

Minutes of July 10, 2019
FNA Meeting

Board Members Present: Craig Brown, Katharine Brown, John Finlayson, Blaire Hartley, Ray Klahr, Jane Kohnen and Steve Young

Guests: Diane Moe, Dave Delvoye, Ruth Olson and 11 others

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. There was an addition to the agenda to discuss a possible grant opportunity in the neighborhood.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 12, 2019 FNA meeting were reviewed. John moved to approve the Minutes; Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth reviewed the monthly Treasurer's Report. The security grant program is off to a good start; everything else is standard.

Beautification Grant: Neighbor Mary Pat Ladner asked for a grant from FNA to beautify the traffic diverter at 48th & Ewing. This is a heavily traveled intersection and the diverter is in bad shape due to numerous incidents of cars driving right through and over it. The posts have been fixed to be upright, but there are not chains, it is all concrete and it lacks visibility. Neighbors in the area would like to add some flower pots to increase visibility and beautify the area and they have committed to tending to the spot. FNA has asked them to come back with a budget and to get approval/permitting info from the city.

NCEC: The seat for District 2 of the Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission is open and two candidates, Paul Junek and Barbara Lunde, were present to introduce themselves and ask for support. Ray moved to appoint John Finlayson as the FNA Elector; Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The election will be held on July 17.

Pershing Park Update: Diane Moe reported:

- Softball is done for the season; all four Pershing teams took 1st place in their divisions; the baseball tournament starts soon.
- Fall sports sign-up has begun.
- Diane and her supervisor have a meeting with Minneapolis Public Schools Community Ed to try to work on getting more access for park programming using school space.
- The Southwest Parks Master Plans calls for two multi-purpose fields at Pershing, but a premiere diamond at Linden Hills; this will limit their ability to serve the younger kids of the neighborhood. There is a special subgroup that has formed to work on equitable distribution of fields in southwest and the next meeting is on July 15.

Minnehaha Trail Master Plan: Rich Nyquist and Mike Jischke reported:

- The Master Plan looks at the Minnehaha Parkway and Trail from Zenith to Hiawatha and is broken up into 4 different segments.
- Segment 1 is in Fulton/Lynnhurst. The plan calls for adding a trail from Zenith down the steep incline to the creek and then adding a bridge across the creek to the Edina side. The trail will then run on the south side of the creek to Upton at which point it will cross over the existing bridge back to the north side. It will run on the north side to Russell at which point another bridge will be added to go back to the south side and then on to Penn and will eventually end at Morgan where it hooks into an existing trail. All of this crossing back and forth is due to existing streets and creek configuration. The trail will be a natural surface walking path.
- The Washburn and York Ave spillways will be removed and replaced with Best Management Practices (raingardens, etc.) water management systems.

- There will be a canoe launch on the south side of the creek between Xerxes and Upton. Those present felt the Fulton portion of the plan was good.

In Lynnhurst:

- Once the creek crosses into Lynnhurst, there will be new tennis courts, another bridge and significant flood water storage.
- The plan for Lynnhurst park is drastic and calls for re-meandering the creek and moving the recreation center across the street.

There was significant discussion about the proposal to close off the Parkway at various places to automobile traffic. This plan has been “paused” until September for further traffic study.

- Most of the people present thought closing the Parkway was unnecessary and a mistake to divert traffic into the neighborhoods.
- There is interest in more expansive pedestrian areas closer to the Parkways, though.
- More neighborhood voices are needed from those people who live near the “conflict” areas such as Portland and Lynnhurst Park.
- There is too much focus on bikes; the parkway should be available to ALL to enjoy.
- Biking is already safe along the Parkway other than around Cedar and Portland.

Minneapolis Public Schools Update: District 6 School Board Member Ira Jourdain reported:

- District 6 has 32% of the student population for the entire city.
- Transportation: There is a lack of school bus drivers and MPS is working on recruitment and retention policies to hire more drivers.
- There will be a new GPS app to track a particular bus route.
- The referendum that passed will allow:
 - At least \$15/hour for all MPS workers.
 - A \$12M technology fund.
- State funding increased 2%; this is \$175/student.
- Math curriculum will be updated.
- Continued (nearly complete) removal of tire mulch on school playgrounds.
- The Comprehensive District Design:
 - 85-90% of students in SW Minneapolis go to their neighborhood and pathway school.
 - Southwest High School is being considered for an IB Magnet School. There is concern that this will further segregate the high schools.
 - There is a plan to move the students of Green Elementary School from Page Middle School to Anderson Middle School. This will result in more segregated middle schools.
 - There will be changes to class size, boundaries and placement choices, but this will more than likely not affect SW Minneapolis.
 - Lake Harriet Lower Campus will have six K classrooms next year; there is significant overcrowding. Ira is pushing to add a third floor to the school.
 - They are considering three different long-term Finance Plans.
- Southwest High School is on its fourth principal in 4 years- this is unacceptable. Many neighbors voiced their concern about student behavior and how it affects the nearby neighborhood. SWHS has the largest enrollment of any of the city high schools and is overcrowded. There has been no continuity of administration or staff for the entire time the student body has been at the school.

Merchandising: Craig presented the final design and already has some stickers. These were very expensive to make (\$2.50 each) and he will continue to look for another vendor. He has also sourced some t-shirts that would be \$15 to create and we would sell for \$20. He got referrals for a couple of more places to get quotes and will report back on costs and estimated quantities. We’d like to have some for sale at the Ice Cream Social next week.

Housing Funds Investment: Topic tabled until August.

Coordinator's Update: Ruth Olson reported:

- Happy Hour at Tinto was great.
- Ice Cream Social on 7/18; Board signed up to volunteer to scoop ice cream.

Committee Reports:

Zoning:

- 5141 Chowen: developer did not attend the Zoning meeting. There are concerns about the size of the house and the further encroachment on a neighbor. No recommendation.
- 4800 France Ave S (Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd) plans to add a pre-school and playground equipment. A variance is required to reduce the front yard setback on Ewing Ave S for the playground. Neighbors present were concerned about how much traffic will be added for the preschool and the material of the fencing around the playground. The Zoning Committee has reviewed the proposal and does not object. Jane moved that FNA not oppose the variance request at 4800 France Ave S.; Ray seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 4 yeas and 2 abstentions.

Safety: Report is available.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed:

Ray Klahr, Secretary