

**Minutes of March 9, 2016  
FNA Meeting**

**Board Members Present:** John Finlayson, Blaire Hartley, Steve Haslach, Jane Kohlen, Sheila Sager, Nikki Shultz, Jim Tincher and Steve Young

**Guests:** Ruth Olson, Dave Delvoye, Diane Moe and Emily Ziring

**Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.** There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

**Minutes:** Minutes from February 10, 2016 FNA meeting were reviewed. Jim moved to approve the Minutes; Blaire seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

**Ward 13 Update:** Policy Aide Emily Ziring reported:

- The mobile food truck ordinance has been amended to allow up to three food trucks at an event and to eliminate the need for multiple permits.
- The Workplace Regulations Partnership Group has held lots of meetings since last fall and released draft recommendations regarding paid sick leave today. These can be found on the City website. These recommendations will be presented to City Council next week.
- There have been two Ward 13 Forums so far (Implicit Bias in Policing and Environmental Services) and these have been well received. The Council office is open to suggestions for topics for further forums.
- There has not been much activity regarding airport noise.
- The Council is considering a ban on single use plastic bags and a \$.05 surcharge on paper bags. Concern was expressed about how this will affect businesses, especially in those neighborhoods that abut other cities without the ban.
- Council Member Palmisano will be generating a position paper on the Parks referendum. Dave stated that currently the operating budget for MPRB is \$68.4M annually. The proposed referendum would bring a 21.9% increase in their budget.

**Shade Structures:** The shade structures have been ordered, but not, yet, delivered due to space constraints. An installation timeline cannot be determined until the "frost out" date, but we are on the list for early spring installation before the wading pool opens. Ruth and Steve will attend a meeting with MRPB Planning staff and the vendor.

**Future Meeting Space:** Pershing Park Director Diane Moe informed the Board that she has been looking at park usage and making sure that all of the rooms and meeting spaces are more multi-use and open to different groups. In 2016, each park has been given budget goals and program goals and MPRB has started charging non-park groups for use of meeting space; neighborhood groups are exempt from this charge. FNA has a lot of meetings each month and also stores some files and signs at the park. Diane requests that FNA move their monthly Board meeting to the Arts and Crafts Room beginning in August or September. The Lakes Martial Arts program is successful and needs the larger multi-purpose space. They bring in a lot of money and the program is attended by a lot of neighborhood kids. Currently the main program is on Wednesday evenings, other than the second week of the month (due to the FNA meeting) and this is very confusing and hard on parents.

- Concern: The FNA Annual Meeting needs a larger space, as well as times when there is an important community issue. Diane said that, if this happens, she will figure out a solution.

- Concern: FNA has been a good community partner to Pershing Park for 26 years. They have tried to use the Arts and Crafts Room in the past, but it did not work. FNA is an important conduit between the neighbors and the City, as well as other governmental agencies (including MPRB) and needs the capacity to be able to respond in both directions.
- Concern: MPRB seems to regularly rotate Directors at Pershing Park- they don't stay for more than 18 months. Past Directors have been supportive of FNA, so this is a change. Will future park directors live up to this change or will we be subject to a different opinion under new leadership? Diane stated that she plans to be at Pershing for at least 5-6 years until she retires.
- Question: Can Lakes Martial Arts move to Monday nights? Diane has discussed this with them and they indicate that they have built a successful program on Wednesday nights and they are unwilling to upset that success by changing nights.
- Concern: FNA has made a long term investment into Pershing Park (\$180K) over the years. Why is that not being honored over a fee-based program by an outside party? Diane said that it isn't about the money, but comes down to what makes the most sense for the building and what is the right thing to do for the community.

The Board continued discussion on this subject after Diane left.

- This appears to already be decided- the owner of Lakes Martial Arts has already said as much to FNA Board Members. There was no discussion or chance for brainstorming solutions.
- We could ask Diane to go back to Lakes Martial Arts and ask for further communication with parents and then come back to FNA with an update in May. Why is it FNA's responsibility that parents can't manage the change in date?
- Nikki offered to lead a discussion with other parents (her children are in the program) to try to come up with solutions.
- We could speak to the Service Area Manager or our Commissioner about our concerns.
- Jim suggests asking for a meeting with Diane and another person from MPRB and two or so FNA members to deal with the tension-filled relationship between FNA and the park and to set expectations on both sides.

Jim moved that FNA form a small group to have a conversation with Diane about how to move forward and to separate out this space issue versus an effective working relationship; Blaire seconded the motion. A friendly amendment was added that this small group does not have decision making abilities. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Jim and Nikki will reach out to Diane.

**Fulton Small Grants:** Bart has reached all of the recipients and grants are moving forward. Ruth will find out if Normandale has clarified that it will involve The Waters on 50<sup>th</sup>, not The Waters of Edina.

**Bees & Butterflies:** MRPB does not want us to do anything along the creek because of the Creek Improvements Project scheduled for 2018. The group is looking for other opportunities.

**Coordinator's Update:** Ruth Olson reported:

- The Community Connections Conference will be held on 4/2; info has been sent to the Board.
- Ruth would like to move forward with the updating of the Welcome Packet program. The Board is agreeable to moving the information to the website and, instead, delivering a logo mug with our website as an introduction. Steve H. moved to approve up to \$1,200 to order product and printing to get the program started. Any funds from selling extra mugs will go back into the program; Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Committee Reports:**

- Safety: There have only been four incidents in Fulton this month. Dave attended the Ward 13 Forum on Implicit Bias Training with MPD. FNA was featured for a long standing Safety Committee. Council Member Palmisano is willing to discuss this issue further with neighborhood groups; Ruth will invite her to the April meeting.
- Community Engagement: Ruth will reach out to the Festival Committee to get started for this year.

**Old Business:** Jim has someone in mind to ask to fill the open Board seat. There is also possible interest from a local business representative.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Blaire Hartley, Secretary