pointed (michele) actual recommendations will take longer than 3 weeks to create general report (jacob) CBA committee should create something of value for the board to decide on (andy) report should be announced ahead of time of board meeting so community can provide input (ben) intentionally did not introduce proposal method to take note of what group considered. Seems like best move is to create a report of recommendations and publish well in advance for community review/feedback. Board can request amendments. (mike firestone arrived) (simon) would like more substantive issues to be included in discussions in meetings (erik) smart goals presentation is very good, where should these goals be involved - before report or should it be more like philosophical discussion (ann) we should visit community centers to see what they look like

(michele) should make a full report with all information, then CBA committee should come up with preliminary recommendations, publish recommendations, host large meeting for feedback, move forward with more concise report (peter - public to michele) people might not be as keen as coming back to review input that they put (mike - public to michele) more meetings hosted will be more divergent, editing process will be convergent, establish parameters for when the group will become convergent again and when the board will be making the decisions so people are aware (mike f) should identify topics then include other concepts that were discussed that were not discussed as much. Subsequent public discussions can be on the priority topics, provide process in report

(tori) ask people for a priority list based on categories mentioned (jacob) need to keep in mind how to use recommendations to the best of negotiation ability i.e. signatures from community, find right negotiating committee (andy - public) if you reach out to different groups based on categories, can ask them to submit report based on interests (jacob and pennie leave) (simon - public) multivariant process, need to provide more detail regarding development process (ben) re reaching out to groups: should decide tonight what is the deadline for written submissions, use like again to individually reach out to org like usnc did for summits. Board should deliberate what the topic areas will be included in recommended report. Participation for process: when an agreement is

determined by us2 and negotiating team, that negotiation needs to come back to board for public input. (bill) point of information: whatever negotiated needs to come back to well advertised meeting and $\frac{2}{3}$ of members need to approve. 2nd round needs simple majority. We should go in with majority input. (andy - public) by-laws are being interpreted inaccurately, was written as intent to get $\frac{2}{3}$ approval from usnc members (mike f) would like to have conversation regarding majority definition (erik) who on the board feels we need to have more discussion on current proposal (6 member voted yes) there will be a future meeting regarding that topic

(rachel) back to timeline: march 1st for submissions (unanimous yes)

(bill) make a motion: draft report submitted mar 15

(ben) report would be topics of discussion and summary of all input

(bill) LOCUS and summits came up with, make sure it is included in reports

(ben) host meeting for public mar 22

(peter - public) would like additional information of scope of project to be included in report

(simon - public) narrow categories and get parameters, then discuss, then make more precise. Have to be careful not being too precise right off the bat

(andy - public) move forward from topic, be succinct, don't reinvent the wheel

(erik) should be a timeline to vote on for the process, supporting bill's proposal

(bill) need to keep momentum outside of this usnc process in mind

Item 5:

BOA summary (mike f)

Alderman passed resolution in support of neighborhood council

How to move forward with process of creating CBO so USNC can lead CBA negotiations

Covenant between us2 and city to create CBO before USNC

Options:

Full passage of CBO

Skinny approval of USNC

perferred create covenant that states USNC was intended CBA negotiations body

Option 3 selected: draft passed out

Everyone in attendance given time to read proposed edits to consent

New literature is pulled from CBO language with conditional updates

(mike - public) related to vote the other day? (mike f) correct, former vote not related

(erik) CBO asked for full membership list (mike f) thought this was not feasible for our group to provide

(bill) proposed approval, second provided)

(andy) what does the 'shall' indicate in the language, does that mean they will vote or that they will hold a vote? (mike f) means that they will hold a vote

(tori) does the BOA have input in the covenant change since it is between the city, mayor, and US2. (mike f) if law department decides this matter is for mayor to decide rather than BOA, corrections will be made

(simon) open and transparent reaffirmed by BOA, articles 3 and 8 contradict each other. (mike f) not discussing this but executive meetings could be necessary for CBA negotiation if detrimental to public

(bill) make another motion mayor and US2 must agree on covenant, if they delay, USNC needs to have another plan (mike f) an edit to the covenant is not for legislative matters, it is for the lawyers of Somerville and US2.

(ganesh) documents means bylaws only or organizational documents, does this include legal entities like non-profit documentation or bank accounts, etc. (mike f) if we have it we can submit it and if we don't they understand we are in early phases

(afruza) should we go to US2 to ask them to negotiate the CBA with us before this covenant is changed (mike f) the day or week after the election of the USNC, the legal person contacted board members with a congratulations, therefore they are on record already as identifying us. Having recognition by BOA might be more beneficial than making a side deal with

(tori) who from the city is on board with us (mike f) mayor's office

(bill) vote to close discussion, unanimous yes

(bill) introduce motion for small group to meet with legislative matters committee to review the CBO complete process. (peter - public) worrisome that this might be postponed, makes sense to proceed in good faith with all parties (andy - public) point of clarification; meet individually with BOA, this initiative might fall more into the quick fix for the CBO (joanne) move forward with option approved by BOA, make a deadline, if not met, move forward with option 2 (mike f) include in language a deadline i.e. Mar 1st. Provide organizational documents to set hearing date for Mar 15th. Actively contributing to drafting of general CBO would be a good idea.

Need: approval for whole thing - (tori) bill do not remove motion, should work with CBO in tandem (michele) vote on the current option with the mentality that we have a back up option and long term goal assisting BOA with CBO (mike f) would like to go forward with referring to the letter requested. (all yes, tori abstained)

Moving discussion of response to Nu Market to next meeting. Ben circulated today

Item 6:

Built Environment - summit was success. Where is the built environment going right now? Zoning comment available until Mar 13th. Turn the neighborhood to Somervision as a guideline not an aspirational design. Main interest 125 acres of open space. Meet with city to see where their plans are to build 125 acres of

open space and if a task force will be formed. (bill) is somervision a legal document? (tori) all zoning referred to as somervision (bill) it is a comprehensive plan, a legal document, a city must be in compliance with the document (tori) best goal will be to keep it as a comprehensive plan (michele) george and city refer to it as a plan that can be edited and altered as needed (mike f) understanding is that plan is a guideline that developers should try to adhere to but if they do not it needs to be explained why inconsistency exists (andy - public) the alderman have to approve zoning so built environment should point out where the zoning misses and people should push for amendments. Send 1 page letter to BOA pointing out inconsistency with Somervision goals, potentially meet with aldermen, have some backup ideas to handle open space in Somerville. (michele) residential met, commercial halfway, open space not nearly met, should focus on this point (andy) wig will submit a draft to board to review next week

Item 7:

Outreach to business community and brick and mortar stores

Ben bradlow reached out to esther and lindsey to attend the meeting and they were unable to attend. Reiterated council's commitment to represent the interests of brick and mortar businesses in CBA meeting

(mike - public) direct outreach to other people who ran for board and possibly create specific sub committee for their interests

Item 8:

Doodle poll

Thursday is the best day so far for members

Next thursday 2/22/18 (unanimous) 7pm at Argenziano (unanimous)

Item 9:

(gary) introduced website concerns, can not take video anymore, would like public discussion to be first AND last

(andy) please send out contact tonight to notifying groups of deadline

(tori) allen street playground is being redone, would like to see kids have their own garden plot, would like Build Environment to get involved

Unanimous adjournment