

North End Neighborhood Organization
Board of Directors Meeting January 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present: Matt Sletten, Katheryn Schneider, Ethan Osten, Lou Michaels, Dionne Alkamooneh, Vito Sauro, Rich Holst, Michelle Boone, Karin Groening, Alan Richardson Hohn

Absent: James Berka, Tyrone Maxwell, Alison Warford

Guests: Bonni Youngquist, Mick McGibbon, Mikki Murray, Murat Oguz, Stephen Horn, Justine Scattarelli

A motion to approve the agenda was M/S/A (i.e. Moved, seconded, and approved)

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

Executive Committee

The governance committee will begin to meet after the first of the year. Dionne and Michelle have signed up and if others are interested connect with Dionne.

- There is a resident, Mick McGibbon who requested to be on the agenda to discuss the bonding for the Math & Science Academy and his concerns regarding their relationships. This will be under community comment.
- There have been complaints regarding Bob Fletcher and his FaceBook live videos-especially the high-speed chase. There was conversation regarding NENO submit a letter outlining neighborhood concerns, etc. about the Sherriff and his behavior. There is also concern regarding the board members if a letter is written. The committee is not comfortable unless all members sign off on the letter which will be written on behalf of the members. A different approach may be to compose a letter to the Chief regarding this as it involves two entities. A letter could outline neighborhood concerns regarding two departments working cohesively and with clarity. Inviting the Chief, Sherriff and Senior Commander to a Building Community meeting is a possibility.

North End Development Team

Red Peppers will not utilize the funds which \$60k loans and \$40k grant which will revert to the 2019 loan/grant pool at NENDC.

The Taste of Nepali is not turning in required compliance proof. A letter was written mid-December informing the owner the funds will not be expended unless compliance is met. The deadline is the end of February.

Sugar Rush and Giant Wash are ready to move on their projects. A motion to accept the NEDTs recommendation and allocate \$25,000 to Sugar Rush was M/S/A.

A motion to accept the NEDTs recommendation and allocate \$25,000 to Giant Wash was M/S/A.

Red Peppers is requesting grant funds for signage. A motion to accept NEDTs recommendation to allocate up to \$10,000 for signage out of ESNDcs CIB award.

7:00: Special Election

There were open seats for; Quadrant 1, 2 and 4, youth and a business representative. Stephen Horn submitted an application for membership in quadrant 2. Board and community members who live in quadrant 2 voted to seat Stephen Horn as a member. He will be seated at February's meeting.

New Business

Encampment evictions were discussed; there continues to be a large homeless population in Saint Paul and using the police to evict encampment dwellers is an issue. Dangerous and unsafe situations at the encampments were discussed. It was mentioned there are enough rooms in indoor facilities (i.e. hotels, shelters, etc.) that can be used by those who are evicted by the City of Saint Paul. A letter to stop the eviction of encampments was read that called for the City to:

- Convene an emergency St Paul City Council meeting to address these issues;
- Place a moratorium on enforcement of any “illegal” camping ordinance to last the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Halt the clearing and disposal of tents and other sheltering materials to ensure unhoused people do not lose what may be their only present means to self-quarantine and practice social distancing;
- Adhere to the existing statewide eviction moratorium and follow best practices outlined by the National Homeless Law Center

Additional discussion centered on the unsafe and unsanitary conditions of encampments, management of the encampments and the need to get unhoused people inside.

There was no Old Business

There was no Board Comment

Community Comment

Mick McGibbon requested NENO rescind the support for The Math and Science Academy to purchase the building through bonding bills which require support and approval from the City’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority. They plan to purchase the building from the owner. The building is currently tax exempt so that would not change. Mr. McGibbon discussed a relationship between the school and an entity that was sued. The school mentioned the settlement was regarding the use of federal funds from 2009-202 and the Math and Science Academy wasn’t in business during that time. The school is a 501 C3 that is in good standing. No action was taken.

Meeting Adjourned

