****

Annual General Meeting, 6PM, October 12 2021

Annual Meeting Minutes: Done virtually via Zoom

**Called to order**: 6:08pm

**Presided by**: Allan Campbell, Chair

**Note taker**: Michelle Sass

**In attendance**: Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Dave Stougaard, Joey Meiers, Bob Gordon, John Bordwell and newly elected Melanie Fehlberg, Tim Walker, and Megan Betterman

**Absent:** Lynette Davis, Tim Knight

**Announcements and Welcome from the Chair**

* Martha Yunker resigned; board members introduced selves
* Introductions by Timothy Walker, Megan Betterman, and Melanie Fehlberg

**6:08pm - quorum**

* Approval of September minutes, moved by Richard, second by Dave, **approved**

**Announcement by Treasurer**

* Shinebox large expense, producing website and online content for council
  + Contract for $25k, 40% used
* Started paying for Buckthorn Removal
* Bakken commitment for education for neighborhood, wetland watershed education display
  + First payment went through today

**Neighborhood Business**

* Review bylaw amendments (sent via email and also posted on website)
  + New neighborhood name of West Maka Ska and council name of West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council
  + New restriction on more than 25% of the board serving for more than six consecutive years
  + New statement of Purpose
  + New list of committees
  + Motion to approve amendments to bylaw changes, by Dave second by Richard, **approved**
* Election of candidates for new board members
  + Timothy Walker, Melanie Fehlberg and Megan Betterman
  + Motion to approve three new members, motion by Richard second by Joey, **approved**
* Replacement of 3 existing Neighborhood ID signs (old name) with 5 new West Maka Ska ID signs
  + - Motion to approve by Bob, second by Dave/Melanie, **approved**
      * Approval of up to $1k for new ID signs
    - Last July name changed from West Calhoun to West Maka Ska
    - Old signs say West Calhoun- replacing 3 and adding 1 new one on Excelsior and one on 36th Street in front of the Bakken

**Neighborhood Discussions**

* Therese Welsch: excited about work council is doing, resident of Westwood
  + Concerned when at Taberna that when the hotel goes up, they will lose the lake view
* City planning commission approved change of plans for Excelsior and Lake site to apartment building from hotel. Scale will be the same, blocking view for CIDNA neighborhood and Taberna
* Richard: Safety head. Concerns about hot rodding in parking lot, disruptive and loud, damaging to parking surface
  + Park board added barriers in their section
  + Hopeful that Ackerberg will do the same too
  + Goal to prevent spinning tires and doing donuts
  + Alyssa Wendorff (Whole Foods) unaware of hot-rodding in their parking lot over the weekend
  + 1:30-2am takes up all 4 lanes going out towards St. Louis Park
  + Letter was written by CIDNA and WMSNC chairs to Mayor Frey regarding safety concerns. Letter received back from Mayor regarding what is taking place and the collaboration with St. Louis Park Police and state patrol. State patrol reluctant to get involved until action takes place on a state highway (such as Highway 100). Police and city are aware of it.
* C. Sampson: concern regarding density, does not resolve the traffic
  + Density needs to be in proportion to topography of neighborhood
* Tim Walker: Halloween coming up and activity. Anything set in place to keep children safe around trick or treating? As a board do we have any involvement with community members, policeman, to keep everyone safe?
  + MPD has Neighborhood Watch on your Block – can get in touch with MPD to find out what is expected of block captains
    - Many blocks do not have block captains
* Ideas on how to get to know each other better i.e., scheduling events
  + Used to do happy hours 1-2 times per year, on hold due to pandemic (and Delta variant)
  + Megan: meetup.org like a meetup group – find some interest areas and meet outdoors due to pandemic
  + Richard: what events could we put on for demographic in our hood?
    - Local business coupons/discount meal or snack/beverage
  + Bob: how do we get to know our neighbors, some neighbors don’t know each other
    - Goal to collect email addresses
    - Small, encourage 4-6 houses get together
    - Potential to co-sponsor with buildings
  + Melanie: unless giving free food, it is hard to get people to come to get togethers
  + Michael Sanders: idea to have neighborhood event at Bakken, co-sponsor
    - Idea to have open street event jointly with Linden Hills at Bakken
* Ideas to spend ¼ million dollars in Neighborhood Revitalization Funds not put to use, looking for ideas
  + Used funds so far by supporting Bakken/neighborhood with bike racks and educational panels at Bakken, helped rebuild Lake Street and West Broadway commercial districts after unrest following murder of George Floyd, COVID responses
    - $15k unallocated funds (enough PPE attained by the city before they used our money)
  + Looking for more ideas to help improve neighborhood and the city
    - Bob: Ideas to get high schoolers to make mural on the concrete wall along West Bde Maka Ska Parkway.
    - Noise abatement ideas, loud cars on road, violation of noise ordinances, enforcement
    - Council partners with park board, have been trying to find ways to improve greenspace
      * Bureaucracy, conflicts with long term park plans/maintenance contract conflicts
        + Park board is understaffed, safety is main priority
        + Greenspace is park board property
* Priorities for advocacy to City government

**Guest Speakers**

48:16 Video Time (18:48)- Linea Palmisano

* Focus on greatest needs of the city during a changing time for Minneapolis
  + Greatest need is addressing safety issues
  + Great idea to get together, Linea’s office has wireless speaker system that can be used outdoors
    - Able to check out if want to use for neighborhood events, reach out

50:00 (18:50) – Mayor Jacob Frey

* Topic to focus on: Public safety and reform
  + Focus on policy change, many changes over last few years
    - 55% compliance rate with body cameras, instituted disciplinary matrix, now at 95%
    - Banned Warrior Style Training for on and off duty cops
    - Overhauled use of force policy
    - Embedded city attorney during processes
    - Got rid of lower-level pretext stops (low hanging car air freshener, etc.)
    - Working on de-escalation
    - Activated ABLE training
    - Early Intervention System just passed (in the past week)
      * CM Palmisano was on board with this
      * Risk mitigation tool, will see ahead of time officers that may have a problem down the road
  + Safety beyond policing
    - Not every 911 call requires a response with an officer with a gun
    - Rolling out a program on this topic later this year
  + Culture Shift
    - Getting the right officers in, and the wrong officers out
      * Limited ability to get wrong officers out due to mandatory arbitration
      * Need to be able to terminate officers who did wrongful conduct and needs to be reviewed at state level
  + Safety: focus on both/and approach; focus on safety while still having police officers
    - “Defund the Police” – has lost a significant number of officers
      * Force had already been down by 1/3rd , now fewer officers on a per capita basis than any other city in the country
      * Shortage of officers make us one dimensional, only responding to 911 calls versus multi-approach, unable to build out positive police community relations due to running from 911 call to the next 911 call
      * Has 5 additional Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) classes recommended in budget for next year (pending council approval)
      * 16 MPD cameras purchased using American Rescue Act dollars
      * Using civilians instead of using officers for administrative roles
      * Violent crime hot spot task force has been created
      * Adolescent specific group for violence focus
  + Question: who is running the Warrior Training
    - We were not doing Warrior Style training in the city previously
    - Issue is whether officers had ability previously to join a warrior style training seminar/class independently from the city. Once you are trained it becomes muscle memory, learned externally then de-escalation training internally
    - Question: Was the union involved in this style of training?
      * There was pushback from union (formerly Bob Kroll), they are not allowed to use that style of training

1:01 (19:02) - Inspector for fifth Precinct, Katie Blackwell, MPD

* County Homelessness program works closely with city. Being homeless is not a crime
  + More encampments are popping up throughout city, partnering with outreach, call 311
    - Provides resources and housing
  + Call 911 with any public safety events
* 7 auto thefts in West Maka Ska, 50% are stolen with keys in ignition
* Discussed hot-rodding issue occurring in our neighborhood
  + Hot-rodding is a misdemeanor
  + Working with St. Louis Park and discussing landscape designs to protect parking lots
  + State Legislature will review stats in January. Hot rodding is state wide, not just in the city
* Reviewed We Push For Peace
  + <https://www.wepushforpeace.org/>
  + Work with people to resolve issues peacefully
  + Goes to hot spot crime areas to bring peace, as showing up in a uniform can escalate trouble

1:10 (19:10) – Marion Greene, County Commission Chair

* Represents us on Hennepin County Board
* Adding more beds for homeless can serve people in a more culture sensitive way
  + Includes 3 meals per day, open 24 hours
  + People want security, possessions locked up
* Affordable Housing – record breaking investments, lots of coverage in Star Tribune
  + “Hotels to Homes”, social work intensive to get people into permanent housing
* Lake Street, Minnetonka Blvd, Lyndale – as Minneapolis and St. Louis Park become more density populated, the roads are becoming roads more used through neighborhoods with people biking/moving through sidewalks
  + Goal as a county to make sure the environment supports active living, walking, biking

1:24 (19:24) – Linea Palmisano, city councilmember

* Reviewed safety, specifically to West Maka Ska
  + St. Louis Park came to help address some hot-rodding issues in our neighborhood with state troopers, feels very grateful
  + MPD is currently a one-dimensional department. It is critical to keep officers in investigations unit to solve the awful crimes and bring people to justice
* Things take a lot of coordination to make things happen
  + Met Council Commissioner resigned position for personal and professional reasons
    - Currently looking for new Met Council Commissioner
    - If you know anyone interested, reach out
* Election ballet – voting at the Bakken, can vote via absentee ballot, or by early election office too

1:32 (19:33) State Senator Scott Dibble, and State Representative Frank Hornstein

* Reach out to subscribe to newsletter, will get overview of topics addressed over the past year
* Homelessness – more money was put into Emergency Services Program, flexible source of funding
  + Providers, expand capacity at shelters, beds, community living support, disability support
* Jobs and economic development- businesses hurt with COVID/civil unrest
  + $80M went to Main Street Economic Revitalization Program for loans and grants for capital improvement. A lot of money but not enough, distributed on lottery basis
  + $70M Main Street COVID Relief Program
  + Won major victory for public transportation, secured for two new rapid bus transit lines, for major streets, E-Line funding approved, enhanced service for #6, from U of M to Southdale
    - Station pay ahead of time (tap card), board on low platform, runs every 10 minutes
    - Hopeful to have train from Duluth to Minneapolis
      * approved for one from Chicago to Minneapolis

1:52 (19:52) – Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Michelle Sass, coordinator

**Next Council Meeting** •Monthly Meeting November 9 • 6:00pm • Method via Zoom