

**Minutes of April 14, 2021**  
**FNA Meeting held on Zoom**

**Board Members Present:** Chris Black, Ray Klahr, Carolina Li, Jill Lock, Michael Wagner, Liz Williams and Steve Young

**Guests:** Ruth Olson, Todd Schuman, Jack Jerome, Brenda Everitt, Clair Daley, Amanda Niskode-Dossett, Larry Matsumoto and CM Linea Palmisano

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

**54th St. Resurfacing Project:** Larry Matsumoto of Minneapolis Public Works presented a small street resurfacing project for W. 54th St. from Zenith to France. This street is shared with Edina and is being done as part of a larger Edina project, although Minneapolis will be doing the work. All pedestrian ramps and gutters will be updated and some storm sewer repair work will be done. There will be a virtual public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on May 25. Properties along 54th St. will be assessed for the work per the Uniform Assessment Rate, which will be approximately \$1,110-1,200 per property.

The desperate need for sidewalk replacement at 50th & France was also discussed. This area is part of a Special Services District and is not on the schedule for replacement. Larry thinks that Public Works might have the capacity to add this to their 2022 schedule; he will look into it and report back.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the March 10, 2021 FNA meeting were reviewed. Steve moved to approve the Minutes; Jill seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Ward 13 Update:** Council Member Palmisano discussed:

- The death of Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Center is another example of the systemic racism that exists in our community and needs to be rooted out of our policing. She believes that we need to do things differently and welcomes feedback on where she should focus her efforts.
- Following the death of Mr. Wright, some individuals have been exploiting the protests and breaking into business in Minneapolis (e.g. 46th & Nicollet, 54th & Lyndale.)
- The Chauvin trial will go to jury next week; unsure how long deliberation will last.

**Pershing Park Concerns:** Illegal activity at Pershing Park has started up again this spring; it is primarily done by a group of teen boys, possibly from both Southwest and Edina High Schools. The Park Police have increased patrols in general at Minneapolis parks. However, their resources are strapped with decreased staffing and many Part 1 crimes (with victims) that need response.

- Now that schools are back in-person, students have been coming down to the park on their lunch hour to smoke pot.
- Nearby neighbors are concerned that the behavior has already been bad this spring- how much worse will it get in the summer with nicer weather?
- Neighbors have seen increased patrols, but they are not able to get there fast enough when illegal activity is happening.
- Amanda has been working with Southwest High School to engage their on-site security person to help supervise.

- The lack of resources at Pershing Park right now (as the building remains closed) is a big part of the problem. The park is the center of Fulton neighborhood and it is a larger issue than just for those nearby neighbors. The District 6 Park Commissioner has not been of assistance.
- Other parks are having similar problems. MPRB has not responded to requests for more information about best practices and what has worked in other areas.
- Fulton neighborhood needs to advocate for more resources since the building is closed. MPRB is trying to hire a part-time staff person to help monitor the courts. There needs to be an adult presence - someone with the authority to enforce the policies.
- Michael, Carolina and Jill would like to be more involved; Ruth will share their emails with Amanda.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris reviewed the March Treasurer's report. Security rebates, two small grants and regular monthly expenses were paid out.

**Business Grants:** The Business Support Grant Program was started to provide support to businesses who had partnered with FNA previously with the Silent Auction and are now struggling due to the pandemic. Outreach was done to all business partners, but we found that a few had closed and several reported that they had not suffered a financial downturn. Others that had been affected indicated that they were doing OK and would prefer that grant funds go to their peers who were suffering more. In the end, we received three applications: Unwind Within, Yoga Fit Studios and Gather. All three of the businesses have been good partners to FNA. Michael moved to grant these three businesses with \$1,000 each; Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Discussion was then had about opening the program wider to all businesses in Fulton, regardless of previous partnership. Michael moved to continue the program to more businesses, using the same guidelines, up to an additional \$7,000 in grants; Carolina seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. If the funds are still not depleted, consider further distribution of funds to previous awards.

**Board Openings and Vice President Role:** Katharine and Craig Brown have moved out of Fulton neighborhood; this leaves two openings on the Board and the role of Vice President needs to be filled. Brenda Everitt and Todd Schumann are considering joining; Ray will follow-up with them.

**Ewing Avenue Municipal Lot Position Statement:** Based on brainstorming and feedback generated at the March 10 FNA meeting, a draft position statement for the future use of the Ewing Ave Municipal Lot was drafted.

- Overall, it looks good.
- Concern was expressed with the incompatible goals of maintaining all existing parking and requiring one space per residential unit created with the goal of affordable housing. It would be too expensive to develop the housing with these requirements because the parking would have to go underground or underneath any structure.
- Due to its proximity to a transit corridor, the site would qualify to request a waiver for any parking requirements for residential units developed. This would force resident parking onto the already congested residential side streets.
- However, businesses need off-street parking to maintain their livelihood.
- Is there an option for a "shared use" agreement that would require a parking lot for businesses that could only be used by residents in the evenings?

- Consider not specifying a certain number of spaces, but instead ask for “meaningful parking opportunities” for businesses and residents. However, this would be too vague and some Board members felt that a number of required spots needs to be specified to be taken seriously.
- A neighbor who lives across the street from the lot noted that the lot is highly utilized and that it will be critical to state what we want and then negotiate from there. Parking is already critical and any reduction in off-street spots will have a negative effect on the businesses and the neighborhood.
- There is no current factual data available (especially pre-pandemic) as to how utilized the lot has been. We need to determine what is truly needed to support everyone involved and also respond to the changing city requirements. Steve, Ruth, Chris, Michael and Carolina will form a small group to further answer this question and report back to the Board.

**Coordinator’s Update:**

- A small group will be formed to work on alternate engagement activities during this second year of the pandemic. Ruth will ask Jill; Ray and possibly Carol will help.
- El Travieso is pursuing a full liquor license; a hearing is expected in May.

**FNA Committees:**

- Racial Equity has broken into small groups, in addition to the large group, to define purpose and actions in a number of areas. The Community Listening group is working on a digital survey to help guide the goals of each group.
- Finance is looking at how to reallocate the 50th Street funds and long term association funding.
- Streetscape/Traffic/Transportation and Business (STTAB): The walk Michael suggested to look at various needs in the neighborhood and business nodes will be postponed until May 15 in hopes for better weather and more vaccinations.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ruth Olson, Neighborhood Coordinator

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

Signed:

Andrea Davila, Secretary