**West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council Meeting (by Zoom)**

**November 15, 2022**

**Presided by:** Tim Knight, Chair

**Board members in attendance:** Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Tim Knight, Bob Gordon, Lynette Davis, Melanie Fehlberg, John Bordwell, Leyden Victoria Iraheta, Dave Stougaard

**Absent:** None

**Coordinator:** Michelle Sass

Tim called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

**Tim reported that $7,500 had been approved for buckthorn removal since the last meeting by e-vote on October 24th. E-vote motion by Tim, second by Lynette, approved by an 8-0 e-vote.**

**Approval of October minutes:** Richard moved approval. Melanie seconded. **Minutes were approved.**

**Approval of 2023 budget:** Motion by Melanie, second by Allan. **Approved. (See Attachment A)**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Dave said we were coming in on budget. Two upcoming expenses: Bakken $5,000 for wetlands interpretive signage and Tree Trust, $7,500 for buckthorn removal. Dave moved approval of the Treasurer’s Report. Melanie seconded. **Treasurer’s Report was approved.**

Tim reminded the board that a new Treasurer needs to be elected before Dave’s resignation from the board at the end of the year.

**Guest speaker Victoria Balko** **from the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department**. Ms. Balko placed a board representation survey in the Chat and asked board members to fill it out. Tim raised the question of how to get renters as board members when the average turnover of apartments is about every 1 ½ years. Ms. Balko said she would link us to other neighborhoods that have had success in attracting renters to their boards.

**Equitable Engagement**

Tim led a discussion of how to allocate our $48,000 in Equitable Engagement funds that must be contracted by the end of the year (though 10% can be carried forward to next year). Tim, Michelle and Melanie have met with some groups that we could fund, and Tim sketched out a possible budget proposal. They also met with the city, which now seems more lenient about how we can spend this money, but they still ask that we work in partnership with groups rather than just making a donation. Possible allocations of the funds were:

Habitat for Humanity – Undetermined amount. We have a December 10th volunteer opportunity with them.

We Push for Peace – We could give them $24,000 in exchange for collaborating with us on two events that would be in the neighborhood as well as serving the whole city, and they would be a continued presence in our neighborhood beyond just Whole Foods.

Owl camera -- $1,000. This would allow us to hold hybrid meetings. We could also lend or rent the Owl to other organizations that meet at the Bakken. Michelle said that she spoke to four other neighborhoods. Three use the Owl for hybrid meetings, while one meets only online.

The Bakken -- $10,000 to partner with them on several events, e.g., free tickets for Bakkenalia, rooftop movie nights, plus $2,950 for advance payment of rent through 2024.

Merchandise (e.g., bags with logos) to give to new residents. Michelle said we will be ordering safety whistles, canvas bags, etc. that can be stored at The Bakken. Tee shirts were also suggested. Dylan suggested a brochure that describes the organization.

Lynette asked how We Push for Peace will do outreach. Michelle said we can use some of our funds for postcards. Melanie said WPFP does events all the time. Mayor shows up. Timing is tricky. Needs to be done now.

Allan said that instead of coming from the $48,000 in unallocated funds, spending for merchandise could come from the $7,000 the city approved for outreach to young renters.

Richard made a motion and Melanie seconded to allocate Equitable Engagement funds as follows:

10% ($4,800) to be carried forward into 2023.

$24,000 to We Push for Peace

$10,000 to the Bakken for Events

$2,950 to the Bakken for advance payment of 2023 and 2024 rent

$1,000 for the Owl

Remaining amount ($5,250) to Habitat for Humanity in exchange for the volunteer opportunity

In addition, up to $7,000 for merchandise pending NCR approval of its use from our Outreach to Young Renters EE budget.

**The motion was approved**

**Committee Updates**

**Communications, Outreach and Events**

Tim reminded the board that we should have ten volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity work event on December 10. So far we have 3 to 5.

Next meeting is December 13th. Will be virtual. We will have the Owl and can consider hybrid for January.

**Greenspace**

Lynette said we have proposals to do a design for the “bird and bee” garden. Metro Blooms is asking around $11,000-$12,000 while Tangletown is around $2,500-$3,500. Bob suggested we give the job to Tangletown and then go to Metro Blooms if we are unhappy with the result. Melanie made a motion and Bob seconded for the committee to ask Tangletown to start.

**Motion approved.**

**Equitable Engagement**

**Tim asked Dylan to lead the committee. Dylan agreed to.**

**Safety**

Richard said there is a need for an annual meeting focused on safety. Community building is of interest to building managers and businesses. We should do a survey of what people want to discuss and develop an agenda.

We need a follow up to the meeting on rail safety

We asked the light rail project for traffic projections on access roads to the station and have not received an answer.

We still have ADA space constrictions of the Excelsior sidewalk. Need to meet with city.

Car thefts are down. Very little violent crime.

Allan reminded the board of the City’s light rail safety meeting on December 1st. Michelle to send information about the meeting to the board.

**Board Member Appreciation Dinner**

Consensus is that we should have a catered dinner at the Bakken immediately following the January meeting, with a hybrid option. Dylan will work on this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

**Attachment A: 2023 Budget**

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