

North End Neighborhood Organization Board of Directors
September 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Present: Tammie Johnson, Karin Groening, Steve Struhar, Alison Warford, Ethan Osten, Katheryn Schneider, James Berka,

Absent: Betti Ingman (resigned), Matt Sletten, Henrik Weber, Suyapa Miranda, Thaw Tu So

The meeting came to order with welcome and introductions at 6:30 PM Welcome and Introductions

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

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

Committee Reports

Katheryn Schneider: Friends of the North End

Katheryn reported that the committee was working on the Marydale Festival, there are 40 participants to date and registration is still open. There is a beer garden, kids' activities, four bands, food trucks and artists participating. Committee members walked the site to begin a map. More volunteers are needed, especially for set-up. Tammie Johnson will try to get rec center basketball players to volunteer.

Steve Struhar: Safe Neighborhoods

The motion light grant has been submitted and it will be presented at next week's STAR meeting. Once the STAR board reviews, a resolution will go to the City Council and once it passes at council we can begin purchasing the lights and get them out to neighbors and businesses.

Steve Struhar: Governance

Suyapa Miranda was named chair of the committee. They are working on policies and procedures

Rich Holst: Executive Committee

The Executive committee will provide oversight of the Strategic Plan. A meeting regarding shots fired is being planned for the North End.

Steve Struhar/Kerry Antrim: Land Use & Housing

The committee recommended approval of the license application for 1176 Dale Street. Michael Buelow spoke regarding the development on Rice and Sycamore.

Annette Kuyper: Saint Paul Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network

Anette Kuyper spoke about the history and what Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is about. They attempt to replicate services veterans would receive in active duty. There is a steering committee of service providers to synchronize their efforts serving veterans of every age. There are 227 members in the Minnesota Yellow Ribbon Network building a network to identify resources. A challenge is identifying elderly veterans to connect them to Ramsey County Veteran Services. It is challenging to get the word out. A goal is to have every neighborhood in Saint Paul send a representative from the community to the Steering Committee. Partnerships are needed to get the word out. Vietnam, Korean and WWII veterans are not getting service they could because they do not know about the project. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon serves everyone affected by any branch of military service, children, spouses, parents, siblings, and military connected person are eligible for resources and services. Through the Steering Committee they find ways to connect with providers.

They are requesting we help get their information out and assist in identifying additional partners, encourage veterans to connect with Ramsey County Veterans Services.

Julian Roby: Police Civilian Review Internal Affairs Review Commission

Julian Roby is the coordinator for the Civilian Review process. Rachel Sullivan Nightingale is a commissioner on the panel that reviews complaints. In 2001 the review board was created with input from the NAACP and Justice Department. The board reviews citizen complaints. Complaints can be made by mail, internet or in person. Citizens cannot submit an anonymous complaint. The commission reviews the complaint and puts forth recommendations to the Chief of Police.

Rachel Sullivan-Nightingale spoke about the process commissioners use; they look at the complaints, review the case, and make a recommendation for discipline. Their recommendations are not binding but are considered along with those from Internal Affairs. Decisions rest with the Chief.

Since complaints are taken on-line, on paper (mailed), or in person, an intake center would be an additional platform. An intake center would be responsible for taking the complaint, training will be provided. Currently two district councils are intake centers.

A motion to have NENO be an intake center was M/S/A unanimously.

New Business

Betti Ingman has resigned so a Vice Chair is needed. This position has to be elected. A member must have been on the Board for one year (October 2017) or earlier. A new Vice Chair will be elected at the October's meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business

Community Comment

Wendy Zarse a neighbor read a statement to members:

The Land Use Committee minutes posted from January of this year states that if the issue of a basketball hoop at River East is to be revisited, "there will need to be a community process." I don't know what your definition of a community process is, because I am a member of this community, and I was not part of any such process. I am actually the community member that led to this being brought to the attention of D6 in the first place.

At least 5 of the 7 members present for that January meeting were well aware of who the community members were that should have been included in that suggested revival. Why were we left out? What makes it even more questionable is that this comment came "unofficially from the board." Does this mean the idea came from one of your neighborhood socials? By name, which board members will own up to their desire for River East to have a permanent basketball hoop? Could it be the River East school teacher that was a member of this board at the time?

In April, Land Use was apparently visited by SPPS and gave them the hoop. Why was the language of the original agreement not taken under advisement? It is as if all history of this process was put through the shredder, never to be brought up again. You may be the "out with the old, in with the new" board, but history can come back to bite! I want to know the names of committee members involved, how they each voted.

Finally, last month the excuse given for this revisit was stated as a change in the by-laws. Seems like a convenient time for some legalese to enter the picture. How does changing something for the betterment of the future give you the right to first abolish what took place in the past? I am still having a very difficult time understanding how any of this happened.

What I do understand, are the conclusions that I have made about this leadership team.

They have exposed their true intentions.

They are incompetent in their understanding of organizational structure.

They failed to be honest and transparent over the past 8 months.

They think that the concerns of community members have no merit and can be ignore

They think that residents can be bullied into silence.

And that, D6/North End Organization and its leadership is not trustworthy.

Wendy Zarse

Wendy Zarse is asking how members voted on the basketball court.

Board Comment

Karin Groening met with Amy Brendmoen and Jason Sole, the Director of Community First Public Safety and discussed the hot spots in the neighborhood. This is the beginning of a longer-term discussion regarding what resources are needed to get people to walk away from gangs and street crime. There needs to be alternatives such as jobs, addiction help, and social services to help people thrive.

Adjourn