



North Enders Recall Five NENA Directors

Concerns for the Future of the North End Neighborhood Unite Neighbors in Historic Vote

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2021

After months of contentious meetings, grassroots neighbor petitions, failed mediation, and a lawsuit filed against neighbor volunteers, members of the North End Neighborhood Association came together on Thursday, March 18th for a Special Member Meeting and Removal Vote. With an historic turnout of nearly 800 voters from across the neighborhood, the membership sent a clear message to a divisive group of five Directors: the North End deserves, and demands, better.

Following October's annual meeting and board election, neighbors objected to some of the tactics used by candidates, as well as a lack of diversity among newly elected board members Tory Spengler, Carlos Coto, siblings Sarah and Daniel Foregger, and Sitka Koloski, and petitioned for an inquiry into the election process.

In January, the existing Board voted to certify the election results, but not before the newly elected board members filed a lawsuit—after refusing to participate in a mediation with the existing board and interested NENA members to find an amicable solution. The lawsuit against dedicated volunteers was a pivotal and unforgivable turning point for many in the neighborhood.

Nearly 800 NENA members cast their ballots on March 18 and spoke with force and unity. An average of 91% voted to remove Spengler, Coto, and the Foreggers. Approximately 85% voted to remove Koloski. Less than 50% of 100 members voted these individuals onto the Board.

The five recalled Directors cannot claim the trust and support of a majority of NENA members. It is unclear, however, if the removed Directors will step aside in the face of such a clear mandate from the NENA membership, or if they will continue on their divisive path, hampering efforts by neighbors to unite and rebuild.

Established in 1976, NENA is Boise's oldest neighborhood association and has a long history of active involvement in neighborhood issues. "NENA has been a trustworthy organization for many years, which allowed neighbors to grow complacent. It's so unfortunate that any of this happened in the first place, but it was incredible to see the line of people from all corners of the North End wanting to cast a vote and stand up for our neighborhood," said NENA member Kate Henwood. Another neighbor added, "The North End has soul."

For further information, contact nenamembers@gmail.com or visit northendalliance.org