

**Minutes of June 10, 2020**  
**FNA Meeting held on Zoom**

**Board Members Present:** Chris Black, John Finlayson, Ray Klahr, Jane Kohnen, Carolina Li, Michael Wagner and Steve Young

**Guests:** CM Palmisano, Ernie Lewis, Barry Vornbock, Erin Black and Ruth Olson

**Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.** There were no agenda revisions or additions.

**Minutes:** Minutes from May 13 FNA meeting were reviewed. John moved to approve the Minutes; Ray seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris reviewed the Treasurer's report. It was another quiet month; there will be security rebates in June.

**Pershing Park Report:** No report. All MPRB buildings and outdoor recreation areas are closed; events, sports and programs are all canceled until 8/31. Diane is working off site; Ruth is able to coordinate with the maintenance staff to pick up the mail once every two weeks.

**Long Term Financial Considerations:** Report backs:

- Ruth contacted Propel. They would be interested in further partnership, but don't have anything happening right now. Developers are uncertain about how to proceed and what their future developments might look like after COVID-19 and the civil unrest. Ruth will re-contact in July.
- Steve talked with Colleen O'Dell from MPRB about putting in outdoor exercise equipment. It's possible this could eventually be put in in the southwest corner of the park, where the basketball courts currently are located. The public feedback on the proposed Southwest Parks Master Plan has been extended due to the pandemic; it is uncertain when that will end and when the final plan might be taken up by the full Board.
- Jane contacted Adam Arvidson of MPRB to start a conversation about partnering on the proposed bridge over Zenith. The Creek Master Plan has not been released for public comment, yet, but when it is, it will have cost estimates. MPRB is certainly open to any partnership.

**Business Protection Funding:** Many local businesses incurred great cost to protect their buildings during the recent protests/riots. The city has indicated that they will allow neighborhoods to use NRP or CPP funds to reimburse businesses for this expense. In Fulton, Broders', Caribou and Athleta for sure put up some sort of protection. Ruth will contact them to offer our financial support and will also engage SWBA and 50<sup>th</sup> & France BA to find out if there were others. Once we know if any of them are interested in reimbursement and the total amount incurred, we can determine how much we want to spend.

The city is also working on creating a program for neighborhoods to support the repair/rebuild of businesses damaged during the protests/riots. Ruth will forward that information for further consideration once it is formally released.

**Coordinator's Update:** The next regular Fulton Neighborhood News will go out in July. There are a couple of Fulton-centered articles we can use and Jane will work on an idea for another engagement activity. The Board then discussed how we can best use the newsletter to be an ally in the racial justice movement that has started in Minneapolis. It was agreed that we are not ready, yet, to lead a large-scale discussion about racial inequity, but that we could start by presenting resources for residents to engage, learn, listen and understand the situation. Ray, Carol and Ruth will work on gathering information and figuring out how to present that; all Board members were encouraged to send in resources that they are aware of to be included. Ruth will send a draft of this for everyone to

review/comment. Michael also recommended that we start the newsletter with a statement about supporting all communities and our part in that.

The Edina Art Fair was rescheduled to August and has now been canceled all together; Open Streets is likely to also be canceled.

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

- The budget shortfall stands at \$165M due to the city's COVID response and now there will be another \$50M due to the protests/riots. This \$215 M needs to be made up in the second half of 2020 and will mean some very deep cuts. Some aid will come in from the federal government, but Minneapolis falls shy of the benchmark of 500,000 residents to qualify for some of the larger aid packages.
- There has been a great deal of civic unrest after the murder of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis Police officer. 300 buildings have suffered significant damage and up to 1,000 buildings were touched in some way.
- CM Palmisano did a series of Zoom community meetings during the height of the unrest and at least 700 people attended part of all of the sessions.
- The Minneapolis Forward: Community Now Coalition has been formed to help guide the effort to rebuild Minneapolis. This coalition will include business leaders, foundations, business associations, etc.
- The City Council has NOT voted to abolish or defund the Minneapolis Police Department. Rather, 9 council members took a pledge to work toward that goal and there is momentum to make that pledge a formal resolution. There is no plan as of right now how to make this happen. This will be a long process and would require a change to the City Charter.
- CM Palmisano wants to focus her efforts on hearing ideas on how to reform the police department and will actively participate in discussions.
- The State Department of Human Rights has intervened into the police department and is making immediate changes to some of the broader complexities of policing in Minneapolis. The overarching goal in their changes is race equity in policing.
- CM Palmisano is willing to participate in local/Ward 13 conversations about police reform, but those sessions need to be neighborhood-led. She has already suggested that the Justice for Justine group could host one; FNA can work with them if appropriate.
- We need to learn from the experience of other police departments who have undergone significant reform. A well trained police department is needed, but public health doesn't need to be part of it.

**Committee Reports:**

Zoning: Fulton was contacted by a new developer considering the three properties at 51<sup>st</sup> & France. The original proposal has been abandoned. Ruth recommended that they engage the neighbors in their planning and that they contact Zoning and Planning for information on current zoning code.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Ray Klahr, Secretary