

Minutes of April 8, 2020
FNA Meeting held on Zoom

Board Members Present: Chris Black, John Finlayson, Ray Klahr and Jane Kohnen

Guests: CM Palmisano, Tom Eaton and Ruth Olson

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

Minutes: Minutes from March 11 FNA meeting were not reviewed due to no quorum present.

Treasurer's Report: Chris briefly reviewed the Treasurer's report; no rebates this month.

Pershing Park Report: No report. All MPRB buildings are closed; events, sports and programs are all canceled until 8/31.

Ward 13 Report: Council Member Linea Palmisano (CMP) reported:

- Governor Tim Walz has extended the Stay at Home order until May 4. He is hoping to make a few modifications to the order to allow some small businesses (e.g. landscapers, garden stores) who can maintain social distancing while doing their work to re-open.
- Current projections show the COVID-19 peak for Minnesota to be late June/early July.
- CMP sent out a newsletter late this afternoon; Ruth will forward.
- The Minneapolis Health Department is stepping in to help with the social distancing messaging to cultural communities who did not seem to understand or follow the Stay at Home order.
- The police department is doing their best to do their jobs while also adding remote policing strategies.
- The City Council is developing a succession plan.
- Council Member Abdi Warsame has resigned and there will be a special election for Ward 6 at some point.
- The Ewing Avenue Municipal Lot/Affordable Housing proposal is "paused" right now during the COVID crisis. Resources which would have been used to potentially fund a traffic study have been diverted elsewhere in the city for emergency pandemic needs. Given that the 50th & France area is home to higher-end shopping, it may take awhile for the area to bounce back.
- City revenue sources (entertainment, bars, parking, etc.) are down 15-45%.
- The city is trying to be creative and continue operations in unique and safe ways.
- The comment periods for the Draft Transportation Plan, Neighborhoods 2020 and others have been extended. City staff is able to manage these plans, but the ability for engagement by the public is the limiting factor.

FNA COVID Response: So far, Ruth has been focusing FNA's COVID response on gathering resources and links and disseminating that information to the neighborhood. This is all now categorized on our website and updated as new information becomes available. Other ideas:

- Chris and Ray will work on putting together a business list (especially those who have donated to us in the past) to encourage residents to support local business.
- Buy Sebastian Joe's gift cards to hand out.
- Smaller gatherings on Zoom
- Scavenger Hunt/Walking Bingo. We could ask Block Contacts to be a "site" to find.

Comprehensive District Design: The final plan was presented to the School Board in late March and a vote is expected in early May. Fulton neighborhood will have the very southeast corner of the neighborhood (south of the creek, east of Upton) now shifted to attend Armatage. The rest of the

neighborhood will attend K-2 at LH Lower and 3-5 at LH Upper. Beyond there, Fulton students will go to Anthony Middle School and Southwest High School.

Organics Recycling: Ray announced that our \$10K grant from Hennepin County has been canceled due to COVID. It is unclear if they will offer the program again next year.

Coordinator's Update: Ruth Olson reported:

- The Neighborhoods 2020 Program Guidelines comment period has been extended until July 15. Chris and Carol will work on a draft response from FNA. Ruth will highlight the program in our upcoming newsletter and ask residents to submit feedback to NCR. We also need to figure out other ways to reach out to the neighborhood such as hosting a virtual open house, mini Zoom sessions, etc.
- The Ice Cream Social on 7/30 has been canceled.
- The Fulton Fall Festival on 9/12 is still a possibility, but we will need to take a hard look at determining even if we have the festival, will people come? Maybe we could use the date for a smaller focus gathering that would allow more distancing but, yet, be able to come together. We can revisit this decision in June.
- The upcoming FNN will focus on positive stories about the neighborhood coming together during the pandemic. Ruth has not been able to get any traction on social media and no one has submitted any stories, anecdotes, etc. She has reached out to two people on Nextdoor (masks, plastic face shields) and they have agreed to submit something. Jane suggested using the back page as a coloring sheet for kids and then having them post them on their front door and using that as part of the walking Bingo.

Committee Reports:

Safety: There were only three reported incidents in the past month: attempted burglary, auto theft and theft from the basketball court at Pershing Park.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed: _____

Ray Klahr, Secretary