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Monthly Meeting, 6PM, December 14 2021

December Meeting Minutes: Done virtually via Zoom

**Called to order**: 6:04 pm

**Presided by**: Tim Knight, Chair

**In attendance**: Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Tim Knight, Joey Meiers, Bob Gordon, Lynette Davis, Melanie Fehlberg, Megan Betterman, Tim Walker, John Bordwell, Dave Stougaard

**Absent:** None

**Note Takers:** Bob Gordon & Lynette Davis

No amendments to November Minutes. Motion by Richard, second by Lynette, **approved**

Melanie sent document concerning committee structure. Would like to have each committee have as a goal items to build community engagement, which is the overall theme for the year. Tim: Overall neighborhood council goal: how to engage community. Each committee could discuss at meetings. Formalizing a little bit. Jill Hagen: Volunteering for Megan’s committee (communications).

Treasurer’s Report: Sent some checks Kenny Neighborhood for the park board election forum. But, they had moved. Issues has been resolved. No other action.

Tim: Michelle’s contract is up. Richard and Allan so moves to hire her again, second by Lynette. Would like to increase hours but we have budget constraints next year. 20-35 hours and adjust as needed. Michelle will check with some of the other coordinators. They are concerned about losing hours because of city restrictions. Lynette suggested giving Michelle a bonus this year to be paid in advance with some of our CPP funding that we will losing shortly. Currently, we are not sure how much funding we will have to cover the additional hours needed. Allan suggested a modest pay raise, with a potential bonus at next year’s end. Allan recommended checking with Christie (accountant) to see if she has suggestion on how to give Michelle bonus without rule infraction.Tim 1 suggested hiring Michelle at her current hourly rate, at her current rate of 20-35 hours/month, and to try to figure out a retroactive bonus structure. After discussion with Christie, we will have E-vote before year end.

Allan: New budget starts in January. Existing money does not roll over. David: So far this year she has been paid about $11,500. This year we have spent $35,000. Allan: The total for 2022 is $20,000. Michelle and accounting (and some graphic design) have $14,100. NRP budget has funds but can’t be used for salaries. Have money this year that disappears on December 31. Marketing and comm. $19,000. Need to pay Shinebox. Is there a way to prepay Michelle? Are there other bills coming due that should be paid this year. Dave: Will follow up on invoices for this year. NRP money is money we decide how to spend. Dave: Suggests holding discussion of raise until we see what kind of funds we have. Can adjust as needed if funds are available. Tim: Bonus this year based on a 10 percent of of hours worked this year. No raise on a per hour basis. Allan: Our bookkeeper (Christie) works with other neighborhoods and may have some ideas. Richard: Call question on rehiring Michelle. Motion passes to keep Michelle as coordinator, **approved**.

Coordinator’s report:

Business cards. About $15 for 250. Tim: Generic or individual. Will be getting generic cards: Logo, email, website. Individual or Generic. Bob suggested a small number to be printed on paper instead of cards. Tim recommended having just our logo, e-mail address and website information on cards. We will print a limited number and can add our names if want to. Dave moves. Seconded by Allan, **Approved**.

Neighborhood banners. Allan: would be nice to get banners this year but we could pay for them next year.

Single banner or double. Melanie: Driving in St Louis Park. Double flag one with letters one with text. Megan and Lynette will help. Neighborhood people Meg Forney Kathy Cobb have been involved in the past. No funding has been approved to date. Michelle has estimates from several places. Michelle, Megan, and Lynette will try to pick a vendor and finalize payment before year end. Dave: Moves to approve up to $10,000. Richard and Lynette second motion, **approved**.

FYI Lakeside Center (previously Calhoun Executive Center) wants a new sign to be hung on the front of building over main entrance No problems.

New area newspapers have been announced. Southwest Voices and Southwest Connector. Both new neighborhood papers, looking for content

Tim: Bios for website soon. Bio/photos needed for new/some old council members. Please, submit to Michelle for website

Tim and Megan: Post card to announce to website. West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council with our logo, colors, e-mail, and QR code. Designed by Tim. Adorable. Will likely be final mailer. Motion by Lynette and Richard. Everyone edited it. Seconded by Allan, **approved**.

Guest Speaker: Michael Sanders. Introduce Michael to equitable engagement and a possible happy hour at The Bakken. Joey: Trying reach ages 20-34 as they are under represented. Considering happy hour/young person invite. Tim: We would like to have a series of events over the year. Michael: With covid, would discourage anything before summer. Suggests make it more like a party/science activities. Need to determine parameters. February outdoor does not do well. May at the earliest, avoid spring due to COVID restrictions.

Bakken works with supplier for liquid license. They’re pretty open to working with different groups. Bakken has had successful Bacchnalia Series with local microbreweries

Can increase attendance by partnering with good vendors and if the event is activities related-  No restriction on use of vendors. Should have a theme rather than just “get together.” Currently Bakken is filling up Saturdays and Thursdays are largely booked. Can do a variety of things. Problem is an already busy calendar. Most Friday evenings and Saturdays booked already. Contact Chris at the Bakken to move forward.

Ideas: Bring a Bakken table to an event that would attract children. For older a beer tasting. Looking at several thousand dollars. Movie night for 2022? Not yet set. Star gazing. Number limits: green roof 200, 500+ if included other spaces. Michael will email something about February/Valentine event. Melanie suggested trivia night, scavenger hunt, doggy beauty contest – Melanie and Joey to review (possibly with City Paws in parking lot),

The Bakken is holding a Valentine’s Day evening, highlighting some of the cardiac devices showcased in the museum. Council is considering a Valentine event for the first neighborhood outreach at the Bakken, possibly to be held on Sunday, Feb 13th.

Safety Committee (Richard). Laura from CIDNA has been very helpful. Meeting on Wednesday. Agenda was emailed. Safety Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow night. Melanie would like to join Safety committee, especially as it addresses sidewalk access in the neighborhood. There was a very productive meeting (Tim Walker).

Green space/Land Use: Allan is keeping up on light rail construction. Issue about access for emergency vehicles address/prevent the closing off of Chowen to emergency vehicles, with regards to the Light Rail and Bader projects. Melanie would like to join that committee. Need to check on this. Possible use of funds to help pay for sidewalk widening. 3150 Excelsior sidewalk with post in middle. Need evidence on lack of access. Take pictures.

Tim Walker: Beware of weather on Wednesday.

Richard is looking into working with Jordan neighborhood.

Submitted by Michelle Sass, coordinator

**Next Council Meeting** •Monthly Meeting January 11 • 6:00pm • Method via Zoom