

**Minutes of March 10, 2021
FNA Meeting held on Zoom**

Board Members Present: Chris Black, Andrea Davila, Ray Klahr, Jane Kohlen, Carolina Li, Jill Lock, Michael Wagner, Kirk Weber and Steve Young

Guests: Ruth Olson, Todd Schuman, Jack Jerome and CM Linea Palmisano

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. Jane would like to add an idea for a medical equipment inventory to the agenda.

Minutes: Minutes from the Feb. 10, 2021 FNA meeting were reviewed. Kirk moved to approve the Minutes; Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. An online vote was held on 2/28/2021 passing a motion to approve a Business Support Grant Program.

Ward 13 Update: Council Member Palmisano discussed:

- The city has put in place a safety and communications infrastructure (Joint Information System) for the trial of former MPD Officer Derek Chauvin. Jury selection has begun. Opening statements are expected around 3/29 with jury instruction/deliberation expected to begin around 4/26.
- Representative Omar held Congressional hearings this week in Washington D.C. regarding the increased helicopter noise in Minneapolis. It has been determined that this is primarily from media sources, not law enforcement. The city will actively communicate that with residents.
- The variance appeal at 4724 York has been withdrawn, but the problems with the structure remain.

Treasurer's Report: Chris reviewed the February Treasurer's report. A correction in accounts was completed and newsletter and rebates were paid out. Ruth will gather information about the Propel loans payback schedule.

Kid A Marketplace: Matt Rittenhouse, owner of Kid A Marketplace, presented an opportunity to FNA and the Fulton Community. Kid A buys/sells quality used kid gear as a way to make sustainability easy for parents and keep items out of the landfills. They have scheduled a Kid Clutter Pick Up Drive in Fulton for April 15-19. Interested parties can register on their site to have any items picked up during the Drive. Kid A will pay for gear that is in resellable shape and will then donate everything else they pick up to Value Village, Bikes for Kids, etc. The customer has the option to decline the purchase price offer from Kid A. They also have the option to donate any funds received to a local non-profit, like Lake Harriet PTA. This could be expanded as a fund-raising opportunity for FNA. Discussion was held about the purchasing process, donation receipts and tax implications. Several Board members expressed concern about FNA promoting a for-profit business. Historically, FNA has partnered with non-profit organizations, but not for-profits. Although the Board appreciates the concept and the sustainability, they declined to promote the drive using its communication networks as they do not feel that it aligns with their non-profit structure.

Ewing Avenue Municipal Lot Position Statement: Given the uncertainty of City plans for the Ewing Avenue lot, Steve would like FNA to create a position statement noting our goals for the property. The businesses at 50th & France rely on the lot for their livelihood. Talking points to consider:

- Off-street parking is needed at 50th & France in order to ensure the sustainability of the business node.
- If the public parking is taken away, the City of Edina would be shouldering 100% of the public parking options (with their ramps) and, in essence, subsidizing Minneapolis.
- There is a history of significant investment from the businesses both by the donation of land as well as business owners paying the annual maintenance costs.
- The goals of affordable housing and public parking are not mutually exclusive. There needs to be a compromise balance between housing needs and sustaining businesses.
- The city has a vested interest in a vital business community and needs to support them.
- Consider specifying a certain number of spots at a minimum that must be retained for public parking if the lot is repurposed for housing.
- The variety and make up of the businesses create a large piece of the character of Fulton neighborhood.
- If the lot is turned into housing, this will increase the need for on-street parking even further than just losing the parking in the lot.
- Steve will find out the average occupancy rates; there is a 3 hour time limit and a Critical Parking Zone (limited parking) already in place for street parking on the west side of Ewing.
- Consider what other parcels in Fulton could be leveraged for affordable housing instead of this public lot.
- The city needs to put in the infrastructure for better public transportation if there is limited parking available.
- 50th & France attracts shoppers from all over the metro area, not just Minneapolis- those people drive cars to get here.

Funding Issues: Chris reported:

- Neighborhood Forests has asked for a donation to support their tree give-away program for children and schools and libraries. There are no Fulton organizations taking part this year, although Carondolet and Lake Harriet Schools have participated in the past. The Board agreed to not be a funding partner this year, but will consider future requests.
- Further discussion was held about how to get trees into the neighborhood. Kirk will speak with the Environment Committee on how to best use those funds. The committee will not be doing the pollinator give-away at the Farmers Market this summer.
- The \$5K donation to rebuilding West Broadway has been completed out of our NRP Phase I Streetscape contract. During this process, it was discovered that the contract expired in 2017 and has now been closed since we had not used it since then. The funds remain in Phase I but are now uncontracted. The Finance Committee will discuss how to best utilize and reallocate those funds; Steve would like to be involved in that process and offer an historical perspective.

Mission Statement: Ray discussed that FNA does not have a formal Mission Statement and now would be a good time to consider creating one given our focus on equity, business support, etc. Andrea and Carol volunteered to work on this with Ray.

Coordinator's Update:

- Ruth is attending the weekly city meeting regarding safety and communication for the Derek Chauvin trial. She will pass on important information to the Board and the neighborhood using our communication platforms.

- The Lake Harriet Equity Team’s equity workshops (funded by an FNA Small Grant) kicks off on March 24 with a presentation about “Micraggressions and Bias 101”. This will be promoted in our newsletter and website. Ruth will send the registration link to the Board.
- A locally produced segment on the TV show The American Dream is looking for someone to interview about the Fulton neighborhood.
- With the open seat for District 6 on the Minneapolis Park Board, candidates are looking for opportunities to meet with neighborhood groups. Our 501(c)3 status and guidelines from NCR promote equal access to all candidates and prohibit campaigning at meetings. FNA can work with other neighborhoods to consider a Candidate Forum.

FNA Committees:

- Racial Equity is breaking into small groups to define purpose and actions in a number of areas. The website has been updated to include a tab and committee page.
- Finance has updated their Charter. They have kicked off the Business Small Grant Support Program and have already received two applications. The program is available to local businesses that have donated to our Silent Auction in the past 5 years; we need to add Broders’ and Hana Bistro to the list.
- Streetscape/Traffic/Transportation and Business (STTAB): Michael would like to organize a walking tour of the business nodes.

New Business: Ruth’s contract was renewed for another year for 11 hours per week at a rate of \$47/hr.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

Approved by FNA Board President: _____

Signed:

Andrea Davila

Andrea Davila, Secretary