

<NSI BOARD MEETING>

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 07/19/2021

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom

Approval: Final

Recorded By: Madeline Oberman

1 ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Organization	Present
Bobbie Butterly	President	DeBaliviere Place SBD	X
Jim Dwyer	Vice President of Finance	North SBD	X
Yusef Scoggin	Vice President	Southeast SBD	X
Henry Edmonds	Board Member	North SBD	X
Gina Heagney	Board Member	Westminster Lake SBD	
Bill Latz	Board Member	Washington Place SBD	X
Pete Rothschild	Board Member	South SBD	
Ashley Johnson	Board Member	Euclid South CID	X
Brian Phillips	Board Member	WUMC	X
Eric Weber	Board Member	Waterman Lake SBD	X
Kate Haher	Board Member	North CID	X
Jim Whyte	Executive Director	NSI	X
Sarah Wickenhauser	Deputy Director	NSI	X
Madeline Oberman	Neighborhood Advocate	NSI	X
Lyndon Cornell	Camera Project Manager	NSI	X

Additional Attendees: Bill Kuehling, Megan Werner

2 MEETING LOCATION

In addition to Zoom, the July meeting was also hosted with an in-person option at the Mahler Ballroom at 4915 Washington Blvd.

Due to COVID-19, the meeting also took place online through Zoom for those uncomfortable attending in person.

The NSI will continue to offer a Zoom link for our meetings. If you would like to attend these meetings, please let us know before the third Monday of the month and we will send you a link to the online meeting.

3 MEETING START

Meeting Schedule Start: [4:00 pm](#)

Meeting Actual Start: 4:01 pm

4 AGENDA

- [Call meeting to order](#)

- Bobbie Butterly called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.
- **Minutes Approved**
 - Jim Dwyer motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Katie Haher. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Financial Report Approved**
 - Motion to approve the financial report was moved by Bobbie Butterly. The motion was seconded by Bill Latz. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Outreach Proposal – Presented by Jim Whyte and Staff**
 - Alvin Ferguson would be our outreach worker
 - His experience includes 20+ years of service with St. Patrick Center.
 - If the program is approved, the NSI is expecting to start the program in September 2021. The NSI asks that each entity vote to approve the funding requests at their respective August meetings.
 - Brian Phillips asked why the proposal requests money for purchasing a vehicle instead of leasing a vehicle.
 - Maddy Oberman responded that the NSI was looking into used vehicles and most dealerships are not offering leases on used vehicles – especially given the shortage of used vehicles on the market.
 - Brian and other members of the board agreed that the NSI should look into leasing a new vehicle for the outreach program.
 - Jim Whyte mentioned that Missouri Highway Patrol sells their vehicles, used, when they hit 49,000 miles.
 - Kate said that the NSI should just spend the money on a good car. It would be better for the organization to spend more money now for a reliable vehicle and less on maintenance later. Various board members nodded in agreement.
 - Kate Haher requested the NSI add 10% to the overall budget for the first year.
 - Ashley Johnson asked how Alvin's time will be allocated.
 - Jim Whyte responded that per the nature of working with homeless people, who often move around, it would be impossible to allocate time evenly each week for each entity. Instead, Alvin would be charged with reaching out to people in every coverage area but go where the people are.
 - Ashley Johnson asked how invoicing will work. Will it be monthly, quarterly, or a large sum at the beginning of the year.
 - Sarah Wickenhauser and Jim Whyte discussed quarterly but the NSI could do annual if that works out better for the taxing districts.
 - Bill Latz asked what the times of Alvin's shifts would be.
 - Jim Whyte responded that it would vary and that we would trust Alvin's judgement on when best to approach people. The NSI will make sure there's an officer nearby on standby for Alvin's safety when needed.
 - Ashley Johnson asked if the NSI is expecting full-year commitments to this program.
 - Jim Whyte said yes.

- Sarah Wickenhauser clarified that this proposal is asking for the first year's annual funding up front to get the program started, but moving forward after that we can bill entities annually or quarterly or monthly.
 - Eric Weber asked if the cost of this program will need to be paid separate or if the amount will be added into the NSI annual contribution.
 - Jim Whyte and Sarah Wickenhauser explain that the initial billing will be separate but the NSI is also looking into an annual fundraiser event to reduce the costs to taxing districts.
 - Bill Latz asked if the \$70,000 price tag is a high or realistic estimate.
 - Maddy Oberman explained that the estimate was a little high to make sure the first year is covered, but the price would be greatly reduced the following year if a vehicle is purchased. The overall cost would also be reduced year-to-year if the NSI leased a vehicle instead of purchasing a vehicle.
- **Guest Invite Update – Presented by Jim Whyte**
 - The meeting with Dan Isom went very well. He appreciated the work of the NSI and commitment from the commissioners on the NSI board. He suggested we reach out to corporate security leaders. Jim Whyte will be attending a meeting with these leaders in August 2021.
 - The NSI had scheduled a meeting with three alderwomen. Only one showed up to the meeting: Tina “Sweet-T” Pihl. We believe the NSI did a good job of explaining the NSI and believe she understands that we are a resource to her and her constituents.
- **Grove RFP – Presented by Jim Whyte**
 - The NSI was previously engaged in a contractual agreement with the Grove CID but did not appreciate the direction the board took in 2019. Ultimately, both parties agreed to sever ties. The NSI has continued to provide camera maintenance and reviews in the Grove.
 - The NSI has been asked to return to the Grove CID in a formal way. Jim Whyte talked to people in the area, namely a business owner in the Grove who is also a resident in the Central West End. Jim has agreed to start attending the Grove CID safety and security meetings but will not join a contract with the Grove CID at this time. Jim Whyte does not believe enough change has happened with the Grove CID to feel comfortable submitting an RFP or signing any agreement.
 - Kate Hafer asked who their new service provider is.
 - Jim Whyte responded that the new service provider is Campbell Security. They do not utilize city offers, instead using St. Genevieve County Sheriffs and St. Louis County Officers.
 - Ashely Johnson cautions Jim Whyte to set clear and vocal boundaries with the Grove CID with regard to what Jim/The NSI will do vs. what Jim/The NSI will not be providing for the Grove CID.
 - Nota Bene: Nobody objected to Jim Whyte sitting in on Grove CID meetings without a contract.
- **Coolfire Update – Presented by Jim Whyte**
 - The NSI originally went into an agreement with Coolfire for an app for our services. Of the 8 contractors engaged with the NSI, 7 have left the Coolfire company.

- The NSI was supposed to pay Coolfire \$20,000 per year while they worked on the app. But the company stopped developing the app for reasons unknown. The NSI formally told Coolfire that the NSI is done with this project and Coolfire agreed. Now they developed a commercially available app that would cover what the NSI originally wanted. However, our service provider, TCF, is not interested and has opted to pursue development of their own app.
 - The NSI received an invoice for \$8,000 from Coolfire. Bill Kuehling, the NSI's attorney, has reviewed the invoice and strongly recommends that the NSI pay the invoice. Coolfire is offering this invoice to cover out-of-pocket expenses in lieu of other liabilities.
 - Lesson Learned: The NSI set out for a very specific project/product. Realistically, what the NSI wanted would normally cost \$500,000. Coolfire saw potential in the idea and decided to reduce our costs and, in exchange, use the NSI as guinea pigs to make a commercially available product. This took time away from the NSI's product and are making the product anyways without the NSI's \$20,000 annual contribution. After the NSI pays this \$8,000, the NSI is no longer tied to or owes money to Coolfire.
 - Jim Dwyer asked Bill Kuehling whether or not this \$8,000 invoice is a settlement invoice or not. Bill Kuehling confirmed it is a settlement invoice.
 - Kate Haher noted that we need to keep this project a priority and therefore continue to pressure TCF to follow through on their promise to develop their own app.
 - Note: importance of business checks and accountability.
 - Jim Dwyer asked what value, if any, have we taken from this experience?
 - Jim Whyte stated that he takes full responsibility for this mishap. It became evident that what the NSI wanted was not equal to what the NSI paid for and therefore the NSI was sidelined.
 - Bill Latz noted that he disagrees with Jim Whyte's assessment. Given 7 out of the 8 quit, he believes the company simply gave up on the NSI project.
 - Jim Whyte noted that the company did make a product for the NSI, but it was neither what the NSI wanted nor asked for.
 - Bill Kuehling explained that \$8,000 is simply their out-of-pocket costs and it's a fair offer to take that invoice now and be done with everything or be on the line for a substantially larger amount of money later.
 - Yusef Scoggin asked that we (The NSI and board members) memorialize the issues here and take lessons from this experience so that this doesn't happen again.
 - Motion to approve paying the \$8,000 invoice and severing ties with Coolfire moved by Kate Haher. The motion was seconded by Bobbie Butterly. Jim Dwyer called the question. Motion approved unanimously.
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- **Community Cleanup – Presented by Jim Whyte and Staff**
 - Community Cleanup event happened last Saturday (July 17th) from 8 am to 10 am. More than 20 people attended the event and more than 50 bags were filled with trash.
 - A big thank you to the North CID for providing the NSI with 5 gift cards. The gift cards were raffled off to the attendees.
 - Note: After the cleanup, pictures were sent to the Roberts Brothers, who own one of the lots cleaned up. They were asked to clean up their own lot next time and they responded positively.
 - Yusef mentioned that we should reach out to 100 Black Men for our next cleanup event.

- **Guest Comments**

- None

5 MEETING END – 4:57 PM

6 POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
None	N/A	N/A

7 DECISIONS MADE

- Meeting Minutes were approved.
- Financial Report was approved.
- Motion to pay \$8,000 invoice from Coolfire approved.

8 NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: August 16, 2021 < Online via Zoom only > < > < >