

NAMI Santa Clara County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 5th Nov 2024, 5:30 PM, by Videoconference

Attendance: Uday Kapoor, Navah Statman, Rovina Nimbalkar, Kathy Forward, Bev Lozoff, Frank Alioto, Steve Wade, Karen Deloumi, Jillian Yang, Peter Newman.

Meeting convened at 5:34 PM.

1. **Welcome**

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. **Steve:** introduced a discussion of whether the text of the email written by Moryt on Proposition 36 and distributed as from the board was voted on by the board. He had no problem with the contents of the email but expressed the opinion that if an item is distributed as from the board he would like to have a vote to approve it. After some discussion the board agreed that in the future it could either vote to delegate authority for someone to act on behalf of the board or it could circulate a draft and vote by email.
- c. Oct 1st, 2024 BoD minutes approved.

2. **Community Merit Award Nominations—Uday:**

- a. **Navah:** Joe Simitian is about to step down from the Board of Supervisors but he has done a lot for the community. He brought our attention to SB855 on parity when his staff came to us. **Frank:** He has been a real stalwart. He has always been there and been accessible. The board voted to select Joe Simitian as our Community Merit Award recipient for 2025. Rovina will contact his office. Navah suggested we contact Vic who can help with the details.

3. **Reports and Updates**

a. **Treasurer Update—Steve:**

- i. In the Treasurer's Report, Steve announced his retirement from the board after many years of service. He will be able to assist Rovina with the budget for the new year and will help in the interim and in the process of choosing and transitioning to a new treasurer. Grateful thanks for his service were expressed by many of those present.
- ii. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. We are in very good shape financially; we have almost \$4M. Revenue goes up and down, this month has been lousy but last month was great. We are a little low on revenue for this year. Expenses are well below budget. **Rovina:** Individual donations are pretty low. We expect the Walk to make \$270. We will make budget.
- iii. We expect to receive a bequest of \$225k from the Buxbaums. Thanks to the generosity of the Schiros and the Buxbaums we can operate a little below budget occasionally.
- iv. **Rovina:** from the end-of-year letter we have served served 13,000 people this year. **Navah:** expressed the view that people may be reaching saturation with fundraising. She suggested we keep the goal for the Walk below \$300k. A motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented was passed.

b. **VP Updates:**

- i. **Bev:** nothing to report.

c. **President's Update—Uday:**

- i. Uday was invited to represent NAMI-SCC with an information table at a meeting of Indians for Collective Action. A lot of people came and talked. It was very good outreach.
- ii. Uday attended the decorative pumpkin fundraiser for NAMI-SCC and spoke to the press.
- iii. Uday spoke at the art show event with the Vietnamese Community. He spoke about stigma and the Asian community. It was very useful.

- iv. We have an invitation from Kaiser to their International Disability Day via the Bridging the Gap Symposium. We will have a table at the event.
 - v. We planned to have Ky Le to speak to us today but he was detained by the Board of Supervisors meeting. He will attend the Jan meeting. Moryt has prepared a list of questions for him.
- d. **Executive Director Report—Rovina:** Please refer to: the Executive Director's Report, the Community Peer Program Report, the FaithNet Report, the Spanish Team Report, the Community and Media Relations Report and the list of ongoing classes, support groups and presentations.
- i. October was a busy month with a lot of grant applications. We have grant reports coming up in Dec.
 - ii. Next year's Walk will be held on Oct 4th. We have raised \$255k so far for this year's Walk. We are expecting a little more to come in but we will not meet our goal of \$300k. The decorative pumpkin event was a fundraiser for the Walk.
 - iii. We have just completed working on the end-of-year letter. It will go out on the week of Nov 20th.
 - iv. We have started to work on the Holiday Drive. The PR company felt that the Holiday Drive is unusual. They will try to get some media coverage.
 - v. We will celebrate our 50th anniversary next year. Rovina spoke about what we might do to celebrate the anniversary.
 - vi. Things are going well with the PR company. We had a lot of coverage for the Walk.
 - vii. The programs are doing well.
 - viii. **Navah:** asked if it is possible to send some recognition from the board to Sylvia for her work with the decorative pumpkin fundraiser. **Rovina:** We can send our thanks and a gift basket.
 - ix. Steve, Rovina and Kathy will meet tomorrow to discuss the budget.
- e. **Fundraising Committee Update—Rovina:**
- i. There was no meeting this month.
- f. **Newsletter—Bev:** Articles for the Dec-Jan issue should be submitted by Nov 15.
- g. **General Meeting—Bev:**
- i. At the next meeting we have someone from the county speaking about the implementation of the CARE Act in the county. The following General Meeting is in Feb 2025 where we will have a presentation on our Peer programs.
 - ii. **Uday:** observed that David Mineta is retiring from Momentum. He asked if we can we invite him to be the speaker at a General Meeting to do a presentation on Momentum. **Rovina:** We can have him be the keynote at a luncheon we are organizing for April. **Bev:** We should do something to recognize him. He has done so much for the community.

4. Other Actions

- a. **Legislative Committee: Legislation Updates—Frank:**
 - i. Politicians have been hard to reach due to the elections.
 - ii. Frank has called every member of the city council regarding Good Samaritan Hospital. He has only received three responses. The point we are trying to make is that it is not a land use issue alone. The San Jose Planning Commission does not treat it as a land use issue. We are trying to convince Hospital Corporation of America to commit to restoring Mission Oaks and the Neonatal Unit. It is not a lot to ask given their revenue. Frank has spoken to members of staff for three of the supervisors but not to the supervisors directly. He has

spoken to Cortese's and Pellerin's staff and they are supportive of the issue. He is trying to get Ro Khana's support also.

- iii. Frank shared his feelings as a member of the Behavioral Health Board. He is disappointed. The whole system is very deeply bureaucratic. The departments do not talk to each other. Everything is in it's own silo. Frank would like to come up with something to get the whole system, moving.
 - iv. **Navah:** gave her view as someone that served on the Behavioral Health Board for many years. Everything we achieved was through convincing and meeting. Go visiting; get a motion; Kathy has seen some of this process. If you get a motion passed on to the Board of Supervisors that has an impact.
 - v. **Frank:** The protective overhead that comes with each department is a systemic issue. I will keep on plugging and get some folks to work with us.
 - vi. **Karen:** Frank and Karen spoke at the planning commission. We have to reeducate the city council. They are not listening to the planning commission. We need people to turn out at the meeting. **Uday:** observed there is an allocation of only two minutes per person for public comment at the meeting. **Karen:** requested we come up with a position statement from NAMI-SCC. We will need a short version by 8:00 AM tomorrow. We need people to turn out or write letters for the city council meeting.
 - vii. **Frank:** has had conversations with Jim Beall. He is also working on this issue.
 - viii. **Karen:** read the contents of a draft letter she prepared for the Rules Committee meeting tomorrow asking them to defer an agenda item because we need more time to prepare. We will work on a longer letter for the deferred discussion at the following meeting. The Rules Committee sets the agenda for the San Jose City Council.
 - ix. **Frank:** This will have a serious effect on many peoples lives. We need lengthy knowledgeable conversation. It is in the best interest of the city and the county.
 - x. The board voted to delegate Frank and Karen to punch up Karen's text a little and submit it to the meeting.
- b. **New Business:**
- i. No new business.

5. **Dates to Remember**

- a. Next Board Meeting: Tues 7th Jan 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Newman

Nov 10, 2024