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

**December 13, 2022**

**Presided by:** Melanie Fehlberg, Vice Chair

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

**Absent:** Tim Knight, Dylan Ohm

**Coordinator:** Michelle Sass

Melanie called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

**Approval of November minutes:** Richard moved approval. Dave seconded. **Minutes were approved.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Dave said that the cost of the Owl equipment purchased to enable hybrid meetings was $1,112.07 versus the $1,000 that had been approved at the November meeting. Richard moved approval of an additional $112.07 and Allan seconded. **Motion approved.**

Melanie reported that (NCR) Department had approved changes to the Council’s plans for its unallocated Equitable Engagement funds. These funds are to be contracted by the end of the year. We are still working with the Bakken on wording of programs we are funding with them.

Dave said that he would need three to four days to get checks out before the end of the year and that he will need to get invoices tothe Neighborhood Community Relations (NCR) Department for the Bakken and We Push for Peace by the end of the year.

It will not be possible to roll over 10% of our equitable engagement funds to 2023 so Dave made a motion to redirect this amount to merchandise in 2022. Richard seconded. **Motion approved.** A discussion of appropriate merchandise followed with the following items suggested:

* T-shirts
* Canvas bags/totes
* Whistles
* Can koozies
* Baseball caps

Melanie reminded the board that with Dave’s resignation from the board at the end of the year a new Treasurer would be needed. Since there were no volunteers, the issue was tabled. [Note: later in the meeting, Dave agreed to remain on the board and serve as Treasurer until the 2023 annual meeting.]

**Equitable Engagement Opportunities and Discussion**

Allan reported that West Maka Ska sent five workers (Allan, Leyden, Lynette, Tim from the board, and Chip) to a Habitat for Humanity project in South Minneapolis and will be donating $5,250 in Equitable Engagement funds. Michelle said that two other residents had expressed interest in participating but the timing around the holidays didn’t work for them. Based on the positive experience it was decided to look into further work events with Habitat in 2023.

Melanie reported on possible events with the Bakken, which would include a lady slipper blooming event and nature walks.

**Committee Updates**

**Communications, Outreach and Events**

Nothing to Report

**Greenspace**

Lynette reported that following approval of funding Tangletown Gardens for a plan for our greenspace she tried to set up a meeting, but the person was in Mexico. She will try for a meeting in January.

**Safety**

Richard reported that there were recent shootings in Uptown, but nothing in our neighborhood.

Richard has been in correspondence with the city on addressing concerns about the need for illegally parked cars to be towed during snow emergencies and the need to park close to the curb despite snow cover.

Bob raised the issue of sidewalks being covered by snow plowed from streets, especially Excelsior Boulevard, after they had been cleared by the property owner. Allan noted that the property owner is still responsible for clearing the sidewalks even after city or county plows have dumped snow on the sidewalk. Bob suggested that building managers should coordinate clearing of sidewalks after the streets have been plowed and consider jointly hiring a vendor to do this more efficiently. Melanie said she would speak with her building manager about arranging a coordinated response.

Richard spoke of the need to make complaints to the city about uncleared sidewalks. Resident Louise Campbell said that she had made complaints and followed up with nudges to the city to get sidewalks on Ivy Lane cleared. Allan suggested that all board members make complaints to the city when they see violations and that they let Richard know.

Richard noted the continued problem of ADA violations. Melanie said there are plans to widen the sidewalk in front of her building (where a telephone pole creates a narrow sidewalk) in 2024 or 25.

It was decided to invite both the city and county ADA compliance officers to our January meeting. Richard and Allan to provide contact information to Michelle.

**Coordinator’s Report**

Michelle reported that pictures from the Habitat for Humanity workday have been posted on Instagram and that Tim is working with Little Dipper art on a calendar with neighborhood pictures to be given away as part of a contest on Instagram in January.

Michelle said that the January meeting will be a hybrid meeting at the Bakken using the Owl for virtual participation. All future 2023 meetings will be hybrid, with no meeting in August. Allan suggested that we have at least one meeting in an apartment building to encourage greater tenant participation.

The January meeting will be followed by a board member appreciation dinner and retreat. Richard made a motion and Allan seconded that food be from Amazing Thailand, that wine be provided and that the funding source would be our unrestricted account. **Motion approved**. Food will be delivered to board members who wish to participate virtually.

**Miscellaneous Items**

Richard reminded the board that we have an open invitation to join Jordan Area Community Council meetings.

Dave raised the need to attract renters to the board and noted that the NCR speaker at the last meeting had offered to provide contact information about neighborhoods that had successfully attracted renters. Michelle said that she has contact information about two such neighborhoods. Dave said he would stay on the board and serve as Treasurer until the 2023 annual meeting in the hope that we would have more renters involved by then.

Allan noted that we have no members from any of the apartments on the north side of the tracks, but said before trying to make contacts we need something compelling to invite them to. Melanie talked about Thirsty Thursdays which is something for younger owners in her condo. Leyden suggested a pop-up roller skating rink like the one at Holidazzle. It was decided to do further brainstorming at the January dinner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM