

Minutes of August 14, 2019
FNA Meeting

Board Members Present: Chris Black, John Finlayson, Mary Jordan, Ray Klahr, Jane Kohnen and Carolina Li

Guests: Josh Tobiessen, Sasha Jensen, Susan, Dave Delvoye and Ruth Olson

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Minutes: Minutes from the July 10, 2019 FNA meeting were reviewed. John moved to approve the Minutes; Chris seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth reviewed the monthly Treasurer's Report. There has been a good deal of activity for security rebates and initial festival expenses.

Pershing Park Report: In Diane's absence, Ruth reported that Pershing Park is busy with 11 soccer teams starting up and that they are working on winter/spring programming decisions.

Art Shanty Project: Josh Tobiessen, outreach coordinator for the Art Shanty Project, announced that the art installations will be back again this year on Lake Harriet for four weekends in late January/early February. The project was previously held on lakes in the suburban Twin Cities area and drew about 20K visitors; in 2018 it moved to Lake Harriet and drew 40K visitors. The increased attendance was due to good accessibility for city residents and mass transit. The project was not continued in 2019 due to the lack of infrastructure for such quick growth as well as the loss of a significant state grant. They have restructured their financial system and will be back in 2020. They will now focus on building community connections and relationship and will move to a suggested donation-based event with additional membership programming. The Project asks for FNA's help with connecting to the immediate community through our communication channels such as the newsletter, social media and e-news. FNA has agreed to do so and Ruth will communicate newsletter deadlines to Josh.

Fulton Farmers Market: Sasha Jensen, Fulton resident and current Farmers Market Board Chair, and Susan, another Fulton resident, updated the FNA Board on the history and current status of the market. The Fulton Farmers Market (FFM) is part of Neighborhood Roots, who also runs the Kingfield Market (Sundays) and the Nokomis Market (Thursday evenings). The market has two staff and a Board of Directors and is financed by fundraising and vendor fees. 80% of their vendors are agriculture based and their market has more of a "grocery shopping" atmosphere. Their biggest competitor, the Linden Hills Farmers Market, is newer, is sponsored by the Linden Hills Business Association and has more of a festival atmosphere each week. The FFM is looking for more corporate sponsors that are long term rather than just week by week. They are also moving toward a membership-based system for support, but don't want to charge for attendance. It was suggested they consider a "farm share" type of set up that people could subscribe to and then pick up at the market every week.

Sasha reports that the vendors saw a decrease in sales in 2018 and several vendors did not return in 2019. This was partially due to a lot of competition with other markets, other Saturday events and a string of bad weather weekends in 2018. Also, the construction of The Waters Senior Living has obstructed the view of the market. So far in 2019, sales are up. The Board is considering other options to

increase visibility and FNA suggested more social media and possibly a different day (weekday) that may catch more people in town than on the weekends.

Housing Funds: This discussion was tabled until the November meeting.

Coordinator's Update: Ruth Olson reported:

- The Fulton Fall Festival is coming up on Sept. 14. Volunteers are needed and Board members were asked to help with recruitment. Ruth will send sample language to use when reaching out to neighbors, etc. We will try to get a bicycle registration table at the festival in response to the increased number of thefts this season.
- Open Streets 50th is on Sept. 22 this year, only 9 days after the Fall Festival. If we want to participate, Ruth needs a firm commitment from at least two people to help; send out an e-mail to the whole Board.
- Ewing Ave diverter: CM Palmisano's office has followed up with the Ewing Ave neighbors who wanted to beautify and increase the visibility of the diverter at Ewing/49th. They would need to file for an encroachment permit and then follow Public Works procedures. FNA would consider funding for actual materials, but only after the neighbors are able to obtain a permit.
- Ewing Ave Parking Lot: Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) is moving forward with the development of a Request For Proposal (RFP) to turn the Ewing Ave parking lot between 50th & 51st streets into a city-owned affordable housing development. CM Palmisano will host a community meeting for residents with CPED to understand this process of developing an RFP and where it goes from there. The meeting will be at 6:30 on Sept. 24 at Pershing Park. Ruth will highlight this in the upcoming newsletter and other communication channels.

Committee Reports:

Safety: Dave Delvoye reported:

- There was a home break-in on July 12 at 48th & Upton; the homeowner was assaulted by multiple suspects armed with box cutters. It is a very complicated situation and the police are investigating.
- There have been 44 approved security rebates in the first three months of the program. Total rebates so far are approximately \$4,200; Dave will discuss further funding at the next Finance meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed:

Ray Klahr, Secretary