

FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 2, 2026 | 7 – 9pm

In-person: 3534 SE Main Street

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92334943945> | Meeting ID: 923 3494 3945

This meeting is for the Board of Directors to conduct organizational business. As such, only board members actively participate in discussions unless otherwise noted in the agenda or at the discretion of the President. Guests are welcome to observe.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members present:

- Brentwood-Darlington NA – Kimberly DiLeo
- Brooklyn Action Corps: Debbie Dicks
- Buckman: Daniel Te
- Creston-Kenilworth NA - Amit Zinman
- Foster-Powell NA – Ryan Sooley
- Hosford-Abernathy Neighborhood District (HAND) – Peggy McDaniel
- Kerns - Elizabeth Armstrong
- Laurelhurst: Steven Fisher (Treasurer)
- Montavilla: Adam Fiss
- Mt. Scott-Arleta NA – Daniel Portis-Cathers
- North Tabor NA - Austin Davis
- Roseway NA - Ash Hester (President)
- Rose City Park: Don Levine
- Sunnyside NA – Chris Waldmann
- 82nd Ave of Roses BA – Nancy Chapin
- HBBA: Dresden de Vera
- At Large – Sharon Wynde
- At Large - Chris Hansen
- At Large: Rachel Davies (Secretary)
- At Large: Matt Lembo (Vice President)

Board Members sending regrets:

- Mlreaya Medina, Black and Beyond the Binary Collective
- Madison South NA: Travis Saner-Hathaway
- Woodstock NA – Anna Weichsel

Staff present:

- Nanci Champlin (Executive Director)
- Sarah Bunger (Board Administrator)
- Matchu Williams (Neighborhood Program Mgr)

Guests:

- Jeff Lynott (Councilor Novick's office)
- Allen Field (Richmond NA)
- Sharon Fuchs (Zoom)

BOARD DISCUSSION MEETING

7:00 Call Meeting to Order - *Ash Hester, President*

7:02 Introduction and seating of new board member from North Tabor NA: **Austin Davis**

7:03 Vote to seat Austin Davis for SEUL Board of Directors

Motion (*Ash Hester*)

Amended (*n/a*)

Seconded (*Daniel Portis-Cathers*)

In favor 18

Opposed 0

Abstentions 0

Result: **The motion passed.**

7:04 Executive Director Update - *Nanci Champlin, Executive Director*

- **Building Update:** there will be a fire inspection during the upcoming quarter; The security panel that works with the key fobs is at the end of its lifespan and due to be updated. Sarah will be investigating options and expenses and will bring details to a future board meeting. It's likely to be over \$2500 and thus would be a capital expense needing approval from the board from reserve funds. A door bell will be installed on the west side door to allow it to be closed during meetings, providing a secure environment inside the building and mitigate heat loss during winter. Expenses related to the doorbell will come out of the building maintenance budget.
- **Neighborhood Program Update:** Each staff person has a portfolio of neighborhood associations that they support. Neighborhood staff assignments are available on the website and will be current for the 2026 calendar year. Sarah has taken on additional duties, including operations tasks that Alex was doing. President, Treasurer, and Secretary round table events are currently being scheduled and dates will be posted on the SE Uplift website once they are scheduled: seuplift/events.

2026 Staff Liaisons to NAs (for election support and general inquiries)

- Nanci: Buckman / Madison S. / Mt. Scott-Arleta / Mt. Tabor
 - Diane: Hosford-Abernethy / Kerns / Sunnyside / Woodstock
 - Matchu: Brentwood-Darlington / Brooklyn / Foster-Powell / N. Tabor / Roseway / S. Tabor
 - Sarah: Creston Kenilworth / Laurelhurst / Montavilla / Richmond / Rose City Park
- **Fiscal Sponsorship Program Update:** A mixer will be repeated this year on April 23rd for organizations in the Fiscal Sponsorship program to meet and network with each other. Two new organizations have been approved by the Executive Committee: Oregon Unplugged and By Hand Seeds. Black Bulb Magazine renewed their sponsorship. Limited fiscal sponsorships were granted to 2 small organizations that received a Community Small Grant: Art Heaux, and The Movement Training Network. This means their fiscal sponsorship applies only to their grant and they may not do additional fundraising unless they apply for full fiscal sponsorship.
 - **Trainings + Events:**
 - **February 4th:** District 3 Meet Your City Councilors event is being put on by City Club of Portland and SE Uplift on at 6 pm at the St. Philip Neri Carvlin Hall. Registration required to attend.
 - **Monday, February 9th:** Emergency Preparedness training
 - **Monday, Feb 16th:** Fundraising 101 for NA 6:30 pm register on the SE Uplift website
 - **Tuesday, February 17th:** "Remember Mulugea: Confronting Hate in Portland" a screening of an episode of OPB's Oregon Experience TV program with a producer Q&A: 7 pm at the Hollywood Theater.
 - **Monday, April 13th:** Budgeting 101 for NAs, 6:30 pm; register on the SE Uplift website

7:21 Board Engagement in Community Small Grants Program - Nanci Champlin, Executive Director

- Following feedback from board members to have more input on the process of the Small Grants program, Ash and the staff worked together to create a plan for increasing Board visibility and opportunities for engagement with the Community Small Grants program.
 - Opportunities for Board to participate in and provide input to the Small Grants Program:
 - March: the board will be updated with the final report for the previous year's program awards (reports are submitted by grant awardees by the end of January).
 - May: Board invited to Grantee Mixer to meet representatives from the groups who won grant money for their projects
 - June: Board approves the budget for the program based on upcoming fiscal year funding.
 - August: Board is consulted to update any criteria for the structure of the program: eligibility guidelines, evaluation rubric, funding, earmarks, etc).
 - September: Board members (and the public) are invited to serve on the Grant Review Committee. Committee roles and responsibilities are reviewed. Currently, no organization with a grant application under consideration can serve on the committee.
 - November: Grant Review Committee reviews applications, scores each according to the evaluation rubric, and deliberates on how to allocate the available funds.
 - December: On behalf of the Grant Review Committee, the Program Manager (Sarah) presents recommendations to the Board, and the board authorizes the funding for the grant awards. Awardees are notified.
 - A suggestion was made about having a lower tier for small dollar amount grant applications so they may be considered separately from the much larger grant applications.
 - Discussion was held around the recommendation that anyone with an application under consideration is not eligible to participate in the Grant Review Committee. That is to avoid any perception of conflict of interest ("the appearance of impropriety"). However, it disqualifies many people who would be potential volunteers. A suggestion was to revisit the criteria if there are not enough other volunteers to fill the committee of 12.

7:45 Committee Reports – Committee Chairs or as noted below

Land Use + Transportation Committee - Matchu Williams

- Updates and Next Steps:
 - Fixing our Streets program: in the next 2 years, updates are planned for Cesar Chavez. School Safety circulation enhancements are planned near Abernethy Elementary School.
 - PBOT will apply for a grant from METRO for \$2M to enhance transit reliability and signal reliability and safety along Powell Blvd. Significant competition for grant money is expected. They requested a letter of support from SE Uplift that Matchu will write based on past board support for the traffic enhancements that they seek.
 - Trimet has a \$300M deficit due to lack of transportation package funding from the state legislature. There will be line eliminations (#19) and station reductions as a result. Trimet is trying to mitigate by adjusting other lines and has collected public input on the proposed changes. Changes to service would take effect in August 2026. Changes can be viewed in detail on the Trimet website.
 - The state legislature's failure to pass a transportation funding package last year is impacting transportation issues across the state, and PBOT most acutely. Open houses will be hosted in February and March to seek public input on proposed changes.
 - The 20 year plan for transportation and housing will be presented by the Planning Committee to the City Council next month. This will be an important meeting.

Finance Committee - Steven Fisher, Treasurer

- Second Quarter Financial Report:

- December Balance Sheet
 - Staff is currently working to update records for outdated Fiscal Sponsorship accounts to close ones that are inactive.
 - A mature CD was withdrawn from Rivermark and put into an account at OnPoint with a better interest rate.
- Q2 and Year-to-Date Budget to Actuals
 - The overall budget appears to be generally ahead of expectations for the year.
 - Donation expectations were exceeded due to an anonymous \$1000 donation.
 - Fiscal Sponsorship revenues are tracking higher than expected. It was noted that fiscally sponsored groups build the fiscal sponsorship fees into grant applications. This is a common expense.
 - Rent payments are currently on track with expectations, but may not remain on track through the remainder of the fiscal year due to some groups struggling. Staff are working with them.
 - SE Uplift has been leasing a copier from the City of Portland at a high rate. Staff intend to look for a printer to purchase for use in house to replace the need to purchase copies from the City of Portland.
 - The required 2025 tax return (Form 990) will be submitted to the IRS this month. The board was sent a copy on January 12th to review.
 - This year's budget projected needing to pull \$40k+ from our reserves. However, if current trends from Q1 and Q2 hold, this may not be needed. We're in good shape.
 - At the end of the fiscal year (June), any revenue in excess of what was budgeted will automatically go into the Unrestricted Reserve fund.

Tabor Commons Task Force - *Sharon Wynde and Daniel Portis-Cathers, co-chairs*

- Updates and Next Steps:
 - As part of the agreement between SE Uplift and Black and Beyond the Binary Collective (B3C), B3C was to complete a feasibility study to determine whether they could reasonably expect to raise the funds needed to purchase the Tabor Commons building over two years. The agreement that SE Uplift and B3C finalized together stated that B3C would provide SE Uplift a summary of their findings by the end of December 2025. B3C requested some additional time, and the extension was granted. On January 16th, the B3C board sent a notice that they intend to purchase the building. They later supplied a case statement of why they would like to purchase the building. To date, the summary of the feasibility study findings have not been provided and the offer has expired. SE Uplift will move forward with engaging a commercial real estate agent to sell the building on the open real estate market. B3C could still present an offer to purchase the building at any time, but they would potentially be competing against other interested buyers. Any offers received will be presented to the board.

Community Care and Safety Task Force - *Amit Zinman, Chair*

- Updates and February Meeting Topics:
 - Meets on the 2nd Monday monthly from 5:30 - 7 pm
 - Last month's meeting hosted discussions about how to host your own free fridge or pantry. There was enough interest in the topic that it may be repeated in future months. The committee is happy to make the presentation at any interested NA meeting.
 - The bike ride to travel around and stock community pantries will be held on February 28th
 - At the February 9th meeting, NET will present information about disaster preparation
 - Amit is considering working to bring back a Repair Cafe to District 3 (they currently occur in other parts of the city)
 - Currently, there is community interest in attending presentations, but low consistent engagement among community members attending all topics. Discussion was held and ideas were shared on consideration of where this committee would be best seated (SE Uplift or NAs) and how to build more consistent participation. SE Uplift can include a survey in the newsletter to gauge interest and community need that would help fine tune the activities of the task force.

Climate Justice Action - *Anna Weichsel not present*

- Updates and Next Steps: City Council will be deliberating on legislation on the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub this month. There will be opportunities for public engagement.

Executive Committee - Ash Hester, Board President

In December and January, the Executive Committee:

- Discussed draft updates to the External Comms Policy to recommend to the board
- Clarified language in Code of Conduct Policy per recommendations of our attorney: David Atkin, Center for Nonprofit Law) which were shared in board meeting materials
- Discussed opportunities for strengthening board involvement in the Community Small Grants program
- Prepared for the new board member orientation held last Weds (thanks to all who attended)
- And (as Nanci reported) approved fiscal sponsorship for new and renewing groups
- Set the agenda for this board meeting

External Communication Policy Updates - Matt Lembo, Vice President

The Executive Committee made the following recommendations for updates to the policy:

- Changing “Chair/s” to “President/s” to reflect current leadership nomenclature.
- Refine paragraph about board member testimony disclaimer intended to ensure that board or staff clarify when they are not speaking on behalf of SE Uplift in order to avoid any misperceptions during public testimony or advocacy for or against a candidate for office. Candidate advocacy or opposition, everyone was reminded, is expressly prohibited for SE Uplift under our federal 501c3 tax exempt status and the City’s Standards for District Coalitions..

8:48 The board discussion meeting adjourned.

BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

8:49 The board business meeting was called to order. – Ann Hester, President

Vote to adopt the December Board Meeting Minutes

Motion (Ash Hester)

Amended (n/a)

Seconded (Austin Davis)

In favor 15

Opposed 0

Abstentions 5

Result: The motion passed.

Vote to accept the Q2 financial report as presented

Motion (Ash Hester)

Amended (n/a)

Seconded (Debbie Dicks)

In favor 20

Opposed 0

Abstentions 0

Result: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to update the External Communications Policy as discussed

Motion (*Ash Hester*)

Amended (*n/a*)

Seconded (*Chris Hansen*)

In favor 20

Opposed 0

Abstentions 0

Result: **The motion passed unanimously.**

8:51 pm

Meeting adjourned 8:51 pm

Minutes Approved (Date) 3/3/2026

Secretary Signature  Signed by: Rachel Davies