Attendees

*Board members and staff present marked with “X”*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ben Osborn – Vice President | X | Katie Krisch - Treasurer | X |
| Courtney Laufenberg (Staff) | X | Carrie Henning-Smith – Secretary | X |
| Bob Jorgenson | X | Rhonda Fields | X |
| Cory Schaffhausen | X | Cassie Batinich | X |
| Allan Cummins | X | Nathan Sterner | X |
| Frances Roen |  | Jim Meyer | X |

Meeting called to order: 7:01 PM. This meeting was via Zoom.

Agenda Item 1: Councilmember Koski Report

Board members introduced themselves to Councilmember Koski.

Councilmember Koski introduced herself and provided updates to the board:

* On January 19, the temporary emergency regulation started requiring proof of vaccination or negative tests to go into establishments to eat or drink. She recommended an app: Docket in order to download all vaccinations and immunization records.
* We still have a mask mandate. That stated January 6 and is continuing.
* Redistricting process is happening due to Census in order to update the boundaries of the 13 Wards. There are public hearings starting in February (2/9 and 2/24). You can register to speak at those. There is an interactive tool online to submit where you think borders should be drawn: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/redistricting/>
* On January 10, City Council elected Andrea Jenkins President and Linnea Palmisano Vice President.
* In her office, they have started community meetings for specific groups. On 2/8, there will be one for older adults. On 3/13, there will be one for youth. On 4/16, there will be one for Black/African American community (and there was one on Saturday). Her office is also going to each neighborhood for community meetings. She’s hoping meetings will be in person, in neighborhood parks, but that remains tentative, pending the COVID situation.
* Question from Jim about public safety meetings. She plans to hold them for all of Ward 11, with invitations for both the 3rd and 5th precincts, crime and safety prevention, parks police, etc. Will include information on MPD, but also programs beyond policing. That’s scheduled for 4/12, hopefully at Pearl Park, 7-8:30pm. She’s open to collaborating on public safety meetings also.
* She provided contact information for her office:
  + Emily Koski – Council Member – emily.koski@minneapolismn.gov – (612) 322-4221
  + Melissa Hill – Senior Policy Aide – melissa.hill@minneapolismn.gov
  + Corinne Horowitz – Policy Associate – corinne.horowitz@minneapolismn.gov

Agenda Item 2: Approval of December Minutes

Rhonda moved to approve minutes; Jim seconded. All approved.

Agenda Item 3: Hiring Update

Ben updated the board on the new hire search. More than 2/3 of the board expressed approval for extending the offer to Charity Benedict. Ben extended the offer and she accepted, with a start date of two weeks. The next steps include a background check and training with Courtney.

Agenda Item 4: Frost Fest

The date has moved from 1/28 to 2/25 because of the surge and concerns about safety. Courtney reported that we have two food trucks confirmed for the new date and another that might be interested. She also reported that the Park Board is okay with the new date and they are checking on the possibility of amplifying the sound system, which would be required in order to have a DJ outside. Rhonda will send information on cost of luminaries to office email address for Courtney to check, including what she needs and how much. Ben reported on other potential programming, including UMN Master Naturalist to talk about animals in winter and artist groups (art shanty program, animal puppets). We’ll also have snow painting. Courtney will update everyone by email with other items in the next week.

Agenda Item 5: New Business

BVBS Library Book Club:

* Ben reported that we help sponsor a book club in partnership with the Black Voices, Black Stories Little Free Library. They’ll be holding their first book club on *The Vanishing Half* in February. Information has been posted on social media.

Community Safety Meeting:

* A tentative meeting had been planned for March, but it sounds similar to Councilmember Koski’s Ward-wide meeting in April. One option would be to bring together block leaders for discussion. Or, Councilmember Koski suggested CERT training to discuss emergency and home safety (<https://www.ready.gov/cert>). Board discussion that it might make the most sense to support the Ward 11 meeting in April. Going forward, we may engage with block leaders on the possibility of CERT training or some other concrete programming.

Earth Day:

* We traditionally host a cleanup event, passing out cleanup supplies and sometimes donuts or coffee. We also had a recycling event last year. Cassie and Frances are willing to help on this. Cassie suggested idea of “Buy Nothing yard sale” in which people could bring things to give for free (similar to a flea market.) Rhonda shared idea of block recognition/competition to see how many people participated in block or alley.

Seed Library:

* Cory provided an update. The library should be well-stocked from previous inventory and donations to get started again in March.

**Meeting adjourned: 7:51pm**