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

**September 12, 2023**

**Presided by:** Tim Knight

**Board members in attendance:** Melanie Fehlberg, Bob Gordon, Leyden Victoria Iraheta Santos, Richard Logan, Tim Knight, Lynette Davis, John Bordwell

**Absent:** David Stougaard, Allan Campbell, Dylan Ohm

**Coordinator:** Michelle Sass

**Guest speakers:** City Council Vice President Linea Palmisano, Trahern (Trey) Pollard with We Push for Peace

Called to order at 6:04pm, quorum called at 6:10pm.

Welcome from the Chair, Tim

* LWVMpls Forum Co-Sponsor- we voted on Slack to co-sponsor, **approved**
* Ward 7 City Council Candidate Forum  
  Thursday, October 12  
  7:00-8:30 p.m.  
  Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church  
  2020 W Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Minneapolis 55405

Treasurer report, given by Tim. Financials were sent out. Motion to approve August financials by Melanie, second by Richard, **approved**.

Annual meeting next month

* Still in need of new treasurer
* Suggestion to promote open board seats/volunteer opportunities on Instagram
* Richard sent an Axon Green recruitment letter to the office
  + Difficult to get young renters engaged
  + Jane is Axon Green concierge, her specialty is event planning, if we commit to paying for one she can help us find an event planner, has an extensice network of highly qualified people
* Board members can be employees at local businesses, not just those living here

Motion to approve July minutes by Richard, second Melanie, **approved**.

Coordinator report

* We committed to two off-site meetings, one complete last June at the Be.
  + October: at Bakken Museum for annual meeting
  + November: off site, either West Lake Quarter or Waterbury House
* Merchandise review – Michelle to get ideas from Brian Jackley and bring to next meeting
  + Suggestions discussed: T shirt and canvas bags without ‘COUNCIL’
    - Vote moved by Bob, second by Tim, **approved**
  + Other ideas: Table cloth cover expander banner, additional whistles, koozies, hats (baseball and stocking caps – idea for bright colors, visible in winter), tent for rain events, advertising meeting sandwich board signs
  + Safety walking team: suggested a winter vest with council logo, a big size over sweater over winter thick winter vest
  + Follow up with Michelle with extra ideas

Safety

* Per Chris Lundeen: headway has been made for better lighting along Zenith
  + Highlighting traffic safety – streets are overburdened with traffic, especially along Lake St and Dean Parkway
* Idea to bring in someone from city with Vision Zero to improve street safety
  + Richard to message Michelle for contact information
* W 32nd Street and Chowen Ave: not enough parking spots in winter time for snow emergency
  + Getting 32nd St declared a snow emergency route was not done, hard to figure when there is not enough parking
  + Erwin is manager at Axon Green, willing to work with Bigos to weigh in on issue in future
    - Richard to follow up on that
  + City wide emergency parking: issue was closest location was 2+ miles away
* Positive news: Minneapolis sidewalk repair hunter involved and Southwest Voices, city has a new ADA access person with the city, will make headway with bent pole
  + Recently there was a disconnected pole but left cemented in there, Richard is hopeful for it to be addressed with Kare 11 as a human story, dramatic experience
  + Melanie confirmed they are moving the pole
* Met Council reached an agreement with 3150 Excelsior Blvd condominium building. They will expand sidewalk into their property, making it wider by 2024, renewing their land grant they took through 2025 but told lawyer hopeful to be completed by 2024
* 3150 Excelsior Blvd is publicly changing name to West Maka Ska Condos
  + Melanie to sign paperwork tomorrow
* Rail safety: tank cars in neighborhood, ongoing issue
* Trash on Street: continuing issue, two city officials visited W 32nd St to look at trash on the street, one person taking it seriously
* Richard would like to hold neighborhood safety walk this Friday night at 5pm traffic on Lake St and Excelsior Blvd, on 9/15. Meet at Caribou Coffee.
* Crime is down: shootings and murders and car jacking

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

* Monthly neighborhood cleanup, next date September 30th 9:30am outside Caribou Coffee
  + Bob and Leyden to lead that
* Plan and ideas for future events:
  + Loppet:
    - Potential to co-sponsor in future, we have volunteered in the past with grooming. Per Richard, Allan Campbell and Richard volunteered, last time was 5 years ago
    - Recently, winter has not cooperated
  + Polar plunge table inside at event
  + Sail boat races on Lake
* Habitat for Humanity
  + Plan for November, Michelle to get potential dates

Greenspace

* Tangletown plan for trees:
  + Matt has not done any design yet, mid-summer would start, reached out has not started is aware of how many trees are in the area and will take it into consideration, will call Lynette tomorrow
  + No more trees will be able to be planted
* Lake of isles has a walking club, along with Loring Park
* East Bde Maka Ska has a safety walk group, WMSNC has been involved in their safety walks

Miscellaneous Items

* Sponsorship agreement for the Open Eye Theater performance of LOCH MESS! at The Bakken Museum: We had 90 tickets reserved, 30 were used
  + Suggestion to get remainder of 30 tickets to be used as museum entrance tickets
* 2024 Bakken Rental Renewal: we are confirmed for Bakken Museum room rental for remainder of 2023, and for 2024
* Plan to name Chris Lundeen a neighborhood treasure award
* Plan for October annual meeting: guest speakers will include Jennifer W. Crime Prevention Specialist, and Linea Palmisano, Council Vice-President, review and vote on merchandise, vote on new board members and positions
* Smoking is not allowed in Minneapolis parks: [Smoking Information at Minneapolis Parks Link](https://www.minneapolisparks.org/about-us/ordinances-park-rules/alcohol-tobacco/" \l ":~:text=Tobacco%20Use%20Policy&text=The%20use%20of%20tobacco%20products,or%20operated%20facilities%20is%20prohibited).
* John Bordwell is leaving the council due to other obligations.
  + He was thanked for his time spent on the council
* CIDNA board meeting: will occur tomorrow night (9/13), all are invited

Motion to adjourn meeting by Bob, second by Melanie.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.