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Monthly Meeting, 6PM, November 9 2021

Annual Meeting Minutes: Done virtually via Zoom

**Called to order**: 6:05 pm by Chair Campbell when quorum of six achieved

**Presided by**: Allan Campbell, Co-chair; Tim Knight, Chair

**In attendance**: Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Tim Knight, Joey Meiers, Bob Gordon, Lynette Davis, Melanie Fehlberg, Megan Betterman, Tim Walker, John Bordwell

**Absent:** Dave Stougaard

**Note Taker:** Allan Campbell

**Announcements and Welcome from the Chair**

**Approval of October Annual Meeting Minutes** **-** Motion by Tim Knight second by John **approved**

**Receipt of Treasurer’s Report**: Dave was not present to comment. Allan noted that with $73,145 remaining in Community Participation Program (CPP) funds we are likely to finish the year with at least $50,000 remaining. These funds cannot be rolled over under the new Neighborhoods 2020 rules, but will become Equitable Engagement funds.

**Approval of 2022 Neighborhood Network Fund budget and policies** required to maintain WMNSC’s status as a recognized neighborhood organization.

Motion by Richard second by Lynette/John to approve the budget and the following policies and plans, **approved**

* 2022 NNF Budget
* ADA Policy
* Board Member Manual (Board Development Policy)
* Conflict of Interest Policy
* Diversity Action Plan (Equitable Engagement Plan)
* Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Plan
* Financial Policy and Procedures
* Grievance Policy
* Language Access Policy
* Whistleblower Policy

**Election of Officers**

Chair: Tim Knight was nominated by Allan, seconded by Lynette. **elected by acclaim.**

Vice Chair: Allan Campbell was nominated by Richard seconded by Lynette, **elected**

Treasurer: Dave Stougaard was nominated by Allan, seconded by John, **elected**

Secretary: There being no nominations, Allan agreed to be the note taker for this meeting, Lynette and Bob agreed to take notes at the December meeting, and Megan at the January meeting.

**Reorganization of Committees**

Communications, Outreach and Events (COE): Joey suggested the hiring of a social media leader using Equitable Engagement funds. Bob objected if social media includes Facebook and Instagram (owned by FB) because FB is evil. Allan agreed that FB is evil but said we need the social media presence that FB and IG provides. Bob suggested we need to expand our email distribution list as an alternative to FB. Michelle said that our email list consists of 206 names, not all of whom live in the neighborhood. No action was taken.

Business outreach was discussed. Allan has distributed a flyer asking for information to post on the new WMSNC website to five neighborhood businesses. Bob said he would begin distributing the flyer to other businesses. It was noted that business outreach needs to go beyond getting content for the website. Richard suggested a brochure listing local businesses. Bob suggested distributing coupons similar to those in the ValPak envelopes, or a monthly emailing of offers. Allan said these projects would need to be led by volunteers given the upcoming limits on Michelle’s time under Neighborhoods 2020’s reduced budgets. Michelle said that most other Southwest Mpls coordinators are paid to work far more than the 20-35 hours a month in her contract. Allan noted that because of the increased work load to meet the requirements of Neighborhoods 2020 he had approved Michelle working more than 35 hours in recent months.

Events: Tim noted that because of COVID there have been no recent events and that this has made it difficult to attract interest in the Council. Allan said that Jill Hagen had volunteered to help out with events when the pandemic permits. Jill agreed that she would be willing to volunteer and described her past experience with organizing events.

Equitable Engagement: Joey raised the problem of getting apartment property managers’ permission to inform residents of the Council. Slipping flyers under doors was suggested. Bob pointed out that elected officials have a right to enter apartment buildings to campaign. It was suggested that we recruit CM Palmisano to host meetings in the apartment buildings.

Safety: Richard said that Tim Walker had joined the Joint Safety Committee. Richard spoke of the need to publicize the work of the committee and suggested an article in the Hills and Lakes Press.

Greenspace: Allan noted that with Martha Yunker’s retirement from the board, Lynette was the de facto team leader of a Greenspace team that also includes John, and volunteer Louise Campbell. Allan gave background on how the Master Plan for the West Maka Ska greenspace and other obstacles placed by the Park Board, such as requirement for a maintenance plan, had caused the Greenspace Team to cut back their plans for a grove of trees that would create a bird and bee garden at the south end of the greenspace. Instead, they are now thinking of a more modest plan for a few trees and pollinator friendly plants.

Besides this greenspace project, the board asked the Greenspace Team to work on three other projects:

* Continued advocacy of a neighborhood park near the corner of France and Lake
* A mural on the cement wall on the west side of West Bde Maka Ska Parkway
* Rebuilding of the collapsed walkway along the lake.

With regard to the mural it was suggested that we use equitable engagement funds to employ high school students to paint the mural. A Native American motif was also suggested. Lynette suggested earth tones rather than bright colors, in keeping with the park setting.

The Team decided to meet with our new Park Board district representative, Cathy Abene, as soon as possible to discuss these projects.

Land Use: Allan volunteered to remain on this committee, but noted that it had little to do besides monitoring projects to make sure the developers were meeting permit conditions for the West Lake Quarter and Lake & Excelsior apartments. Lynette asked whether the new City Council might enforce the Shoreline Overlay ordinance height limits to force the Lake & Excelsior apartments to reduce the number of stories. It was noted that the Planning Commission had already approved the proposed height and the site preparation was already underway. Richard commented that the Planning Commission has been unresponsive to our concerns and fails to recognize that we are an already dense neighborhood with a discontinuous street pattern.

Michelle will send a description of the committees to new board members to help them decide which committees they wish to join.

**Planning for Retreat**

**T**he annual retreat will be held at the Minikahda Club at 6 PM on Tuesday November 16th. Michelle asked that anyone who has not been vaccinated against COVID to let her know.

**Final Newsletter**

A newsletter is to be mailed out to reach residents shortly after the new website is live to announce the website and to ask for email addresses so they can stay in touch with the Council since this will be the last edition of a print newsletter.

**Banners and Signs**

Micelle has received quotes for banners from several vendors. One remaining decision is whether to have single banners or two banners side by side on each of the 16 light poles along Excelsior and Lake.

Allan has had the Neighborhood ID signs made and will take them over to Public Works for installation.

**SW Voices**

Michelle will get more information about this online newspaper and how we might help sponsor it.

**Business Cards**

Michelle to get quotes for business cards--both generic cards with the neighborhood association name and eleven sets of cards with the name of the board member.

Submitted by Michelle Sass, coordinator

**Next Council Meeting** •Monthly Meeting December 14 • 6:00pm • Method via Zoom