

Notes from the Fulton Finance committee meeting of August 2, 2017

Present

John Finlayson, Ruth Olson, Dave Delvoeye

Calendar

The next issue of Fulton Neighborhood News will be delivered a week ahead of schedule in order to publicize the Fall Festival. Ruth is preparing for the Open Streets on 50th event on 9/24.

Community Engagement committee

The Community Engagement committee is planning the Fall Festival. The ice cream social at Pershing Park on 7/21 was a huge success. Larger crowds than anticipated showed up for the free ice cream from Sebastian Joe's and for movie night. There was a suggestion that the two events take place on separate dates next year. Pershing Park now has a freezer which was used to store the ice cream and can also be used for the festival.

Safety committee

At about 7:30 p.m. on 7/22 a male suspect exposed himself to a juvenile female in the alley between the 5100 block of Vincent and Washburn. The suspect was last seen eastbound on 51st St from Sheridan Ave. Responding officers were unable to locate the suspect. Suspect description: white male, 18 to 25 years old, stocky build, wearing a white hoodie.

On National Night Out (NNO), Ruth forwarded an e-mail from a Washburn Ave block leader to FNA's block contact list asking participants at NNO parties to honor Justine Damond with a moment of silence at 7 p.m. The message also advocated that community members take certain actions on behalf of everyone in the city who has been affected by "police brutality" and in response to "unjustified police shootings" which are due to "a police system that is broken" and a police force that is engaged in "racial profiling . . . in communities of color". Ruth explicitly stated in the e-mail that "this message is not from FNA" but from a concerned block leader who wanted to share it with neighbors at NNO events. Dave argued that this message promotes a political agenda and that it was not appropriate to send it to FNA's block contacts. Ruth said that it's common practice to share information of interest to the neighborhood from individuals or other groups, such as the Boy Scouts, with FNA's block contacts. Ruth said that several recipients thanked her for sending the message and one thought it was inappropriate. John suggested that, from now on, any messages not directly from FNA should only be sent to block contacts if the FNA Board approves. Dave and Ruth agreed.

Other business

A Minnesota air quality organization is interested in installing air quality monitors in the area, at a variety of locations such as commercial districts and residential blocks. The committee referred the issue to the FNA Board.

Notes prepared by Dave Delvoeye