**West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council Zoom Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2022**

**Call to order:**  6:06 PM

**Presided by:** Tim Knight, Chair

**Board members in attendance:** Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Tim Knight, Bob Gordon, Lynette Davis, Melanie Fehlberg, Megan Betterman, John Bordwell, Dave Stougaard

**Absent:** Tim Walker and Joey Meiers

**Coordinator:** Michelle Sass

**Note taker:** Bob Gordon and Richard Logan

Motion to approve Feb minutes. **Approved**.

Heather (with Bakken): Introduces herself. Michael moving to MIA. Heather will be interim president.  Heather will be contact at Bakken. Will be at Museum Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Door is open.

Richard (introducing Alyssa, Manager at Whole Foods).

Alyssa: Been working with the landlord on security. Trying to figure out they can do. Landlord (Regency, Cedar Commons) has installed a mobile security device. Two-way audio and video and thermal. Was not part of costing, so doesn’t know how much it costs. Has a good range.

Richard: Cameras useful in identifying people, not so much as deterrence.

Alyssa: We Push for Peace (WPFP) in store for about 10 months. Main purpose is violence interruption, stop incidents from starting. They also offer employment. WPFP offers a deterrence. Have been a great set of eyes. Have been helping people who might need assistance.  Active in North Mpls and Uptown.

Richard: WPFP will fan out into neighborhoods.

Alyssa: Had a huge presence in the summer in uptown.

Richard: Setting up some kind of networking with other business owners so people can be notified if there are issues.

Tim: What would be best approach to connect people? What can we do for you? Alyssa: Contacted nearby managers, but no one got back to her.

Tim: Might be a good project for us to tackle.

Richard: Started collecting phone numbers, still in progress.

Treasurer’s Report (David):

1. Spent about $2000, wages and insurance.

2. Christi (bookkeeper) came up with about $7300 in unaccounted funds. Should be able to move into unrestricted. $1900 →$9300. (Food, community events)

Feb financials **approved**.

Coordinator Report (Michelle):

Shows business card. Order has been placed.

Pole banners shown. The colors are bolder in person.

Ordered plaque for Tabio. Presentation needs planning.

Committees: Please keep Michelle in loop so she knows what’s going on.

New email to use: info@westmakaska.org.

Guest Speaker: Linea Palmisano, City Councilmember

1. Was in a meeting “After Action Review” about how the city responded to the aftermath to the murder of George Floyd. Had a third-party evaluation to get recommendations. Next month will start on how to move forward.  Recommendations about how to integrate emergency management into all departments. The state also commissioned an after-action report. (Shorter than the city report.)  2. Went on an EMS ride-along. Curious as to how behavioral health works with medical. Was able to see all the information.

3. Public safety forum. March 21 6:30 – 8:00. Whether live on online. Will be able to both thanks to Mt Olivet. They have a robust system. Speakers: 5th precinct inspector, C.J. (Catherine Johnson) from Hennepin County, State Rep Jamie Long, trying to get someone to present about the behavioral health response approach.

4. Richard asks about having more cameras in public areas.

5. Melanie: Interested in recruitment of police officers and residency. Linea: Not making the progress we need. How do we recruit the kind of people we need.

6. Richard: asks about why there isn’t more done to encourage neighborhoods work together. Linea before covid would get all neighborhoods she represents together.

7. Bob: Redistricting in process. Charter commission approves it. Frank Hornstein is planning to move to stay in the district. And another. Lynette: Do neighborhood boundaries change? Linea: No.  neighborhoods don’t change nor precincts. Downtown has exploded in population, and one near the U hasn’t really gotten going. Try to keep neighborhoods intact with respect to precincts. They try to keep areas together. On charter commissions website there are 10 -15 principles they try to hold to. Discussion of getting neighborhood associations to work more closely together. Linea responded by saying she intends to restart her Ward 13 Summits again soon. They do involve several SW Mpls neighborhood associations

Committee Updates:

Equitable Engagement. March 15 meet and greet with Jordan neighborhood. Just start to get to know each other. What the partnership should look like. Like to plan a spring event. Melanie: A native plant fair. Inform about native plants and includes vendors. Have it at the Bakken. Possible speakers from U.  MyBurger is more of a fundraiser. Lynette: Suggest to vendors about the number of apartments/condos. We have EE funds that must be used this year. Need to determine type of event and there are restrictions on use of these funds. Meet and greet would be EE.

MyBurger: Bob: Suggests inviting some representatives. To take advantage of email list. Tim the event is not to be a big deal. David: Who’s the fundraiser for? Tim: MyBurger would like to be involved in the community, and we could get some unrestricted funds. Tim: Would like to pick a date. And start publicity. Could then do another later in the year. Megan: Since this is a simpler event, we can do both.  Bob to take point on this. Next step. Set date. Work with Megan on communications.

Safety. Richard: Joint safety committee has been discussing several things. e.g. video cameras. One thing is to have homeowners host a camera. Also going to be cycling back to pedestrian an cycling safety. Wish to prioritize things to take to council to vote.

o Update on neighborhood safety meetings. This was mostly covered in the discussion with Whole foods manager Alyssa Wendorff at the beginning of the meeting. Major interests of the Joint CIDNA – WMSNC Safety Committee are: The possibility of installing a few video cameras overlooking strategic public spaces in our neighborhoods, networking local business leaders with each other, networking residential building managers, and preparing for possible increases in crime and disruptive behavior (e,g,, hot rodders) with the coming of warmer weather. The Safety Committee is also looking again at cyclist and ped safety and driver behavior. Commitments were made years ago to enhance their safety through intersection improvements (lighting, bump-outs, etc.) in our neighborhood in conjunction with the SWLRT project.

Greenspace: Mural. Asked for a rough estimate of cost. Tim reached out to American Indian Center but has not gotten a reply yet. Also Sid Beane.

Notes from the meeting at the site:

Richard, Allan, Bob, Lynette, and Sebastian met (in the cold) across the street from the wall.

Talked about:

• Ideas/themes for the mural

• Sebastian’s experience

• Involving high school students (possibly from Southwest and North)

• Getting the process documented

• Involving a number of artists

• Putting something on the little wall (a bit north of and not visible from where we were tanding)

• Getting approval from the park board

Lynette: Concern about graffiti spreading. It’s a natural environment. Possibly plant a vine that grows down the wall.

Lynette: Committee did meet. Will interview 2-3 different vendors about a bird sanctuary.

Land Use: Allan: Hope to occupancy in August (the 7story building) 98 units. The parking ramp is scheduled to open about Memorial Day. Building C (the gateway, close to Excelsior). There is noise from pilings for about four weeks. 26 stories. 375 units. Richard: One of the things asked was about traffic projections. Never did get a straight answer. Melanie. They took a statue down, wondering if it will be placed back.

o West Lake Quarter update:

- The 7-story building under construction now will become occupied this summer. WMSNC should think of a way to welcome new residents who will occupy this 98-unit building. Likely to be mostly young professional renters.

- The West Lake Quarter parking ramp set to open on Memorial Day

- The new tower, yet to be built, will be 24 residential stories. Will be named “The Landmark”

Miscellaneous Topics:

Next month. In person or Zoom discussed. Want to make it as open possible. Bob to contact Michelle about tech. Tim suggest Zoom for April and then decide for May. Email Michelle.

Tim: Please send committee updates. Will be sent out prior to meeting so everyone knows what’s going on. Would go along with agenda.

**Next** Meeting –April 12thth • 6:00pm • To be done virtually on Zoom