

Minutes of December 9, 2015
FNA Meeting

Board Members Present: John Finlayson, Blaire Hartley, Steve Haslach, Jane Kohnen, Jenny Monroe, Nikki Shultz, Jim Tincher and Steve Young

Guests: Ruth Olson, Dave Delvoye, Matt Perry, Kris Stevens and Diane Moe

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Minutes: Minutes from November 11, 2015 FNA meeting were reviewed. John moved to approve the Minutes; Blaire seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the monthly report. A large payment from the Friends of Fulton account was made to the shade structure project.

Ward 13 Report: Ward 13 Policy Aide Emily Ziring reported:

- The 2016 City Budget is in final hearings tonight and will be voted on by the full City Council. There is a proposed 3.4% property tax levy increase which only allows for some line item adjustments, not any true increases to any budget items. Councilmember Palmisano is hopeful that funding for body cameras and a domestic violence pilot project will be included in the final budget.
 - A request was made to see statistics over the past few years comparing the residential and commercial tax burdens.
- The Working Families Agenda did not advance. Instead, a committee called Workplace Regulations Partnership comprised of low wage earners, business owners, business associations and other worker representation has been formed to study fair scheduling and sick pay issues. Recommendations are due back to City Council by Feb. 24.

Pershing Park Update: Temporary Pershing Park Director Kris Stevens reported:

- There are 20 basketball teams getting ready for the season.
- Diane Moe has been named the permanent Pershing Park Director; she will start on 12/15.
- Diane introduced herself and reviewed her experience. She will begin at Pershing with a focus on cleaning, organization and painting. A concern was expressed about the lack of maintenance, general disrepair and inappropriate youth behavior at the park over the past couple of months. Diane will address the specific issues raised immediately.

Updated Residential Guidelines: The Zoning Committee recently reviewed the Fulton Residential Guidelines and has updated them in accordance with current trends and the BLEND Awards. Blaire moved to approve the updated guidelines; Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Networking Events: Jenny has been unable to establish a partnership with a local art gallery for the next networking gathering; she will try again in the spring. In the meantime, she has proposed an event in collaboration with Lake Harriet Kitefest. Neighbors can meet at Brueggers at 11:30 a.m. on Sat., Jan. 16 for a coffee, bagel and conversation. The group will then walk to Lake Harriet to enjoy Kitefest either on their own or as a group. Jenny reminded the Board of the need to continue brainstorming ideas for future events and that anyone is welcome to take the lead on an event and make connections with businesses to host events.

Coordinator's Update: Ruth Olson reported:

- Ruth, Nikki and Megan Lennon met to review the Welcome Packets. They all agree to recommend discontinuation of paper Welcome Packets and to instead come up with a small gift to give to new neighbors. The focus will be on something to "consume and keep" like a mug filled with coffee beans or a basket with a commercially prepared baked good. Prior to launching the new system, the content and design of the Welcome Packet will need to be reviewed and placed on the website and more Block Contacts will need to be recruited. The Board may be asked to help welcome neighbors on blocks where there is no known Block Contact.
- Brad Johnson, who helped start Nextdoor Fulton, is moving out of the neighborhood. FNA will take over his position as Neighborhood Lead. This will primarily entail verifying neighbors and responding to "flagged" posts.
- The administrator for our new Home Improvement Loan Program, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation, has raised admin fees per loan from \$500 to \$595.
- Ruth's contract was reviewed and renewed until March 2017 at a rate of \$32/hour. This is three months longer than usual so that new Board members are more established and able to evaluate the contract.
- Both Jane and Jenny have reviewed the website, as previously requested, and noted the difficulty keeping information up to date on all the pages and in the Business Directory. Ruth will continue working on this with Courtney Remes.

Committee Reports:

- Safety: There is no Safety meeting in December. The committee will work on updating the Charter in January. Other than a couple of days with increased activity, it was a quiet month in Fulton.
- Community Engagement: Ruth and Steve will review and update the Committee Charter.
- NRP Committee: The committee has agreed to change the committee name to the Finance Committee. An updated Charter was presented; Board members are asked to review and revisit approval in January.
- Environment: There was a meeting on 11/19 to begin re-establishing the Environmental Committee. The group has begun work on a Committee Charter and will continue in January.
- Zoning: the committee is meeting on 12/14.
- Arts: Blaire and Ruth have renewed efforts to reach property owners for approval of utility wraps. The owner of the Pinehurst building denied the project; outreach has been made to the owner of the Loft Antiques building.

Old Business: The deadline for applications for the 2016 Fulton Small Grants is Dec. 31; please promote it.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed: _____

Blaire Hartley, Secretary