Attendees

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

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

Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM. This meeting was via Zoom.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of February Minutes

The February meeting minutes were approved, pending a change in the member roster. Ben Osborn should be listed as President and Cory Schaffhausen should be listed as Vice President.

Agenda Item 2: Councilmember Koski Report

Councilmember Koski provided updates, including:

* In-person Ward meetings coming up at Pearl Park.
* Specific community groups have been started: African American, older adults, and youth.
* Ward 11 calendar lists the dates and times of all upcoming meetings.
* Nicollet Ave. bridge construction is slated for 2024. Tangletown will be hosting a meeting and Councilmember Koski will update this group on when that will be.
* Bloomington Ave. bridge construction is four-month project; started in February.
* After-action review was conducted by outside firm following city’s actions following George Floyd’s actions. The report found that the city did not properly use the plan or capitalize on training from other large-scale events to establish framework for crisis response. The report also provided recommendations for the city to consider.
* Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and Educational Support Professionals were on strike; a tentative agreement was agreed upon with the Minneapolis School District. Kids will go back to school tomorrow, and communication on extended hours will come regarding modified hours April 11.
* Council is working on rent stabilization policy.
* Councilmember Koski co-authored amendments including better access to police records, body camera video, and restrictions on no-knock warrants.
* Application for board and commissions has opened. There are 31 boards and commissions and positions are opened until filled. Review process starts April 15. There are 175 openings across all boards and commissions. More information here: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/current-openings/>

Agenda Item 3: Hennepin County Attorney Candidate Introduction: Saraswati Singh

Saraswati Singh and her campaign manager, Jesus, attended. She provided an introduction to herself as a candidate. She recognized that HPDL cannot endorse candidates, but provided an introduction to her background and motivations for running. Her priorities are police accountability, racial equity, and accountability. She can be contacted at contact@saraswatisingh.com. Her website is saraswatisingh.com.

Agenda Item 4: Community Meetings Recap

* Had about 8 people join conversations with Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (DLCC), Alight, and YMCA about immigrant and refugee resettlement in our area. DLLC is looking at possibility hosting a meal in the future to build more community. If there is a role HPDL could play, they’ll let us know.
* Two community action workshops on emergency preparedness and building resilience on Thursday and Friday of last week. Charity, Ben, Allan, and Rhonda attended and around 15 neighbors attended, too. They reported that it was a positive experience with engaged attendees. Board discussed ways to share information from the forum more broadly with the neighborhood, including the importance of creating an emergency preparedness plan. One idea was to share resources via the next newsletter.

Agenda Item 5: Organization and Financial Update

* A budget was shared with final numbers for this year.
* Katie and Charity walked through the different budget amounts. We are in good financial shape this year, with some funds that need to be spent in the near term. Charity explained the various pots of money and how they all work differently and have different time parameters attached to them.
* There will be less funding for HPDL next year, and possibility less than that the year after. We may be able to use current funding to maintain our current operations for 5-6 years, but need to plan for the short and long-term.
* Charity offered additional meetings for anyone who wants to have more information on finances, and also offered that this information will be shared in board meetings quarterly.
* Katie talked through differences in tracking systems now, compared to how funding has been organized historically. Katie offered a meeting outside of regular board meetings for anyone who wants to understand finances better, as well as for anyone who wants to strategize around funding. Allan and Cory volunteered to meet with Katie to go over budget.
* Katie answered clarifying questions from board members.
* Katie and Charity mentioned the importance of considering fundraising in order to supplement funding given that some funding streams are expiring or shrinking. Frances offered to help think through messaging around fundraising.

Agenda Item 6: New Business and Other Project Updates

* April 9th Community Easter Egg Hunt
	+ Diamond Lake Lutheran Church is putting on an Easter Egg Hunt. HPDL can help spread the work. Will be held from 9-11am at the church. They also need some volunteers (filling eggs, drop offs, donations.)
* April 23rd Earth Day Update and Seed Distributions
	+ Citywide event. Dozens of sites across city. HPDL is hosting a site at Pearl Park that day. Charity has secured donuts and coffee donations, as well as other information tables. Tables might include the city (waste, recycling), Tangletown Bike Shop, and Ridwell. HPDL will be distributing bags and gloves and encouraging neighbors to spread out across neighborhood. Cassie is securing gift cards and donations for prizes. There is a digital flyer and Charity asked that board members help distribute that. Charity will contact volunteers for that to set up a time to meet to organize.
	+ Earth Day will also include seed distribution. Cory provided an update on that. Recommended that HPDL purchase seeds to give away as part of a community-building effort during Earth Day clean up. He’s found supplier of bee lawn seed. For 50 packs, including tax and shipping, it would cost approximately $700. (Each pack would cover a 500 sq. ft. lawn, and we would limit it to one per household.) Cory will follow up with additional details in order for board to vote by email on amount. Charity will confirm which funding source this could come from.
	+ Charity will print a few flyers to put up around neighborhood for Earth Day.
* Nokomis Farmer’s Market
	+ HPDL will help to promote the work of Neighborhood Roots so that they can build their capacity to come back in 2023. Possibility of holding small fundraisers in collaboration with Heather’s and the church across the street in order to support them (e.g., live music this summer at the farmer’s market location.)
* May 14th – Election and Neighborhood Day
	+ Will be held at Pearl Park.
	+ Will have two open board seats for that meeting. (Ben announced that Jim Meyer has left the board.)
	+ Charity and Ben have reached out to other neighborhood groups to host informational table at event.
* May 21st – Garage Sale Day
	+ Cory has identified a way to do mapping via Google maps for participating homes.
	+ Discussion of creating mailed postcard advertising this and other upcoming events.
* May 21st – Community Connections Conference
	+ City-run event for neighborhoods. Any board members are welcome to go and can email Charity if interested.
* Picnic in the Park
	+ July 28, 5:30-8:30.
	+ Charity has lined up a band and has started to line up food trucks.
	+ At this point, we need to form a committee to do more work on planning. Board members were encouraged to let Charity or Ben know if interested.
* Other
	+ Michael Sack attended and answered questions about who is responsible for sidewalk repairs when they are identified.
	+ Discussion of next newsletter. Board decided to wait until after spring events, but send postcards for May events with a save the date for Picnic in the Park. Allan volunteered to lead committee for newsletter planning, possibly for summer.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:55pm**