

August 25th, 2015 – NESCO Board Meeting Minutes

	Present:
Bosart Brown: No Representative	
Brookside:	Tommy Reddicks
Cottage Home: No Representative	
Emerson Heights:	Rebecca Seifert
Englewood: Brent Aldrich	
Grace Tuxedo: No Representative	
Holy Cross:	Kelly Wensing
Little Flower:	Dan Goldblatt & Sarah Tague
NoBo:	Aaron Stites
Otterbein: No Representative	
Rivoli Park:	Patt Paff
Spades Park:	Marsha Burkhardt
Springdale:	Shirley Musgrove
St. Clair Place:	Stephen Ball
TEAR/United: No Representative	
Willard Park: Satchuel Cole	
Windsor Park:	Mark Schroeder
Woodruff Place: No Representative	
At Large:	Chris Staab
At Large:	Josh Bowling
At Large: Ruth Shaw	
At Large:	Ken Holyoak

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Board Business

Approval of July 2015 Minutes

Stephen Ball made a motion to approve the July 2015 minutes. Marsha Burkhardt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with everyone voting.

Treasurer's Report – Kelly Wensing

Kelly advised the board that she is still in the process of discovering the accounting processes that are used to record NESCO finances. The banking system at People's Financial Health Credit Union is "interesting" and we are having repeated issues making deposits and logging into our account online.

For example, the checks from FOL were not deposited correctly – \$1000 went into savings and \$1000 went into checking – despite presenting a deposit slip with instructions to deposit all \$2,000 into savings. And Kelly is currently unable to log in and verify our depot of funds made using Square at FOL.

However, Kelly reported that NESCO made \$1,234.87 in sales during the 2015 FOL.

NESCO would like to switch banks and we have been given the green light from our attorney that switching banks will not slow or hinder our quest for 501c3 status.

Tommy made a note that our current banking and bookkeeping confusion has nothing to do with Melissa's bookkeeping skills and there is nothing that has done wrong or incorrectly. It is difficult for a person not affiliated with NESCO, who does not attend our meetings, to keep track of our funds.

Rebecca advised that she would like the BOD to give the executive committee the authority to explore moving our money to another bank with better features.

Tommy made the motion to give the executive committee authority to change banks, and Dan seconded. All voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dan recommended against Chase Bank. Rebecca suggested National Bank of Indianapolis. Tommy said that Paramount uses National Bank of Indianapolis. Rebecca advised that if anyone has other banking recommendations, to please forward them to Kelly.

Kelly advised that the storage unit has been emptied and we received a \$141 refund on storage unit. In total, NESCO made over \$3,000 on FOL. This was our best FOL ever.

NESCO's 501C3 Update

IRS mistakenly rejected our application and we are refileing.

Committee Reports

Crime Reduction Code Enforcement – Chris Staab

Chris went to the unsafe buildings and zombie homes meeting hosted by DPW. Chris reported that DPW and IMPD have their eyes on NESCO and are eager to hear our next step plans.

Chris said that demolitions on abandoned homes will begin next month. There will be 40 houses demolished annually. This year, two of those houses will be in NESCO – one in TEAR and one in Brookside.

Marsha advised the group that at the last Spades Park neighborhood meeting, IMPD brought the crime stats report and it was only one page front and back. As a point of reference, IMPD said that Irvington's report is usually 7 pages. NESCO may not be as bad as some think.

Chris advised that the next CRCE meeting is September 14th at Englewood Christian Church.

Turn Festival – Tommy Reddicks

TURN stands for Transforming Urban Neighborhoods. The event is about sustainability efforts focused on farm, food, health, and environment. This will be the first annual TURN Festival will take place on September 12th from 9am to 6pm. The author of 50 Shades of Kale will be at the event. There will be a summit talk in the morning, and live music, children's activities, pop up booths, and 100 vendors in the afternoon. They will be closing off Brookside Parkway between Brookside and Dearborn. The event is focused on health and environment, and they are anticipating 5,000 to 10,000 people will be at the event.

If NESCO would like, they could sell hot dogs at the event.

The volunteers selling hot dogs would need to be set up by 10am and probably packing up at 6pm.

No one from NESCO volunteered to run the hot dog cart, but agreed that if Paramount wanted to use it, they could.

NESCO's Role in the 21st Century – Rebecca Seifert

Rebecca passed around the most current copy of the Quality of Life Plan – she asked that the board read over the QLP as we will hopefully be able to use it going forward.

From her tour of neighborhoods, Rebecca took away that they think that NESCO should: 1. Be a communicator to various neighborhoods and 2. Help neighborhood associations bolster their attendance at neighborhood meetings.

Education is an important tool for organizing neighborhoods and getting representation from every neighborhood in NESCO around the table is important. NESCO could work to support neighborhood organizations. Rebecca suggested that everyone asks their neighborhoods what they expect or need from NESCO.

Rebecca suggested that we could create “neighborhood resource guides” and host neighborhood forums on topics like prostitution, crime, neighborhood art, & etc. We need to focus on what neighbors want and what they think is important.

We need goals for 2016 – we cannot solve every problem in one night, but we need to identify the key roles that NESCO could play on the near east side.

NESCO is plagued with administrative issues, and Rebecca suggested that we form a governance committee and add key professionals to help guide the neighborhood along.

Rebecca also proposed creating new board seats for “Legacy Members” – these individuals could attend board meetings, but would not have an official vote. This would allow NESCO to utilize older leaders who should have rolled off the board.

Chris had two suggestions for the board. 1. Gwen Jones from the Marion Co Sherriff’s office Communications department allows neighborhoods to tour the 911 call center. He suggested that each neighborhood pick a night, organize a group of 12-15 people, and monitor calls at the 911 Call Center. This would allow people to know what types of issues neighbors are having.

Chris’s second point was what happens when you call Mayor’s Action Center? He needs IT help with this, but wants to find out how items are being tracked and followed up with.

Kelly suggested that NESCO take part in Indy Do Day and that NESCO should plan a project instead of waiting for people to come to us

Indy Do Day is in October. Currently there are two neighborhoods with projects --Rivoli Park and Little Flower.

Shirley reminded the board that the NESCO Hot Dog Cart was originally purchased with grant money and the purpose was that they would fight crime with the hot dog cart. In 2002, NESCO spent time giving away hot dogs at corners where drugs were being sold. Shirley thinks that NESCO needs to get back to that and lend the cart to neighbors instead of renting it out.

Dan said that the hot dog cart is a lot of work to clean and store. The \$25 fee to rent the cart from NESCO is not cost prohibitive and we should continue to rent it to neighbors that fill out the form and request its use.

Wrapping the meeting up, Tommy advised the board to read the entire Quality of Life Plan before the September meeting and bring back the three most relevant items for NESCO. Neighborhood reps need to ask their neighborhoods what the three most important items on the QLP are.

Rebecca threw out the idea of having a board retreat in Oct. or Nov. and asked the board to look at their calendars.

Marsha asked if any other organizations had approached NESCO about helping with Happy Haunted Halloween? Rebecca advised that no organization had, and that the Happy Haunted Halloween would not take place this year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm