

Meeting Minutes 1/23/2023

Attendees

Board members and staff present marked with "X"

Ben Osborn – President	x	Allan Cummins – Vice President	x
Cory Schaffhausen – Treasurer	x	Ann Zawistoski - Secretary	x
Charity Huot Benedict (Staff)	x	Rhonda Fields	x
Bob Jorgenson		Andrew Verdin	x
Frances Roen		Nathan Sterner	
Tess Korbesmeyer Holman	x	Michele St. Martin	x

Guests: Emily Koski, Mara Wack, Byron Richard, Virginia, CC Strom, Michael Sack

Meeting called to order: 7:04 PM. This meeting was held hybrid (in person and on zoom)

Agenda Item 1: Approval of November Minutes

- November meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 2: Councilmember Koski Report

Councilmember Koski provided an update:

- Councilmember Koski recognized Mr. Norris who was fatally injured at Cedar and Nokomis Parkway. Investigation is still underway. Still looking for any leads. If you or anyone knows anything, please report.
 - Held a Townhall meeting last fall about Edgewater and Cedar. City has jurisdiction on Edgewater and lights. County has jurisdiction on Cedar. Park Board has jurisdiction on the Parkway. Conversations are continuing on safety in that area. Councilmember Koski will continue to push for making the intersection safer.
 - Tess would like to be included in safety meetings. Problem is highway 77 ending in a high pedestrian area and bike path. Would like to advocate for rumble strips or some traffic calming. Councilmember Koski said there will be future meetings and town halls. This is one of the only places you come straight off the highway in a straight, direct way which doesn't lead to traffic slowing. Councilmember Koski has had experiences of almost being hit by a car at that intersection
 - Does this also dovetail with city's Vision Zero (city's commitment to zero pedestrian fatalities)? Too early to know at this time
- Councilmember Koski will work with Charity to go from business to business to talk about the facade grant. Will give a report at next meeting
- Reminder to keep sidewalks clear and accessible. If you know of someone having difficulties, the city has resources. Contact Councilmember Koski's office or email 311. City started going back and plowing alleys this weekend. They will continue plowing alleys after the garbage and recycling pick up.
- City partnership engagement fund is open for applications for small-scale engagement projects

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- Worked on payroll and bookkeeping projects for small businesses. Applications closed last week. Not sure yet if any HPDL businesses applied. There are standards that businesses must comply with, but we don't always give support, so that is something the city is looking to help with
- Councilmember Koski shared links to resources protecting people from utility shut-offs in the winter

Agenda Item 3: **Neighborhood Roots Mara Wack**

Farmers Market Update

- Big thank you for the funds and organizing to bring back the Nokomis Farmers Market
- Covid was devastating for the Neighborhood Roots program as sponsor and vendor fees dried up. They no longer have a full time executive director.
- HPDL events had huge turn out and lots of donations
- They are applying for the City's partnership grant as they work with three neighborhoods on markets. That project is for "Power of Produce" which is aimed at getting kids excited about fresh produce
- They are applying for a grant from Metropolitan Regional Arts Council to help pay musicians, with focus on diverse musicians.
- They are going through an anti-racist farmers market toolkit
- Sponsorships is a big focus. Goal is \$20,000 in sponsorships for next year. They have a sponsorship profile online <https://www.neighborhoodrootsmn.org/sponsors>. They have 4 levels from \$500 - \$6,000. But they will be flexible and work with businesses.
- Vendor applications are live. They have a BIPOC scholarship for 3 vendors (one for each market), with a priority for new vendors. They are looking for two people from HPDL to review applications. Applications for the scholarship are due Feb. 15. Meeting to review applications would be after that.
- Nokomis Farmers Market is coming back, same location. Starts mid-June. Time: 4 - 8 in summer; 3:30 - 7:30 once school starts. They will need volunteer help. They are also looking for artists and musicians or entertainment for families.
- Question: Is Neighborhood Roots looking for the grant first or for bands first to move towards more diverse bands. Answer: Currently Neighborhood Roots only pays \$25 per market (they also allow musicians to busk). The grant is to pay a better rate. They will still have musicians if they don't get the grant, but they hope to get the grant to increase pay for musicians.
- Question: What is the Power of Produce grant for? Answer: Goal is enticing children ages 4 - 12 years old. Answer: Kids are given \$4 in tokens to buy produce at the market. Would be funded through the Partnership grant. This has been successful in other markets. Question: What can HPDL do to help? Answer: They would like a letter of support from HPDL. If for some reason Kingfield decides not to partner, would need another partner.
- Question: When will they know about the grants? Answer: Power of Produce, won't know until the end of April.
- Question: can we put something in the newsletter? Answer: They would love to be a featured in the newsletter
- Any questions: send to Mara@neighborhoodrootsmn.org

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Agenda Item 4: **WEAVE Update**

- WEAVE: Ward Eleven Allied Voices for Equity
- Byron Richard and Virginia presented
- Background: there have been conversations in HPDL in 2020 about equity in the aftermath of the George Floyd murder
- WEAVE would like to have a conversation about issues around public safety
- They are sponsoring a community conversation on Feb 8 at 7 at Pearl Park Community Center centered around how we can build our community's resilience, and address community needs. Everyone is welcome and invited, regardless of where they stand on the issue, they want a broad range of perspectives. Will have small groups after a framing discussion. Topics:
 - We fix what we measure - statistics and crime
 - Hurt people hurt people - prevention and restoration
 - We care about what we believe - people's experiences
 - Putting our money where our heart is - where our funding is allocated
- Would love to see as many people as possible from the community
- Question: Is the WEAVE's first public safety meeting? Answer: Yes
- WEAVE has "scores" (more than 50, less than 100 people on their email list) and a steering committee.
- They are hoping the output can feed into formal city discussions
- Want to have a space for community members to discuss, not hear from decision-makers. This is not officially linked to official city discussion but there will be a resource corner that will include information on how to funnel feedback to the city.
- Charity can get word out about the meeting through social media

Agenda Item 5: **HPDL Finances Rollover/plan modification/future of city neighborhoods**

- Plan modification for NRP Funds
 - We have \$260,000 in our old NRP funds that are not contracted or allocated. The concern (shared by many neighborhood associations) is that the city will take this money back in the near future if it is not contracted or allocation.
 - Charity met with Bob Cooper at the city, who approved our plan to ask the community to lock in \$90,000 from our NRP funds for administration and staffing (\$60,000) and neighborhood events (\$30,000)
 - To do this we need the neighborhood to vote. We need to give 21 days notice before any vote. Mailing and email and social media notice have gone out in time for voting at Frost Fest. Residents can vote at Frost Fest, or for one week afterwards. We need at least 25 votes (with at least 51% yes) in order for this to come back to board to vote on.
 - This request is based on conversations with other neighborhoods and city
 - This had been the board's contingency plan
 - This moves the money from dormant accounts so we can access them
 - Question: How long would this go for? Answer: 3 years

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- o Question: Does this preclude us from using this money for other things? Answer: No, we can reallocate through the same process
- o If this is approved, there will still be \$166,000 in NRP funds. We will need to do this process again to move those funds.
- o Question: what is \$60,000 for? Will we be hiring another staff member? Answer: No. This will go towards compensation and administration and office expenses.
- o Question: Why are we asking for less than what is available? Did that come from Bob? Answer: historically that's how it's been done.
- o Question: How did we come up with the amount of \$90,000? Answer: Bob wants to keep some in gardening funding and some other funds. It is good to have some funds in NRP if those projects come up.
- o Question: Is there a risk of people not wanting to vote a second time this year? Answer: This plan of asking to move some funds first, and then the rest is how other neighborhood groups are approaching this.
- o The feeling amongst neighborhood groups is that funding has been cut so severely that associations don't have the funding to exist. There may be more consolidation.
- o Charity will go to a meeting on Friday with other neighborhood groups who have been working on this to learn more.
- Closing out last year's funding
 - o Spending is complete and we spent the funds we needed to spend. We don't have a final update yet, but expect to have final numbers at the next meeting.
- Costs have gone up due to inflation

Agenda Item 6: **Communications Update**

- Committee met last week: Charity, Bob, and Allan
- Newsletter timeline/delegation
 - o Plan for a Spring newsletter the first week of April
 - o Needs to be at the printer by March 10
 - o All articles should be submitted by Feb. 28
 - o We will use same format as last newsletter
 - past events
 - annual meeting
 - o anyone have pictures
 - frost fest
 - o need reporter to take photos at Frost Fest
 - news
 - Board is encouraged to ask neighbors what they would like to see
 - upcoming events
 - councilmember update
 - write articles!
 - send any articles to Charity
 - Michael Sack will write about Pearl Park Playground
 - Bob will write about census

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- o Question: Depending on how the WEAVE event goes, could WEAVE summarize and send a synopsis? Answer: Yes
- o Question: Is there anything highlighting our businesses? Answer: Yes, there is a business highlights section to profile a business. Rhonda is interesting and thinking about businesses on Chicago Ave. Charity has a list of businesses.
 - Charity will send notice to businesses to see if they are interested
- Website support
 - o Website is difficult to navigate and find information
 - o Could we start a list of website difficulties (maybe on google docs)
- Mailing list: should include renters and businesses. Renters in the apartments may not be on the list.
 - o It may be that the printer can help with that
- Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: discussion of how to use. Mostly using facebook and instagram right now
- Next communications meeting: Feb. 15 (after Frost Fest)

Agenda Item 7: Traffic Update

- If you are interested in being involved in discussions, reach out to Tess.
- Tess will keep us updated
- Discussions in the past have gone nowhere because of inter-governmental inertia (State, County, City, Park)
- Can something go in newsletter - acknowledgement of what happened at the very least?
- Can we pay for a speed bump?
- Would NENA be interested in partnering with us on this? Charity will email the NENA association
- Tess will email Councilmember Koski

Agenda Item 8: Frost Fest Planning

- Friday, Feb. 10
- Charity sent out a sign up sheet. There are 27 slots for volunteers
 - o Everyone should reach out for volunteers
- This is less work than Picnic in the Park
- Ben doing medallion hunt
- Cory is doing fat bikes
- Park is doing s'mores and dance party
- PTA is doing a luminary walk
- We will need supervision for sledding hill, snow art, HPDL table
- Charity will need help moving things Thursday evening, from Church to Pearl Park
- Get the word out about the Nomad Sauna. You can sign up for a time slot with 6-7 people at one time
- Suggestion: send the list to Hale PTA for volunteers

Agenda Item 9: New Business and Other Project Updates

- Volunteer sign up food shelf

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- o There were over 150 people at the food shelf today
- o They are short staffed and need volunteers from 3-7pm on a Mondays
- o They are ok with middle school or older kids volunteering
- o Tess set up a Google sheet for sign up through June
- o People can connect with Brenda BGRANISON54@msn.com
- Façade Grant Steps this week
 - o Emily and Charity will go to businesses in person
 - o Charity will send emails and make phone calls
 - o other neighborhoods have not been successful because it is a matching grant
 - o we have two years of this grant
- Black Stories Black Voices book club tomorrow night on Zoom
- Happy Hour 7:00-8:30 pm on Monday Jan 30 at Heathers, if anyone is available
- Save the Dates: garage sale, earth day, neighborhood day, community connections conference. Charity will send out the list of dates
- Virginia announced that February is the month for reducing plastic use. Hennepin County has a Plastics free challenge. Virginia created an HPDL team, anyone is welcome to sign up. She will send information to Charity for social media

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 pm
