

North End Neighborhood Organization

Monday May 4, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Present: Karin Groening, Katheryn Schneider, Steve Struhar, Tyrone Maxwell, Alan Richardson Hoyn, Rich Holst, James Berka Melissa Michener, Gerry Mischke

Absent: Matt Sletten, Alison Warford, Ethan Osten Garrett McDermott

The meeting opened with 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/Updates

- North End Development Team: The team did not meet in May, the conflict of interest statements are ready to be signed by members.

Executive Committee- Board Action: The committee recommended approval of requesting that the Mayor and city council adopt Small Business Predator Lending guidelines. A motion to accept the recommendation was M/S/A

- **Land Use & Housing-Board Action.** The Land Use & Housing Committee recommended approval of the owners request to establish a nonconforming use permit at 1300 Schletti to use the property as a duplex since it was always used as a duplex and recommended approval of a variance regarding the compiling of signatures of properties 100 feet from 1300 Schletti due to the stay at home orders due to the pandemic which would make getting signatures problematic. A motion the approve nonconforming use permit and variance was M/S/A with one no vote.

Safe Housing Legislation

The Land Use & Housing committee discussed this at their April 2020 meeting and could not come to a resolution to recommend the legislative text or not. The committee decided to send the question to the board of directors. At the committee level discussion included; there is no provision for rent caps, informing tenants if a building may be sold is problematic. Smaller mom and pop properties could sell and be bought by investors who will fix up the properties and raise rents, damage deposits versus actual damage that could be caused may raise rents. On University and Lexington a studio apartment is renting for \$1500 per month-that rental cost is not affordable.

The board agreed with the Land Use & housing committee and discussed that vacancies in St. Paul have been low for twenty years and the text is well-meaning but it detracts away from increasing density and ensuring housing is affordable.

A motion to support the legislation as written was not seconded

A motion to acknowledge the text was received and read; the city needs to build more affordable housing on vacant lots-there was no second

It was decided to request the Land Use & Housing Committee discuss increasing housing opportunities and address housing issues in the North End.

A motion to take no action as a board and request members can respond individually (not as organization representatives) was M/S/A

New Business

AARP Grant

The deadline is May 15th and it was decided to submit a second application for salons, barber shops-direct service businesses to receive grants to assist them in re-opening.

Old Business

There was no old business

Board Comment

1199 Rice Street garden needs to be weeded

Community Comment

There was no community comment

Adjourn