

Minutes of May 13, 2020
FNA Meeting held on Zoom

Board Members Present: Chris Black, Craig Brown, Katharine Brown, John Finlayson, Jane Kohnen, Carolina Li, Michael Wagner and Steve Young

Guests: CM Palmisano, Brad Johnson and Ruth Olson

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

Minutes: Minutes from April 8 FNA meeting were not reviewed. John moved to approve the Minutes; Katharine seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Chris reviewed the Treasurer's report. The status on the Environmental funds (from past plant sales) was clarified; it was a quiet month.

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

- Lake Harriet and Bde Maka Ska Parkways will remain closed until at least the end of June. CM Palmisano lobbied heavily for this to allow residents a safe place to exercise/recreate while social distancing. It was noted that LH Parkway is full of potholes and signs need to be placed warning pedestrians to be on the watch for them. LH Parkway is second only to Theodore Wirth in the queue for renovation. A suggestion was also made to make the pathways at Minnehaha Creek one direction.
- The city has spent an enormous amount of money on the COVID-19 response; most of their funds have gone to rental and business assistance.
 - Property tax payments have been delayed until July; it is unlikely that the fall payment will be delayed because the city will need cash on hand at the end of the year.
 - Revenue streams are reduced (water, taxes, fees, etc.)
 - CM Palmisano is advocating for re-doing the 2020 Budget to make spending adjustments now, not next year.
 - The city is expecting a shortfall of \$100M-\$200M.
 - The CARES Act will provide the city with an estimated \$25M-40M, but those funds will go directly to pandemic response.
- The city is maintaining a COVID Dashboard. Fulton neighborhood has 0-10 cases; Ward 13 has 75 or less cases. 40% of cases are of unknown origin and a large percentage of deaths have been in congregate living facilities.
- Gov. Walz's Stay at Home order will expire on 5/18 and will be replaced by a Safe at Home order. He will be careful "moving the dial" and will let the health experts make the recommendations of appropriate activities. As of 5/18, gatherings up to 10 people (while still social distancing) will be allowed and retail stores and main street businesses will be allowed to operate at 50 percent capacity if they create a safety plan. Restaurants, bars, salons, gyms, and other venues will remain closed until at least June 1. Health officials will track cases and will adjust the dials as necessary. There is a page on the state COVID website with a map of testing centers.

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

Long Term Financial Considerations: Steve noted that our funding will be reduced if the Neighborhoods 2020 guidelines move forward as proposed (down by about 2/3rds) and led a discussion as to how we best work with the funds we have remaining.

- One possibility is to use our Program Income (approx. \$90K) for another loan to Propel. This would put our funds to use in the short terms and also help address the affordable housing crisis

in the city. It also protects these funds from being diverted by the city. Ruth will continue trying to reach Propel to discuss their current ability to manage more funds.

- Other ideas for uses of our remaining NRP funds (either uncontracted or contracted in Phase I) is to install adult recreation equipment at Pershing Park and provide seed money for the pedestrian bridge over Minnehaha Creek at Zenith Ave. Steve and Jane will investigate the cost of those projects, respectively.

Resolution: The board considered a Resolution to Delay, Cancel or Hold Online Specific Meetings and Events. This resolution lays out FNA's ability to meet and act remotely and the cancelation of summer events. Jane moved to adopt the Resolution; Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Business Support: Chris has been spearheading an effort to support local/nearby businesses. He sent a survey to all businesses that contributed to the Silent Auction and has listed them as Featured Businesses on the website. There is also now a complete list of businesses with address, phone and websites, organized by node, on the website. He will also add the link to the Southwest Journal. Eventually we can consider coding these businesses so they can be sorted by type and not just node.

Carolina offered to help contact businesses to keep information as current as possible, although this is very difficult given that the public health recommendations are changing quickly. In general, the restaurants are doing OK because they can complete online ordering and curbside pick-up, but retail, hair and nail salons, etc., are still closed completely. Michael discussed the unique impact to breweries/tap rooms.

It was agreed to do a special edition of the paper FNN newsletter as well as e-news around June 1st listing all of the businesses and asking residents to support them. Ruth will work with Jeff Passey to determine his delivery schedule and try to make it coincide with the Southwest Journal. Katharine also suggested some sort of contest for people to post photos on Facebook about their time at home.

Coordinator's Update: Ruth reported that the Ice Cream Social has been canceled. Steve noted that the Fall Festival will be very difficult to consider given its size and social guidelines, even in September. The festival committee will meet next week to discuss what parts of the festival might still be able to be held virtually and they will make recommendations back to the Board in June.

Committee Reports:

Zoning: We have received a variance notice for 2604 Cromwell Court to construct a playset and a chicken coop on a steep slope in the Shoreland Overlay District. Two members of the Zoning Committee responded to the request and recommend that FNA not object. Jane moved for FNA to not oppose the variance request; Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Ruth will send a letter to the city and the homeowners.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed: _____

Ray Klahr, Secretary