

East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting

Thursday, February 2nd, 2023, 7-9 p.m.

The New Uptown Cafe

Virtual Option - WiFi Access Available On-Site

Attending: Thang Holt (Pres.), Adam Olson (Treasurer), Cuyler Dinegan (Coordinator), Josh Christianson (Secretary), Caren Dewar, Dane Van Slooten, Ben Ruxin, Tim Fontaine, Bobbie Keller, Kari Krautbauer, Harry Savage, Molly Downey

1. Welcome - Zoom Ground Rules, Ice Breaker: Thang Holt, President 7:00pm

- a. "Mute" yourself when not speaking
- b. Wait to be called on before speaking, until open forum
- c. Zoom meeting will be recorded for the purpose of writing the minutes

2. Approve Last Month's Minutes 7:15pm

3. Reports 7:20pm

a. President's Report: Thang Holt, President

- + Community Partnership Fund (between \$25,000 and \$50,000), potentially for neighborhood events or renter engagement;
- + We'll be surveyed before applying
- + "Workshops throughout the Cities: 20 sessions throughout 10-month program"
- + Parks & Rec roundtable with Schafer: Focus on improving the usability and safety of parks. Other neighborhood organizations were in attendance, and there is interest in collaboration to achieve these goals.

b. Staff Report: Cuyler Dinegan, Coordinator

- Not sure how many of you heard, but I caught Covid with family over the holiday, have mostly recovered at this point but did miss the better part of 3 weeks of work. Encourage everyone to stay up to date with their vaccines - this variant knocked me out
- Projects:
 - 501c3 Status: We're working with Mission Guardian now to provide all the necessary documents for them to process our revised Articles of Inc. and Form 1023 with the IRS.
 - Logo: Working file finally from the designer, and it was unfortunately created in Apple Pages, a word processing program. This will prevent certain uses in design, and with Andrew's assurance that we're not legally obligated to use the logo, we are considering other options.
 - Feb. Newsletter goes out early next week:
 - Free classes at the Walker Library, *Researching the History of Your Home*
 - Fundraising Dinner for the Ukrainian family
 - Resurrecting interviews with local businesses: Bobbie & Lee
 - Website: updates ongoing
 - EBMS Google Drive: organizing files ongoing.
 - Andrew: 'Last' meeting was this week, he reiterated that he's available

c. Treasurer's Report: Adam Olson, Treasurer

- Current checking balance \$24,272
 - Per Adam, budget is a work in progress. We have access to previous budgets passed

by the Board, and we will use these as a starting point for assembling our next budget which will be approved during the March board meeting.

- No income but there are expenses: Fulton Tech Dump event, Board development (Dec-Jan)
- Outstanding check to Andrew

d. Committee Updates

■ NRP Committee

- Committee met near the beginning of January to discuss engaging neighborhood on how to spend NRP funds. Outstanding questions on how to determine what our exact balance of unspent funds is, and whether we have \$24,000 available to spend immediately. (CD emailed Bob)
- Next meeting date isn't set yet, Adam would like more answers before taking it forward. If folks approve the NRP question in the survey, we can at least move that forward.
- Feb. date TBA: awaiting MPRB information, Bob information
- Cuyler will check in on Snowmobile purchase

■ Livability Committee

- Heard presentation and discussion with PKA Architecture and homeowners, regarding variance request for a proposed project for two adjacent houses on James ave, one a duplex the other a single family house.
- Per applicant, they're now assessing other sites for this project, and requested not to be brought to Board until things solidify

■ Social & Engagement Committee

- **Trolley Signs** to go up along the trolley path and add historical context - this item was approved by the board last year.
 - Park Board has requested we set a date for a public forum on the signs.
 - Proposed Date is next Social Committee Meeting: Thurs, February 23
 - Proposed Location: Zoom
 - Next Steps: Send disclaimer and invite in February Newsletter
- **Future Events**
 - Trolley ride. Anja would like to recreate the neighborhood Trolley ride that was put on by the board last fall. She would lead the efforts. Each trolley event ride costs about \$200
 - Prioritize Earth day. Continue discussion with the committee to determine if we'd like to expand the scope of the event.
- **Welcome Baskets**
 - The social committee is ready to move forward with researching neighborhood welcome baskets and will look into where the funding should come from for these.
- **Next Neighborhood Social is** at Lake & Irving next TUESDAY, Feb. 7, 5–7 PM.
 - Luke will begin contacting other venues for March event.

4. New Business 7:50pm

a. Budget Overview (Adam Olson)

- + We are now using our Operating Reserves; we knew this was coming. At this time, we have \$24,000 on hand + \$25,000 we voted to move from NRP in addition to \$14,000 from the City throughout the year. Ideally, with fundraising, we would have a \$20,000

budget.

- + Now we have time to develop fundraising in a number of different ways We now have budgets from years past, Andrew created complicated systems with them; will decide with Cuyler the level of sophistication / access issues with Andrew's files
- + You all comfortable with finances, generally?
 - + Ben: We can fundraise before that happens, write-off isn't.
 - + Wine Tasting, Labor Day Celebration (no income), Super Sale (<income)
 - + Merch?

b. EBMS AG Annual Report for Board Approval

- + 'Other Liabilities' means....? (\$9,685 - page 6, line 17)
- + Cuyler will reach out Andrew about this

c. 2023 Board Leadership Strategy & Initiatives

- + 1-sheet: Efforts are twofold: 1) getting involved with our neighbors and neighborhood, 2) establish systems for our org to keep us organized and efficient for the neighborhood (financially and logistically)
- + Please review and provide feedback!

d. Logo Update & Action

- + There are so many other ways to draft logos, does not need to go to neighborhood
- + Kari: Could ask about my firm taking this on pro bono, look at timelines? Yes!
- + Neighborhood Boundary Signage needed soon!
- + Adam: ECCO sailboat logo went away, perhaps we could use that as inspiration...
 - + Motion to proceed researching/identifying - seconded! passed!

e. Q1 & Q2 Events Overview (Thang Holt)

+ Board will be coordinating events during the Spring. In April, we are coordinating an Earth Day cleanup. Social event happens next week at Lake & Irving. March meeting will include discussion of a neighborhood party.

f. Neighborhood Priority Survey

- + Goal of deciding how to appropriate funds by end of March; survey releases in February
- + flyers (NOT mailers), newsletters, website, social
- + incentives: VISA gift cards
- + Circle back with Luke on platform (SurveyMonkey? GoogleForm)
- + Target number for this?

g. Master Access/Platform for Board Members

- + Zoom access for Chairs, broader Drive access for all

h. Cuyler's Contract for Renewal - Coming Via Email for Review & Approval

- + Sending out soon

I. Tim: Ukraine family, dad has a job, we need to do more fundraising as they were short on rent recently; EBMS has come through in a big way

J. Archiving: Do we split this up? Would be helpful to create overarching system for all to follow, if we do this piecemeal. Adam's happy to throw an Archive Party. March/April would be realistic, if this is a priority.

- + CUYLER will ask Andrew what the oldest files are we need to keep?

K. Uptown Art Fair: Aug 4-6, Fri-Sun, 2023

L. Welcome Kits for Residents AND Businesses

M. Social Media: Please forward images of stuff you're doing in the neighborhood

5. Update from Council Member Chughtai 8:30pm

- + Constituent delivery work has been made incredibly difficult. Common ways folks interact is 311, online forms, etc. On our end, we don't SEE a breakdown of when 311 complaints have already been made. When folks call our office, we're playing catchup with other systems (311, forms, etc). Will vastly increase response time, reduce bureaucracy.
- + Contentious CC vote around former Roof Depot site in East Phillips, final decision to move ahead with demolishing former site. Trying to build in environmental mediation measures, to mitigate pollution concerns in the neighborhood. I voted against demo, because that's what the majority of affected residences advocated for, but optimistic about the environmental provisions.
- + Harry: Being as MN Legislature is forgiving stadium debt, does that free up NRP money for the neighborhoods?
 - + There's good work happening at the legislature to configure debt relief. That will free up some money, but we're managing expectations - there's no final deal yet. Should debt be forgiven, the way the money is used is determined by the City's existing budgeting process (Depts, Mayor, et al proposing how to use money; CC approving/amending). COULD be used for additional funding for neighborhoods.
 - + There's a large chunk of money made up of unused NRP dollars. I want to be super thoughtful around neighborhood orgs using those. There's a lot of interest in CC's to increase base funding for neighborhood org support.
 - + Thang: Is there a way for us to help, get ahead of this process?
 - + Yes! There are things happening to configure new base formulas. That will come to CC as a presentation by staff. You all need to be paying attention to that, they'll share these at meetings (and meeting questions) ahead of time on the website. Follow these discussions, and share what seems right in terms of next steps, how we should be using unused NRP funds, etc. Make clear what your position is before fall.
 - + Thang: One initiative we're looking at is supporting/engaging tenants in the area. You have office hours planned here in future, but I'd love to hear ways we can fulfill priorities on your end that we could be focusing on?
 - + Engagement with tenants throughout the year.... In the near future, implementation of a consent decree of court-ordered agreement between City and MN on the MPD. Our lawyers are coordinating on this right now. Eventually there will be a decree that will 1) cost a ton, and 2) make massive changes in how policing works. Resident buy-in is going to be a huge part of this.
 - + Spring/summer work around final decision-making on rent stabilization policy.
 - + Just immediate thoughts, there are more of course.
- + CM Chughtai Office Hours: Tomorrow @ Spyhouse 24th/Nicollet / minimum once monthly in Ward 10
 - + If you have leads on places open later in the day/evening, please pass them along!

6. Recap of Action Items 8:40pm

7. Adjourn 8:45pm