

Fulton Neighborhood Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Wednesday, February 11 2026, 6:30 pm
FNA Meeting held in Pershing Park Rec Center and google meet

Board Members Present: Sophie Su, Ian Harrison, Kristen Simmons-Ingle, John Bender, Seth Salenger, Tawnya Artisst-Anderson, Melanie Heu-Kanow (in person) Mike Youngblood, Blake Ward (online), Jane Kohen (in person at meeting start, then left during budget discussion)

Guests: Sasha Jensen (staff) Tom Eaton, Stephanie Lan and Virginia Salazar-Bellis (residents) and Kua Xiong (Pershing Park Director) (in person) Marie Clare Rietz (resident) (online)

FNA Board Meeting called to order at 6:30p.m.

Minutes from the January Board meeting: Tawnya verified that Sasha had contacted SW Voices to cancel the recurring payment as she stated she would, and asked to have the minutes amended to show that the January board meeting was ended due to an ICE related shooting. Kristen moved to approve the amended minutes. Ian seconded and it was approved unanimously.

Staffing update: Sophie shared that Sasha has chosen to not renew her contract with Fulton and is going to pursue other opportunities. Her last official day will be February 27, but has offered hours to help train the new staff if needed. She will be working on cleaning up and taking herself off of accounts the rest of the month and will complete the Metro Transit Grant.

Lunar New Year: Sophie gave event updates, including promotions, volunteers and safety precautions. Kua handed out the park's safety protocols in case of a presence by ICE. A discussion took place about what to do if we don't get enough volunteers or people to be escorts. The committee will keep an eye on how things progress and how similar events are handled.

FNA Coordinator Role Opening: Sophie spoke about the job duties for the new coordinator. She and Melanie plan to do the interviews. Krsiten said she could help as well, and Tawnya offered to be a back up. A conversation took place about how to re-scope the job description and where it should be posted. Sophie said she would send a draft job description to the board.

Neighborhood Priorities Game/Budget planning: Sophie presented the game, explained the rules, and answered questions. In addition, a few board members brought additional pitches and they are available in the meeting materials folder. Board members could speak to or pitch certain cards they wanted to promote. All of the board members voted on their 4 votes on what they wanted to support on the spreadsheet with all of the cards. Board members not at the meeting had the opportunity to vote before the meeting. After the votes were in, a discussion took place about how these cards related to the proposed budget. The financial information on each card was looked at and using those numbers, Sophie moved to approve a \$82,000 budget for 2026. John seconded. The budget included the following initiatives and expenses:

1. Community Dinners
2. Fall Festival / Silent Auction
3. Housing and Renter Support

4. Block Captain Engagement Program
5. Mutual Aid / Direct Aid
6. Mailed Paper Newsletter
7. Earth Day Clean Up and Free Geek Electronics Recycling
8. Ice Cream Social and Musical
9. Annual Meeting
10. Coordinator
11. Bookkeeper
12. Fulton Friendship Crew
13. Increase Small Grants

John seconded the motion, and the discussion was opened.

Key discussion points included:

- Our goal is to pass a proposed 2026 budget in February. We acknowledged limits in time, money, and board capacity.
- The board discussed a minimum expectation of two events per board member per year, represented as capacity tokens. A total of 24 tokens reflected the number of people needed to support the full proposal.
- Housing and Renter Support included a proposed 1:1 public match. There was discussion about potentially reducing the \$20,000 allocation, but no change was made within this motion.
- The 2025 budget was approximately \$50,000 and is currently about \$7,000 over budget (Seth to provide further detail).
- A prior board recommended maintaining a \$100,000 reserve, approximately 200% of operating costs (typically, nonprofits target 3-6 months' operating costs; FNA spends about 4,000 per month).
- Community Dinners were discussed as either revenue-neutral or revenue-generating, depending on execution.
- Fall Festival / Silent Auction was clarified. The prior \$8,000 to \$10,000 cost estimate was inaccurate, and the line was adjusted to reflect a net positive of \$5,000.
- The distinction between Renter Assistance and Mutual Aid was discussed. Mutual Aid may include legal services and emerging needs beyond rent support.
- The Annual Meeting budget is based on restaurant and mailed paper notice costs.
- Bookkeeping costs were discussed. Recent invoices have been higher than prior months, with one month at \$1,300 versus a historical range of \$500 to \$600. Current bookkeeping costs represent approximately 34% of the previously suggested budget. We discussed exploring a candidate who could handle both coordination and bookkeeping.
- There was extended discussion regarding reserve levels, fundraising strategy, and overall risk tolerance.
- The board discussed whether to fund the high-end (\$82,000) or lower-end (approximately \$60,000) of projected expenses.
- An additional \$5,000 in operating costs was added to reflect ongoing baseline expenses, including coordinator, bookkeeper, Lunar New Year, board retreat, and general operating costs.
- There was discussion about voting line by line. That approach would have required defeating the original motion and introducing a new motion structured differently.
- The spreadsheet was updated during the meeting to clarify restricted versus unrestricted funds.
- Members were reminded that additional initiatives not currently listed could be brought forward for a vote, understanding that the budget is limited and not pre-approved for new items.

After a lively discussion, a vote was taken, with 4 yes votes and 3 no votes. Mike and Blake, who were online, said they couldn't hear well and didn't feel they had enough information to vote. Seth said he would follow up with them after the meeting, and they could vote via email after that conversation. Seth will use the information on the game cards to come up with a budget document to use for the year and give it to our bookkeeper and the city.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

Minutes Submitted by Sasha Jensen, FNA Coordinator.

Addendum to the minutes to capture results of e-vote:

Because Mike and Blake attended virtually, it was agreed they may participate via eVote. Abstentions are not permitted. A majority is required to pass. If the motion fails, a new motion would need to be proposed and the 2026 budget would reopen via eVote.

After e-voting concluded, the following email was sent by the FNA President to the full board:

From Sophie via email

Hi FNA Board,

Voting has closed. The motion to adopt the proposed 2026 operating budget of \$83,800 has passed with a majority vote (5 Yes, 3 No).

[The approved budget includes:](#) Community Dinners; Fall Festival/Silent Auction; Housing & Renter Support; Block Captain Engagement; Mutual/Direct Aid; Mailed Newsletter; Earth Day Clean-Up & Free Geek Recycling; Ice Cream Social & Musical; Annual Meeting; Coordinator; Bookkeeper; Fulton Friendship Crew; and an increase to Small Grants.

The EEF Plan (bike fix-it station and SWHS scholarship) is deferred for future budgeting (2027–2029) and may be implemented within that time frame.

In alignment with the board's approval, all disbursements — including rental assistance and mutual/direct aid — will follow our nonprofit governance and due diligence requirements. Proper documentation, including EIN verification and compliance with our guidelines, will be completed prior to any distribution of funds. The Executive Board and initiative leads will coordinate with the City, our bookkeeper and our coordinator as needed.

We recognize this was a thoughtful and at times challenging discussion. While some initiatives were not included in the 2026 budget, they may still move forward through Small Grants (if eligible), external grants, fundraising, or by building additional volunteer/partner capacity before resubmission. Once additional funding or capacity is secured, you are welcome to bring the proposal back to the FNA Board for reconsideration.

Next Steps:

- Treasurer to finalize and circulate the updated budget to the bookkeeper and Executive Board
- Executive Board to sign off on the 2026 budget
- Treasurer to confirm finalized 2026 budget details
- Coordinator to document outcomes in the February 2026 meeting minutes

I will also be sharing board requests for committee leads to support key initiatives, including Housing & Renter Support, Mutual/Direct Aid, Communications, Fulton Friendship Crew, and Small Grants.

Please also share the [live posting for the FNA Coordinator position](#).

Thank you all for your engagement and diligence throughout this process.

Sincerely,
Sophie Su

FNA President