

Notes from the Fulton Finance committee meeting of May 4, 2016

Present

John Finlayson, Jane Kohonen, Tony Mann, Mary Nolte, Ruth Olson, Dave Delvoye

Administrative items

Fulton Neighborhood News will be delivered the weekend of 5/14.

Environment committee

Tony and Mary are members of the Environment committee, which recently elected John Dillery as chair, subject to appointment by the FNA Board. Tony explained the committee's current project, which involves promoting "pesticide-free pollinator yards" to neighborhood residents. The goal of the project is to increase FNA's engagement with the community and raise awareness of the pesticide problem and of ways residents can help. The committee plans to staff a table at the Fulton Farmers Market this summer to encourage residents to provide plants in their gardens which are favorable habitat for butterflies (such as milkweed) and bees and free of harmful pesticides. The plan includes recruiting residents to sign a "Fulton good neighbor pollinator protection" pledge; in return, residents would receive free plant(s) and a small yard sign stating that they have a "pesticide-free pollinator yard".

There was a discussion about the costs and budget of the project. The committee has identified two Minnesota growers who could provide quantities of the plants at reasonable cost and a vendor to print the yard signs – Tony will donate the metal stands for the signs. There would be several ways for FNA to fund the project: reallocate money from another NRP strategy; use Friends of Fulton money; consider using some of the unused proceeds of neighborhood plant sales (the balance is about \$27,700) which were originally intended for the planting of trees. The third option could be publicized in two editions of Fulton Neighborhood News with a request for residents to share their opinions on the topic; if there is no serious objection, then that source of funds could be used for the project. There was also a discussion about using FNA's table at the Farmers Market; Ruth usually coordinates that with the market's director.

John explained the process for getting approval of the project and its budget: It needs to be vetted by the Finance committee which can help identify a funding source and then approved by the FNA Board. To help expedite the project, which depends partly on early access to the Farmers Market, the Finance committee recommended that Tony send the proposal and budget to Ruth by 5/9 so that it can be forwarded to the Board and placed on the agenda for its 5/11 meeting.

Community Engagement committee

Ruth reported that the first planning meeting for the Fall Festival had to be cancelled and will be rescheduled soon.

Pershing Park shade structure

Installation of the shade structure for the wading pool will begin on 5/9. Park Board Commissioner Brad Bourn has offered to contribute \$3,500 from his discretionary budget to cover the cost overruns on concrete for the project.

Committee charter review

The Zoning committee will ask the FNA Board on 5/11 to approve its new charter and its newly elected chair.

Other business

There was a discussion about whether to take comments about Red Cow's liquor license application at the Board meeting on 5/11. The Board traditionally has not taken a position on licensing issues.