

Minutes of November 13, 2019
FNA Meeting

Board Members Present: John Finlayson, Ray Klahr, Jane Kohnen, and Steve Young

Guests: Dave Delvoye, Diane Moe, Matt Perry, Art Brown, Andy Clayton and Ruth Olson

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m. There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Minutes: Minutes from the September and October meetings were available, but not approved due to lack of quorum.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth reviewed the monthly Treasurer's Report. The last of the festival expenses were paid along with security rebates and regular expenses.

Pershing Park Report: Diane Moe reported:

- Basketball sign-ups are underway; older kids will get to play in the east gym of Southwest High School (SWHS) on Friday evenings.
- Winter and spring program sign-ups went well; pre-school gymnastics is popular.
- Diane is working on programming for upcoming school release days.
- There has been increased vandalism, graffiti and fighting from SWHS students. The school has not been responsive under their new leadership.

50th & Xerxes: Matt Perry of the Southwest Business Association discussed recent changes to the intersection. It has been congested for quite some time and proposals have been made in the past to alleviate the congestion, but none have moved forward due to push back from the businesses. About ten days ago, no parking signs were placed in front of Hunt & Gather, Don Raul and Loft Antiques; six parking spaces were lost. Xerxes Ave north of 50th St. (which is owned by the city) has now been repainted with a left turn lane and a through lane. This proposed change was previously discussed by CM Palmisano at the June FNA meeting, but no communication has been received since. SWBA notes that other issues, beyond the loss of parking, are lack of signage and that the through lane is blocked by a bus stop.

SWBA believes there are other solutions to be considered, such as changes to the timing of the light. They also note that the city's own Access Minneapolis Design Guidelines were not followed and no engagement of the businesses was done. They are hoping to negotiate and get a couple of spaces back as well as re-do the process following the Access Minneapolis process. In the meantime, they will ask for a review in six months to determine if the congestion has been alleviated. John Finlayson and possibly Ray Klahr will represent FNA on a task force to reconsider the changes.

Executive Board Elections: Brian Arnold will stay on the Board, but is stepping down from the role of Treasurer; Chris Black is interested in the position. Steve will stay on as President, but Ray will consider taking on the role. Since a quorum was not present, the Executive Board Elections will be revisited in December.

Board Recruitment: There are two open spots on the Board. New neighbor Art Brown is considering joining. Ruth will continue promoting through the newsletter and electronic media; the Board has been asked to reach out to their friends and neighbors. Diane will advertise on the park sign.

NRP Housing Funds: FNA previously had presentations from Propel and Community of Lakes Land Trust for options to utilize FNA NRP Housing Funds. Since a quorum was not present, this decision will be revisited in December.

Coordinator's Update: Ruth Olson reported:

- Festival and Open Streets recaps: Festival went well on a beautiful day. The event seemed well attended; finding volunteers was difficult. Open Streets was held on a cloudy/rainy day. FNA served free popcorn which was popular and allowed us to engage many Fulton residents about upcoming meetings and the security rebate program.
- Since a quorum was not present, the shortage in the NRP account will be revisited in December.
- Ruth will arrange for another Happy Hour at Tinto Kitchen for the end of January and then again in early summer.
- Neighborhoods 2020 is moving forward with an engagement process supported by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA). There are three upcoming meetings which will be very important. Unfortunately, all the meetings are on Thursdays and the same week of the month, which makes it difficult for those with consistent conflicts. Ruth will try to attend the first meeting but is unable to attend the latter two. Jane will attend all three and represent FNA.
- Ruth circulated a list of addresses that need Welcome Kits delivered. Another order of mugs needs to be placed.

Committee Reports:

Safety: Dave Delvoye reported there were only two crime reports in October, both auto break-ins in the lot next to Woullet's. There was an armed robbery on 11/8: a resident was taking a walk on 52nd & Abbott and was approached from behind by two teenaged males. They stole his cell phone, but he did not have any money on him. Police are investigating. This is part of a disturbing trend including another armed robbery and a home invasion. The police are aware of an organized gang who are perpetuating similar crimes across the entire metro area.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed:

Ray Klahr, Secretary