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 |  |
| Bob Jorgenson | X | Cassie Batinich |  |
| Allan Cummins | X | Nathan Sterner | X |
| Frances Roen | X |  |  |

Meeting called to order: 7:02 PM. This meeting was via Zoom.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of March Minutes

The March meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 2: Councilmember Koski Report

Councilmember Koski provided updates, including:

* Thank you for Earth Day event at Pearl Park.
* Nokomis White Paper – we’ve had some of the wettest years in history and residents near Lake Nokomis have reported water issues in their homes. In response, Minneapolis assembled a team to identify issues and mitigation measures. The evaluation is now complete and is up on City webpage. Tentative town hall scheduled for May 31. Experts and multi-agency teams will be available to answer questions.
* MNDOT is resurfacing Hwy 77 from river to Lake Nokomis. There will be road closures in both directions of Cedar Ave for two weeks in summer, and Hwy 77 will be closed intermittently during summer. Will be doing water mitigation efforts as part of that.
* Chicago Ave. is already closed. Started April 17 and will go through May 17 to construct Metro B line. Total construction will happen for 2-3 months. Sidewalks and businesses are open.
* CenterPoint energy will be doing updates. Details available on website.
* Community listening sessions will be held in each of the 5 precincts to inform hiring of new policy chief.
* Housing and rent stabilization work group will be created to engage a broad range of key stakeholders. Policy proposal should be ready for 2023 election cycle.
* City is hosting open houses for 38th and Chicago re-envision project, including online open house April 26, 5-7pm.
* City community connection conference coming up in May (all day event.)

Agenda Item 3: Board Member Overview

Ben provided an overview of the board to prospective board members who were attending, including board composition, funding, and structure. Took questions from prospective board members, including about eligibility. (The board has particular openings for Page residents, but also some at-large seats.)

Agenda Item 4: April Events Recap

* Earth Day: Event was a success, despite rainy weather at the beginning of the event. Charity estimated that we had close to 100 people come through to visit Expo and get clean-up supplies.
* Seeds: Charity has gotten emails from neighbors about picking up more seeds (for Bee Lawn) and will be giving out some more at the neighborhood day. Cory reported that people were enthusiastic at the Expo. We ordered close to 80 packets and handled out 30-35 at the Earth Day event, which leaves us enough to hand out at the neighborhood day or directly from the office if people follow up. Also collected information via short feedback form at the seed table, which 8-10 people filled out. (The form asked about contact information and interest in future neighborhood events.)

Agenda Item 5: Volunteer Opportunities in our Community

* Charity and Ben met with 3 neighbors to learn more about helping farmer’s market. They also met with Neighborhood Roots and feel that championing Neighborhood Roots is the best route to bring farmer’s market back. (They are also looking for people for their board.) Will keep promoting that opportunity via social media. The goal is to have monthly conversation with them about how to help bring market back.
* New Creations Food Shelf – they are taking 30,000 lbs of food every Monday, then running out and closing early. Anytime someone wants to stop by and help them on a Monday night, they would appreciate the extra support. Brenda from New Creations also submitted partnership grant to work with us. The funds would go toward hiring a youth working to work at the food bank and help with events/projects over the summer. HPDL agreed to be their partner in that work.

Agenda Item 6: Organization and Financial Update

* Finance team met earlier in April. In looking at finances, they realized that we do need fundraisers and ways to bring in funds.
* There will be a fundraiser at Pizza Luce on May 23, where HPDL will get a portion of the proceeds. Pizza Luce also offered to allow us to have a board meeting in their banquet room (hybrid options would be available.)
* Katie provided a financial update. This year, we have a pot of money that’s rolled over, but next year we won’t have as much as we’ve had historically. We do have savings that will allow us to sustain our current operations for 5-7 years. The finance committee is recommending that we maintain at our current spending/activity level, using the Legacy NRP funds to boost as needed, and re-assess annually.
* Katie announced that she will be leaving the board and we are in need of a new treasurer.
* The finance committee is also looking for additional members. Allan expressed interest in joining.

Agenda Item 7: New Business and Other Project Updates

* New Committees/Task Force
  + Finance – if interested in this committee, email Charity. (Next meeting will be in a couple of weeks.)
  + Picnic in the Park – need a couple of board members to work on details for event planning. Band, food trucks, and DJ are booked. Charity is working with bouncy house booking and Urban Refuge Church to volunteer. Email Charity if willing to help plan.
  + Newsletter – Allan and Bob are willing to take on organizing newsletter. Email Charity if interested in helping with newsletter.
* Nokomis Water Issues – covered in Emily Koski’s update.
* May 14th – Election and Neighborhood Day
  + City is starting new citywide election and neighborhood day. HPDL will be having a neighborhood popup. The Music Lab and New Creations Food Lab will be joining, as well as Michael Sack to represent sidewalk accessibility. Buy Nothing Group might be there. HPDL will be sharing upcoming events and seeds. Still looking for additional neighborhood groups to be present. It will be a 2-hour event with snacks. Any board member who can attend and share what it’s like to be on board would be helpful. Rain plan = tents outside and multipurpose room at Pearl Park.
* May 21st – Garage Sale Day
  + Cory has been getting information on website. The May flyer went to printer and should be sent to homes this week. This includes the Garage Sale, which will be all day on May 21. Anyone who’s interested in can sign up with Charity. Charity needs volunteer to store/distribute signs.
* May 21st – Community Connections Conference – covered in Emily Koski’s report
* July 28 – Picnic in the Park
  + Will be all-day event. Need board members to volunteer in morning, during the event, and at night for tear down.
* Next meeting would typically be on Memorial Day, so we will change it to May 23, which is also the night of the Pizza Luce fundraiser. Discussed holding the board meeting in person (from banquet room), with a virtual option available.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:07pm**