

Minutes of July 13, 2016
FNA Meeting

Board Members Present: John Finalyson, Steve Haslach, Mary Jordan, Jane Kohnen, Jenny Monroe, Jim Tincher and Steve Young

Guests: Ruth Olson, Dave Delvoye, Dan Burch, Rich Nyquist, CM Linea Palmisano

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Two additions were made to the agenda for an update on the Lakes Master Plan and a tree proposal. Jane introduced Dan Burch.

Minutes: Minutes from June 8, 2016 FNA meeting were reviewed. John moved to approve the Minutes; Jenny seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the monthly and quarterly Treasurer's Reports. Jim will move \$5,309.05 of plant sale funds out of the Friends of Fulton checking account into the Environmental CD.

Lakes Calhoun and Harriet Master Plan: Rich Nyquist has been the FNA representative on the Community Advisory Council for the Lakes Master Plan. Their efforts are now complete and their recommendations are being drafted into a 25 year Master Plan for the lakes and the surrounding park lands. The draft plan will be presented to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board by early August. At that point, it will be released for a 45 day comment period. A final draft will then be generated and approved by MPRB, at which point it goes to the Metropolitan Council for final approval. This step is necessary because the Chain of Lakes is a regional park and under the jurisdiction and funding of the Met Council. It is anticipated that the first round of improvements will start in spring of 2017, with further improvements dependent upon funding. The first improvements will include moving the Calhoun Sailing School and the boat launch away from the northeast corner of the lake to the northwest corner. Also expected are changes to the Lower Road at Lake Harriet. Overall, the plan and improvements are focusing on creating more and active green space along the west and south ends of Lake Calhoun, alongside the Bird Sanctuary and on the north and east sides of Lake Harriet. The plan will consider necessary changes when/if Light Rail is installed and is also recommending changes to the pedestrian and bike paths in the concessions area of Lake Harriet.

Tree Proposal: Rich Nyquist also presented a proposal for FNA to consider a program to remove damaged or sick trees before they can cause property damage. Rich notes that there are a lot of unhealthy trees that are threatening roofs and building structures in the neighborhood, but insurance companies will not cover removal of the trees in a proactive manner; they will only cover loss when the tree damages property when it falls. Homeowners are hesitant to remove trees before they fall due to the high cost (up to \$7K) and no insurance. Rich suggests that FNA consider grants or a low interest loan program to help neighbors cover this cost. FNA could work with an arborist to review applications and identify those that in most need of imminent removal.

- The Board is hesitant to just give away the funds as a grant to remove personal property.
- It was suggested that tree removal be rolled into the SW Fix It Fund low interest home improvement program; given this is a multi- neighborhood program, it would require all four neighborhoods to agree to a change of the Program Guidelines.

It was recommended that Rich contact the Environment Committee to see if they would like to be involved and then get hard estimates for costs of various removal situations. The Board will revisit the proposal once further information is available.

Ward 13 Report: CM Linea Palmisano reported:

- An Early Voting Center has been opened in downtown Minneapolis (open 8 a.m.-4 p.m., M-F currently; expanded hours will be announced closer to election events). Anyone may vote there- no excuses are necessary. The Primary election will be 8/9. Four more centers will be added throughout the City as the general election nears. For Ward 13, the only two items on the primary ballot will be US Representative and MN Supreme Court District 6. There have been three precincts added in Ward 13. Election judges are needed.
- There are multiple referendums proposed for the General Election ballot. The Parks referendum will not move forward as a different agreement was made.
 - Board of Estimate and Taxation Voting Threshold- change minimum requirement
 - Police Insurance Amendment- require police officers to carry personal liability insurance coverage
 - \$15 Now- require \$15/hour minimum wage
 - Rule of Three- hiring practices for civil service positions
 - Vote Yes for Kids- Minneapolis Public Schools

Each of the proposed measures are verified and then evaluated by the City Attorney for legality as a referendum. A couple of the proposed measures may not be legal.

- 54th St. reconstruction has begun and will be a two-year, phased project.
- A stop light is scheduled to be installed at 60th & Xerxes in September; this will help with traffic flow.
- A request was made for a public meeting with the Minneapolis Airports Commission for residents to express concerns; it is difficult to express concerns at the Noise Oversight Committee meetings.
- Data was requested to outline the tax burden and proposed investments, by Ward, for the new parks funding plan. South and southwest Minneapolis are ranked high in terms of deferred maintenance, but a lot of that maintenance is for improvements installed with NRP funds.

Coordinator's Update: Ruth Olson reported:

- The Board has been asked to brainstorm ideas for a new activity at the Fulton Festival.
- We will need to find an alternate location for the FNA Annual Meeting given space changes at Pershing Park. The Board feels strongly that the annual celebration should be held at the local community center. Ruth will explore options.
- The New Neighbor Welcome Program is slowly taking shape. The mugs have been purchased and Jane gave one to all who were present.

Committee Reports:

- Safety: There have been six incidents in the past month. No pattern established.
- Streetscape: They are looking at pedestrian crosswalks in the 50th & France area and Xerxes & 47th.
- Zoning: No variances. Chair Chris Strom has received the Young Architect Award for Minnesota.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed: _____

Blaire Hartley, Secretary