Monthly Board Meeting, 6PM, May 11, 2021

Monthly Meeting Minutes: Done virtually via Zoom

**Called to order**: 6:06pm

**Presided by**: Allan Campbell, Chair

**Note taker**: Michelle Sass

**In attendance**: Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Paul Legler, Victoria Hoshal, Dave Stougaard, Tim Knight, Martha Yunker, John Bordwell, and newly elected Joey Meiers and Bob Gordon

**Absent:** Lynette Davis

**Guest Speakers:** Linea Palmisano

**Welcome from the chair and announcements**

* Ann Webster has resigned from the board

**Approval of minutes and Treasurer’s Report**

* Approval of April minutes, motion by Dave, second by John, **approved**
* Rachel Ireland-Henry, our current accountant is stepping down
  + Michelle to outreach to other neighborhoods to start new accountant search
* Approval on a proposal to adjust neighborhood priorities by reducing funding for the rebuilding of commercial zones by $5,000 and increasing support for homeless youth by a similar amount. The vote was done to meet NCR requirements of a 21-day in advance notice although it already had been approved at the March meeting, motion by Richard, second by Victoria, **approved and motion carries**
  + This new vote was open to all residents in the neighborhood
* Letter from Bridge for Youth was emailed out to board members explaining how funds would be used to launch I AM! a gender affirming clothing closet for youth who identify as LFBYQ+.

**Review Plans for current BP gas station site**

* Same footprint and 8 story building with new plan for 80 high end condominium units
* Elevage working with Robb Bader on the project
* Meeting with staff occurred yesterday (city staff), to submit land use application on 21st of the month
  + For hearing on 19th of July – no pics or plans yet for land use application. Will have more information later

**Update from Councilmember Palmisano**

* Exciting news: bee keeping permit request in neighborhood, new bee hive for pollinators in our space – will work with CM Palmisano to revise the ordinance around spaces
* American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding for the city: Mayor’s office and budget chair closer to receiving 271 million dollars. A lot of treasury guidance on how to spend the money
  + trying to prepare how city will allocate the $ in productive way, all asked for feedback on funding priorities – specific projects addressed with the money – one time money not ongoing needs

1. City capacity and performance- Budget cycle uncertain due to COVID and civil unrest.
2. Focus on climate health – working with Park Board Commissioner Meg Forney on it
3. Forgivable loans help business to be more ready

* Public and board comments
  + Regarding how money is focused towards COVID pandemic American Program Act
    - Real problem of homeless for people with less than 30% of median income
  + West side of lake – trail is closed hard to get through on crutches/wheelchairs/walkers, especially at the intersection where it is totally inaccessible
  + Fundable through a federal program, as Excelsior is a county road – how do we get money for new projects- Regional park decision, broken and needs to be fixed urgently
  + Money in the CAC (Citizen Advisory Committee)
  + Shoreline is eroding – potential to add like rip rap like lake Harriet, as Bde Maka Ska is one of the most visited parks
  + Highest unemployment in 3+ years, why do we tolerate that, it is unacceptable
  + On the trail in the winter time – idea to plow both walk and bike trail during winter since plowing only the bike trail creates a dangerous shared path
  + Snake like bumps – what are they doing to address the trail

**Board Business**

* Appointment of new interim board members Joey Meiers and Bob Gordon
  + Under our bylaws, we are under max 11 board members, in between annual mtg ok to appoint
  + Bob: lived in Minneapolis since ‘72 great place to be, sense of community and neighbors to bring people together to eliminate problems, interested to help with outreach event team
  + Joey: wanted to be more involved in community, here for three years from San Francisco
    - Emily willing to volunteer with committee work
  + Motion to appoint Bob and Joey by Martha, second by Tim, **approved**

**Discussion of Equitable Engagement Requirement and working with non-profits**

* Committee to engage with end product being a required template of a strategy to NCR
  + Joey and Emily to be on a team to review NCR guidelines to make recommendations on which underrepresented groups to target
  + By Sept 1 – NCR would like to get a draft what is most appropriate, use the template due December 1
    - Between Sept 1 and Nov 1 – work to refine it with NCR staff
* Ideas for working with Nonprofit:
  + Richard narrowed the list down to 5 nonprofits to review
  + Ok’d with Ayriah at NCR to have a cultural group not located in our neighborhood
  + Tim to help Joey to work on NCR Equitable Engagement and partnering

**Miscellaneous Topics**

* Jack Whitehurst to retire from NCR in July with potential to work 10hr/wk behind the scenes
* Richard gives thanks to successful Operation Safety Net over last few months
  + Good communication during it all

**Committee Reports**

* Communications - Updates on Rebranding, Mask Campaign, Newsletter
  + Tim and Michelle to make postcard – budget is approved – focus on vaccine more and where to get it
  + Newsletter to come
* Greenspace - Update on Bird and Bee Garden, Buckthorn removal
  + Bird and Bee Garden MOU includes fences – waiting to hear from Colleen (Jack Whitehurst to do digging)
    - Sidewalk and parkway on the middle 3200 building condo, a lovely space
    - Review of a boulevard garden
  + To work with Bakken Museum too, idea to have a Bakken proposal to park board for property
  + Fly way fall and spring has migratory birds. Mergansers
  + MOU is a legal document, so liability is a concern without legal advice from park board
  + Metro Blooms is engaged
  + CIDNA had an anonymous donor
  + Meg Forney to meet with Marion Green tomorrow about the proposed neighborhood park at Lake & France
    - Park Dedication fees cannot be used for maintenance
    - A neighborhood park would be one area to use park dedication fees
* Safety
  + Nonviolent crimes are down
  + Truth and reconciliation to be discussed at our June meeting (Richard)
  + Advocacy for neighborhood issues. We need to have a board that represents the neighborhood – majority of board are owner’s vs renters which is the opposite of neighborhood population – we need to have the board be more representative to be aware of neighborhood

**New Business/Public Comments**

* What is our priority list, we cannot sit around and say that the park board did not call us back
  + Drainage of the green space
    - We are in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, makes a difference vs Mississippi
  + Need neighborhood park: near intersection of France and Lake St

7:40 – Adjourn, move by John, second by Tim, approved

Submitted by Michelle Sass, coordinator

**Next Council Meeting –** Monthly Meeting June 8 • 6:00pm • To be done on Zoom Virtually