

Notes from the Fulton Finance committee meeting of September 4, 2019

Present

Jane Kohnen, John Finlayson, Ruth Olson, Dave Delvoye

Calendar

The new issue of Fulton Neighborhood News should be delivered soon.

Community Engagement

Ruth reported that the Fall Festival should be similar in scope to the one last year. This year there will be a pizza warmer. Health inspectors will possibly check food vendors at the event.

Safety

The Safety committee will not meet in September. A community member recently expressed concern about the number of bike thefts in the area; the committee is looking into whether MPD data can be compiled to give an idea of the extent of the problem in Ward 13 neighborhoods.

The Finance committee recommended that the FNA Board approve the Safety committee's request that an additional \$4,000 be allocated to the Residential Security Rebate program, which has disbursed almost all of the \$6,000 allocated in May. The funds come from the Safety committee strategy in FNA's NRP Phase 1 action plan. At this point, about \$17,000 remains in that strategy.

Other business

Ruth will invite elected officials to attend the FNA annual meeting on 10/9. Items of business include election of Board members (the terms of five current Board members are up) and the Friends of Fulton awards.

There was a discussion about two proposed condo development projects for the 5100 and 5300 blocks of France Ave; presentations will be made at the 9/11 Board meeting at Pershing Park. An open house with information about the projects will take place from 6:30 to 7:00, before the meeting.

To quote and paraphrase a notice from the City: Ward 13 Council Member Palmisano and Community Planning and Economic Development staff will host a community meeting to discuss the future of the City-owned public parking lot on the 5000 block of Ewing Ave. They will present information about "the process for developing a Request for Proposal for consideration of a City-owned affordable housing development on that site. This meeting is the very first step of this process and its goal is to discuss how best to include stakeholders and FNA in moving forward." The meeting will take place on Tuesday, 9/24, at 6:30 p.m. at Pershing Park.

Ruth reported that FNA used up all of its Community Participation Program (CPP) Priority Plan funds last year, and asked whether the organization wanted to identify alternate amounts and sources of funding to continue the Grant Program and Open Streets sponsorship next year. Following a discussion and noting that CPP funding for 2020 is still unknown, the Finance committee recommended that the Board skip funding those projects next year and then revisit the question when the funding situation becomes clear.

Ruth reported that she discovered a discrepancy in the amount of funds available in a 1998 NRP contract which is still active. There appears to be a shortage of \$5,095.85. She asked a City staffer to review requests for funds by FNA and reimbursements from the City for that contract, and the report showed that all the numbers matched. There was a discussion about how that shortfall could be accounted for, and a number of possibilities were identified. The Finance committee recommended that FNA take some steps to find out what had happened and when. Ruth will ask NCR for advice about how to proceed with an investigation.

Notes prepared by Dave Delvoye