

**North End Neighborhood Organization-Board of Directors  
Tuesday January 2,2018 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting came to order at 6:32 with welcome and introductions

**Present:** Alison Warford, Rich Holst, Betti Ingman, Patrick McGuire, Karin Groening, Steven Struhar, Ethan Osten, Keith Allen, Katheryn Schneider

**Absent:** Noel Nix, Jeanette Jones, Shannon Eckman, Matt Sletten

A motion to approve the agenda M/S/A

A motion to approve the consent agenda M/S/A

**Action Item: Vote on the Election Section of the Bylaws**

In December the election changes were discussed. Betti Ingman went over the bylaws regarding the election changes, noting that any strikethroughs are being removed, changing precinct to quadrants, adding quarterly special elections, expanding notification on election times, allowing write in candidates on the day of elections. A separate document defining the election procedures will be created. The bylaws are fluid and being revised in section. A motion to approve the bylaw changes was M/S/A, passed unanimously.

**Presentation: Gretchen Buechler-CURA –Housing Survey Results**

Gretchen Buechler distributed copies of the housing condition survey. In October a housing survey was led as case study on the particular area-the area was defined as a tipping point. A survey was conducted and the study is the survey results and additional data. Surveyors had training and 300 residential surveys were conducted. Average scores on different features had lower scores, the overall ranking was 1.5. Roofs, sidewalks and vegetation need additional work.

There was no significant difference between homesteaded and non-homesteaded properties. Assessed values are lower in the North End, sale prices to assessed value should be a ratio of 1 but in the North End there is a ratio of 1.44. These properties have higher assessments than the rest of the North End. Recommendation-take the information and use it in the housing plan plus-work on identified issues, look at special assessments over time, consult residents on housing needs.

**Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee**

The committee met and discussed the strategic plan, contract and timeline with GrayHall consultants and board calendar.

**Safe Neighborhoods**

The committee is working on a door hanger for residents the community engagement unit liked the hanger and information on how to get an alley light was on Facebook-it migrated to other neighborhood pages.

## **Friends of the North End-no report December meeting cancelled**

### Transportation

A discussion with D10 regarding Dale Street and their survey has been shared, there is an attempt to get wayfinding signage to 35E on Rice Street before Pennsylvania Avenue.

There was discussion regarding three resolutions brought by the transportation committee; Resolution supporting the addition of a traffic signal at Western and Maryland Avenues Western/Maryland:

Whereas the intersection of Maryland Ave and Western Ave is one of the few major intersections in the North End that does not have a traffic signal;

Whereas the length between Dale St and Rice St is among the longest distances along an arterial street in Saint Paul without a traffic signal;

Whereas this intersection is difficult to navigate for traffic on both Western and Maryland, especially when making a turn;

Whereas this intersection has seen multiple crashes over the years, exacerbated by the high speeds achieved on Maryland Ave; and

Whereas this intersection is especially difficult for pedestrians to cross, despite a busy Metro Transit bus stop and school bus traffic;

Therefore, be it resolved that the North End Neighborhood Organization (D6) supports the addition of a traffic signal at this intersection, and urges the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County to work to install one as soon as possible.

A motion to accept the resolution was M/S/A unanimous

Resolution recommending Alternate #1 at the intersection of Western Ave and Wheelock Pkwy

Whereas the City's reconstruction of Wheelock Pkwy provides once-in-a-generation opportunities for safety improvements along that street, especially at major intersections;

Whereas the intersection of Wheelock Pkwy, Arlington Ave, and Western Ave is one of the largest intersections in the city, with five "legs" and two at irregular angles;

Whereas adjacent property owners were evenly divided on the design of the intersection, with no clear preference;

Whereas it is now an accepted "best practice" to simplify intersections wherever possible, including by means of closing certain streets at intersections; and

Whereas green space is at a premium in the North End, and the park setting of Wheelock Pkwy is intended to emphasize greenery and green infrastructure;

Therefore, be it resolved that the North End Neighborhood Organization recommends Alternative 1 for this intersection, which would close Western Ave for traffic to or from Wheelock Pkwy.

A motion to send in a resolution Wheelock/Arlington/Western was M/S/A with one nay due to the fact of accessibility issues not clearly identified

Resolution requesting a traffic circle at Rose and Sylvan

Whereas the intersection of Sylvan St and Rose Ave is adjacent to a busy school, the Saint Paul Music Academy, which has requested traffic calming in its area;

Whereas neighborhood traffic circles have been established by the Saint Paul Public Works Department as an effective tool for traffic calming on a neighborhood scale; and  
Whereas the Public Works Department has shown willingness to experiment with temporary or interim implementations of traffic calming devices;

Therefore, be it resolved that the North End Neighborhood Organization (D6) requests Saint Paul Public Works to explore options for a neighborhood traffic circle at this intersection, if necessary by using temporary materials as an interim solution.

A motion to accept the resolution on Sylvan/Rose was M/S/A unanimous  
Land Use & Housing-no report December meeting cancelled

#### **Youth Adhoc**

Karin there was an event on Thursday at McDonough Housing with between 50-60 kids. There was media coverage and five people expressed interest in the organization.

#### **Additional Updates**

The 2018 contract documents are in and the final reimbursement request for 2017 is into the city.

#### **Discussion: Grayhall Consultants-Discussion on the Strategic Plan Process**

NENO received a grant from the Saint Paul Foundation for strategic planning. GrayHall consultants were engaged to assist us in the creation of a strategic plan. Questions include; who is being the most involved in the planning-how we got here-to review the mission and value and set goals. There have been a couple of meetings with the Executive Committee. A motion to form an adhoc committee made up of community members and board members was M/S/A. Keith Allen, Karin Groening expressed interest in the committee, other members and neighbors should call the office and let staff know. Discussion regarding where we were and how we got to where we are now was discussed. The 1977 north end focus study was brought up. .

The mission statement needs to be created. The stakeholder groups, McDonough, Keystone, CDCs, City, Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Open Cities, NEBA, schools, Block Nurse, Youth, faith based, HealthEast, KOM, Lewis Park residents association and others will be contacted. We need to hear from friends and foes alike-critical feedback is important.

#### **New Business**

There will be a special election in February to seat members.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business

#### **Community Comments**

There were no community comments

#### **Board Comments**

Keith Allen thanked Thao Xiong on the red line green line and history comments and the North End of the 1970s was very different in welcoming people than it is today.

Should NENO sponsor a 5K run at trout brook and donate funds to programming? It is something to look into.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM

