**West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council Meeting (in person at the Bakken and by Zoom)**

**March 14, 2023**

**Presided by:** Tim Knight, chair

**Board members in attendance:** Tim Knight, Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Bob Gordon, Leyden Victoria Iraheta Santos, Lynette Davis, David Stougaard, John Bordwell, Dylan Ohm

**Absent:** Melanie Fehlberg

**Coordinator:** Michelle Sass

**Residents in attendance:** Louise Campbell, Sarah Lawinger

**Presenter:** Katie Cashman, candidate for city council for Ward 7

Tim called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

**Approval of February minutes:** Richard moved approval. Bob seconded. **Minutes were approved.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Had to return a check to city of Minneapolis ($4500). Push for Peace is still pending.

Bakken for $400 (thinks it is a misprint), just paid $750 yesterday. Also paid $5000 to Bakken for

watershed. Also insurance for officers has been paid. Has Michelle’s check but unable to deliver

at this time (since Michelle is in Florida). John moved approval. Richard seconded. **Motion approved.** Dave reminded the board that he will be leaving the board at the annual meeting, so a new treasurer is needed.

**Merchandise Review:** Michelle listed the items that had been purchased so far:

* 150 canvas bags
* Whistles (Black with West Maka Ska in white font)
* T-shirts

**Committee Updates**

Communications, Outreach, and Events (COE)/Equitable Engagement (EE)

Dave motioned and Richard seconded that the **Habitat for Humanity spring work event** be held on April 27th. **Motion approved.** The event will be at 3330 North Oliver Avenue for up to ten volunteers. Michelle will put the word out on social media.

**Earth Day** (April 22) Event. Tim and Melanie met with Push for Peace and Whole Foods. Primary event

will be at Whole Foods patio. Will have a food truck, working on music, there will be kids’

activities. Possibly with the Fire Station. Depends on space. Be sure to collect email addresses. Bob said that My Burger will offer coupons to folks picking up trash. Richard will talk with Ben & Jerry’s about free ice cream. Melanie has talked with City Paws about a pet photo booth. Possibly ask Open Eye theater. Will continue planning on Slack.

**Spring Clean Up**: Kick off will be at Earth Day event. Will continue clean ups throughout the

season. Monthly on last Saturday of month through September from 9:30 to 11:00. City provides equipment, and we have equipment from last year in the Bakken storage room. We can let other civic groups know. Richard will check with WF to see if they will provide beverages. Also will check with Ben and Jerry’s about free ice cream for volunteers.

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**Presentation by Katie Cashman (she/her)**

Katie introduced herself as a candidate for city council from the 7th Ward. Katie has had experience working for the United Nations and is a sustainability advocate. She hopes to improve the city’s composting infrastructure, especially at food businesses and multifamily buildings and to also improve energy efficiency of the city’s buildings. In response to a question about the need to transition from gas to electricity, she spoke favorably of a Center for Energy and Environment report that found it feasible to move to an 80/20 electricity to gas mix. In response to Lynette’s question about Katie’s opinion of the 2040 plan, she said she approved of higher residential and commercial density on major corridors such as Hennepin Avenue. Bob replied that the city’s plan to take away parking from Hennepin and to put a permanent concrete median down the avenue would be a disaster for the street’s businesses. Katie indicated support for an elected Met Council.

**Committee Updates (continued)**

Greenspace

Allan introduced a resolution in support of asking the Park Board to use the $614,397 in Park Dedication fees attributed to West Maka Ska to create a **neighborhood park** near the corner of France and Lake, consistent with the Southwest Service Area Master Plan. He noted that the portion of the neighborhood north of the tracks consists largely of apartments and has been underrepresented. Children from that portion of our neighborhood now lack safe access to a park. Resolution would ask Park Board to seek to acquire the site from the county. Bob moved for approval of the resolution. Richard seconded. **Motion approved.** Allan to follow up.

Lynette presented the Tangletown Gardens contract proposal to design a **bird and pollinator sanctuary** at the corner of 32nd Street and West Bde Maka Ska Parkway. Allan asked does Tangletown understand requirements of working with park dept? Proposal mentions a one-acre space, but space is actually smaller. Are we just committing to design? John: Does the park board have an opinion? Lynette responded yes, Tangletown has met with them. We have to present a design to the park board before going forward. Dave moved and John seconded approval of a $3,850 contract. **Motion approved.** Richard asked that the sanctuary be named in honor of Caitlan Barton, a young West Maka Ska resident who was killed in a traffic accident in 2014. Louise Campbell spoke in support.

**Safety**

Leyden shared a safety event: Thursday March 23, 5 to 7. City’s office of violence prevention. They offer several classes throughout the year. Richard: The city emergency planning dept is having a disaster

preparation event. Richard wants to commend the city about towing cars and plowing.

**Hennepin County Library Archival Collection**

Michelle informed the board of the county library’s offer to archive the council’s records. Records provided would be digitized and remain accessible to the board. Dave made a motion to provide the library with our records after review by Michelle and Allan. Bob seconded. **Motion approved.**

**Statement of Support of East Phillips neighborhood**

Sarah Lawinger raised the issue of the city’s plan to expand a water department facility in the East Phillips neighborhood where residents want to create an urban farm. Sarah noted that several surrounding neighborhoods had written letters of support of the East Phillips plan. Allan moved that West Maka Ska join those neighborhoods with a statement of support. Richard seconded. **Motion approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.