

Minutes of October 14, 2019
FNA Annual Meeting on Zoom

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

Guests: Ruth Olson, Sen. Scott Dibble, Rep. Frank Hornstein, CM Linea Palmisano, MPRB Comm. Brad Bourn, Kirk Weber, Andrea Davila, Liz William, Katie White and Vicki Skarin

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

FNA Accomplishments for the Year: Steve reviewed some of the major accomplishments of FNA over the past year and noted the limitations that the COVID-19 pandemic have had on our organization. Highlights of the year include the racial equity work FNA has begun in the newsletter and book club, local business support and our “Alt” festival partnership with the Fulton Farmers Market and online Silent Auction.

Ward 13 Update: Councilmember Linea Palmisano reported:

- As Budget Chair, she is working on responding to the Mayor’s proposed budget. The pandemic has put a great stress on the budget (reduced revenue) and she encourages feedback from residents.
- The Audit Committee investigates many departments and/or programs, including MPD.
- CM Palmisano is deeply involved with public safety and is working toward change parts and the culture of MPD.
 - The budget includes expanded funding for the Mental Health Co-Responders Program.
 - There is also an additional \$2.5M for the Violence Interrupters Program.
 - Funding has also been proposed for the Opioid Task Force.
- There has been an uptick of crime in the city, although Fulton’s rates are fairly stable as compared year-to-year. Many residents are frustrated with lack of police response, but violent/serious crime calls are very labor intensive and calls are prioritized. CM Palmisano has advocated for physical and mental wellness support for officers as well as the increased funding for Violence Interrupters.

Minneapolis Park Board Update: Commissioner Brad Bourn reported:

- He is aware of the problematic youth behavior at Pershing Park. Unfortunately, this is being seen at many parks throughout the city. MPRB has developed a combination of strategies to try to address the behavior including an outdoor staff supervisor (until the weather gets too cold), Street Reach, increased Park Police patrols as best they can and locking the basketball hoops at night.
- The Southwest Parks Plan has had an initial hearing with MPRB and final vote is expected within the next month. Comments can still be made directly to Comm. Bourn.
- The homeless encampments should close down by early November. MPRB does not have a strategy for safe placement of encampment residents and will have to rely on community and social service partners to ensure a safe transition.
- MPRB is facing a \$6M shortfall and will need to cut from the general fund; it is hoped those cuts can come from administrative functions and allow them to focus on after school and youth programming.
- The Minnehaha Regional Trail Master Plan comment period has closed, but not public hearing has been scheduled. This *may* come up for vote in Feb., 2021.

Virtual Silent Auction:

Chris reported that our online Silent Auction was successful and the whole process to set up, register, bid and check out was very smooth. We had 50 registered bidders and a gross income of \$1754. The auction was presented as a “reverse” auction and neighbors donated gift cards to their favorite businesses; FNA also purchased many gift cards and a couple of businesses who did not suffer an economic downturn with the pandemic insisted on donating.

State of Minnesota Update: State Senator Scott Dibble and State Representative Frank Hornstein discussed:

- Due to the ongoing Peacetime Emergency, they are required to have a special session once a month. This emergency is needed in order to keep things moving and supported for those in need during the pandemic. There has been a great upheaval, both personally and economically, due to COVID-19.
- The House has just passed a bonding bill and the Senate will likely pass it tomorrow.
- Some transportation bills have passed and they have made forward progress on environmental issues.

Friends of Fulton Awards: A special Friends of Fulton Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to John Finlayson and Dave Delvoe upon their retirement from FNA.

Board Elections: The slate of candidates for the Fulton Board of Directors was presented. There are seven candidates for 6- two year terms and 1- one-year term; there is still another one-year term available due to a recent resignation. Each candidate briefly introduced themselves. There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion to approve the slate of candidates by a vote of acclamation was carried by unanimous vote. The following people have been voted in for a two-year term expiring in October, 2022: Chris Black, Craig Brown, Katharine Brown, Jane Kohnen, Carolina Li and Kirk Weber; Andrea Davila has been voted in for a one-year term expiring in October 2021.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board: _____

Signed: _____

Ray Klahr, Secretary