

Minutes of October 14, 2015
FNA Annual Meeting

Board Members Present: Jeremy Abbs, Eric Eickhof, John Finlayson, Steve Haslach, Jane Kohnen, Jenny Monroe, Bart Phillips, Jim Tincher and Steve Young

Guests: Ruth Olson, Linea Palmisano, Scott Dibble, Frank Hornstein, and approximately 25 other neighbors

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

Minutes: Minutes from the September 8, 2015 FNA meeting were reviewed. Steve H. moved to approve the Minutes as presented; Steve Y. seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Steve presented the monthly Treasurer's Report. A Fall Festival Summary will be presented in November.

FNA Accomplishments for the Year: Jim reviewed some of the major accomplishments of FNA over the past year including interfacing with the City, the Fulton Small Grants Program, Bees & Butterflies planning, two Networking events, initiation of the Fix It Fund, Fall Festival, Open Streets, Minnehaha Creek planning, shade structure research and planning, and regular print and electronic communications.

Board Elections: The slate of candidates for the Fulton Board of Directors was presented. There were no further nominations from the floor. Each candidate gave a brief introduction and Jim read an introduction from a candidate unable to attend. John moved to approve the slate of candidates by a vote of acclamation; Jenny seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The following people have been voted in for a two-year term expiring in October, 2017: Blaire Hartley, Tim Kresse, Bart Phillips, Sheila Sager, Nikki Shultz and Steve Young. Recognition was also made of retiring Board Members Jeremy Abbs, Julie Backer and Eric Eickhof.

Ward 13 Update: Council Member Linea Palmisano presented an update on ward/City activities:

- The City Budget process is underway with a recommended property tax levy increase of 3.4%. However, they anticipate that 2/3 of homeowners will see a decrease in their property tax. Some of the budget highlights:
 - \$14M increase for affordable housing
 - Small increase to the Auditor's office
 - \$400K for LED conversion of street lights
 - Small increase in sworn police officers
 - Funding for a pilot program to better respond to domestic violence incidents
- The Working Families Agenda is a proposed policy to address wage theft, fair scheduling and sick pay. CM Palmisano recognized that the policy is difficult for small business owners and may have some unintended consequences for them. Mayor Hodges has directed that the fair scheduling component be removed; CM Palmisano is unsure what the final policy will be. A resident asked if there had been a financial analysis done to determine the cost to small business owners if the policy is enacted. CM Palmisano responded that there have been various models proposed, but none of them are accurate for small business owners, in her opinion. Anecdotal evidence indicates that the sick pay provision alone could cost employers \$10-12K/year.

State of Minnesota Update: State Senator Scott Dibble reported:

- The State Legislature has finished the first year of a two year budget cycle with a surplus. They were able to retain funding for Health and Human Services, although little was done for Early Childhood, K-12, or higher education.
- As Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Senator Dibble is concerned that the State is falling behind on maintenance and infrastructure of our transit system.
- He supports additional funding to nursing homes and homeless youth projects.
- He is disappointed that the Environmental Policy is not strong enough.

State of Minnesota Update: State Representative Frank Hornstein reported:

- Rep. Hornstein noted that the State House had to make many compromises in order to get progress in a few areas. He will focus on additional educational funding this year.
- Airport Noise: The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has agreed to delay completion of their long range plan based on resident feedback and additional safety issues that the FAA is reviewing.
- A Transportation funding increase is vital in order to repair decaying roads, ensure safety and expand the existing transit system.
- A resident asked about Gun Control- this is both a federal and state issue. Neither the Senate nor the House has been able to muster the votes to make any true changes to gun control laws.

Fulton Small Grants: The first year of the Fulton Small Grants has concluded. Two grantees presented their work:

- Lakes Martial Arts conducted a Bullying Prevention Program for 62 students. Bully Prevention is the #1 issue facing school aged kids today. The program helped youth recognize bullying and how to prevent it while also building confidence and leadership skills. A pre-seminar survey noted that 70 percent of attendees had been bullied and a post-seminar survey revealed that 100 percent of the attendees now know what to do.
- Simply Jane & ArtAble is a non-profit that provides arts programming for kids and adults with special needs. They held three events for all youth (two at the Fulton Farmers Market and one at the Fulton Fall Festival). There were 100+ youth at each event and donations for the Joyce Food Shelf were also collected.
- Southwest High School Music Boosters were not present. However, Bart noted that they used their grant funds to put on a community concert that featured music chosen by the youth band members, which empowered their ownership of the performance.

Friends of Fulton Awards: Awards were presented to Christian Lindgen and Eric Eickhof, Scott Erazmus, Mary Vander Leest, Terry Sauer, Sheila Sager, Bart Phillips and Jenny Monroe.

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

- The park has purchased a Ball Pit for the lounge area; this is great fun for younger kids.
- Youth sports are going well.
- Pershing and Linden Hills Rec+ have merged; there are now 30 kids at Pershing every day.

Committee Reports:

- Environmental: Mary Nolte has stepped down as Committee Chair. The Board recommends developing a Charter, recruiting additional members and then having the committee choose a new Chair.
- Streetscape: The 50th Street Vision has been developed by Fulton and Lynnhurst Neighborhood Associations along with the 50th & France and Southwest Business Associations. The Vision reflects what all parties would like the corridor to look like in the future and what improvements are needed. The focus is on pedestrian safety and crossings and bicycle safety.
- Zoning: The committee will host a presentation on Nov. 9 from the City Planning Dept. on Accessory Dwelling Units (“Granny Flats”).

John moved to adjourn the meeting; Bart seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed: _____

Blaire Hartley, Secretary