

Minutes of July 8, 2020
FNA Meeting held on Zoom

Board Members Present: Chris Black, Craig Brown, Katharine Brown, John Finlayson, Ray Klahr, Jane Kohnen and Michael Wagner

Guests: CM Palmisano, Mike and Linda Thompson, and Ruth Olson

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

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

- There was an official Council action, co-authored by CM Palmisano, to follow-up the pledge that was made by 9 council members at Powderhorn Park. The official Resolution states that the Council will work on transforming public safety in our city in a way that works for everyone. It calls for one year of public engagement on the topic and has explicit support for Chief Arradondo.
- There has now been a proposed Charter Amendment by the City Council. The language proposes to amend the city charter to remove the language about the number of required employees in the police department (sworn officers and civilians). It also calls to replace the police department with a new department that might have sworn officers, but will also have other professionals, too. The Charter Commission can choose to accept, reject or offer an alternative to the proposed amendment. If the commission approves a version, it will be put on the November ballot.
- Discussion was held about the incongruity between formally stating the council would do one year of engagement and then the immediate request to amend the charter without a plan. Additionally, it was noted that many people would prefer to see a plan before voting on a charter amendment. This would put the amendment on the 2021 ballot.
- There are no changes right now to the MPD and how it is operating. They are still out in the community and responding to calls. There has been a significant, serious crime wave since the death of George Floyd, some of which is in Ward 13. Given the hostility felt against the police in many parts of city right now, it takes more than one squad to safely respond to a call; this limits their ability to respond to all calls.
- There have been some MPD retirements and PTSD claims.
- Defund the police means an array of things and the term is being interpreted differently by many groups. To CM Palmisano, it does not mean remove all funding.
- Abolish the police means to completely cut the department. Some council members are in favor of this. There are some people in the community who envision a world without the police at all.
- Reform the police is also a loaded phrase as it reflects something being done to the community rather than in concert with them.
- CM Palmisano prefers the phrase transform the police. They are looking at different models and she would like to see action around mindfulness and de-escalation.

Minutes: Minutes from June 10 FNA meeting were reviewed. Ray moved to approve the Minutes; John seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Chris reviewed the Treasurer's report. It was another quiet month; rebates and the extra newsletter have been paid.

Long Term Financial Considerations: Report backs:

- Propel: still waiting to hear how developers of affordable housing plan to proceed and what their future developments might look like after COVID-19 and the civil unrest.
- Outdoor exercise equipment: no update.
- Bridges: FNA is considering “seed” money for MPRB pedestrian bridges over the creek per the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan. The plan has now been released and the cost estimate is \$375K for the bridge at Zenith and \$405K for the bridge at Forestdale.

Coordinator’s Update:

- The July FNN will be delivered this weekend. Thanks to everyone who worked to put together this issue on the sensitive topic of racial equity.
- The SW Parks Master Plan comment period closes on Aug. 1.
- The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan comment period closes on Aug. 3.
- The comment period for Neighborhoods 2020 has been extended again until Sept. 15. Ruth will put this on the August agenda for further consideration of a response from FNA.

Committee Reports:

Community Engagement: The committee will meet again soon and will come back to the Board in August with a final recommendation about the Fall Festival.

Streetscape: Michael will call Public Works about the new lane configurations at 50th & Xerxes and the need for better markings.

Zoning: The committee will need to discuss a variance request on Vincent and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed: _____

Ray Klahr, Secretary