

Equity and Inclusion Committee Report

SWNI Board Meeting June 28, 2017

The SWNI Equity and Inclusion Committee workplan was finalized and approved.

The Montavilla Neighborhood has been the site of periodic sweeps of homeless camps that are seen as a cycle of efforts that are not achieving needed goals of homeless solutions and community respect. The people get moved out; their possessions beyond what they can carry, such as tents and tarps, are confiscated; they find another site and try to acquire survival property such as was lost at the last sweep; process repeats. Montavilla passed a resolution asking the city to work to a better solution. The Office of Neighborhood Involvement is moving towards filling two positions to work with homelessness. Homeless people have a very high representation of disabled persons as well as a rapidly increasing number of people of color. We will work towards having speakers on this topic for the August meeting, securing both the Montevilla NA perspective as well as the governmental perspective.

Our committee, under the task lead of Laura Campos, will be providing activities in conjunction with the July 26 Northstar Painted Sky concert at Willamette Park and the August 19 Multnomah Days celebration.

Our next meeting is July 31, at 4:30 PM. Our invited speaker is Pastor Mark Knutson of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Pastor Mark is a national leader for social justice.

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Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Bridger

Vice chair