**West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council Zoom Meeting**

**April 12, 2022**

**Call to order:**  6:06 PM

**Presided by:** Tim Knight, Chair

**Board members in attendance:** Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Tim Knight, Bob Gordon, Lynette Davis, Melanie Fehlberg, Megan Betterman, John Bordwell, newly elected Leyden Iraheta

**Absent:** Dave Stougaard, Tim Walker

**Coordinator:** Michelle Sass

**Residents in attendance**: Anne Stohr; Leyden Iraheta; Heather Walch, interim president of the Bakken Museum

**Guest Presenters:** Meg Forney, Park Board Commission President, Cathy Abene, Park Board District 6 Commissioner

**Presentation by Commissioners Abene and Forney**

Commissioner Abene made the following points:

* The walking pathway that has caved in along the west shore of Bde Maka Ska will be repaired shortly. The work was not done last year because of a shortage of blacktop.
* The parkways are in poor shape due to potholes. Temporary patching is being done. The problem is that the City provides $700,000 a year to the Park Board for Parkway maintenance. This is not enough. Cathy requested that we ask our councilmember for more funds for maintenance.
* She is asking staff for information about the extent of deferred maintenance. A new model for maintenance is needed.

John asked about the popup skate park to be set up in the North Beach parking lot. Commissioner Forney said it was a needed experiment in response to the unauthorized use of the northeast (refectory) parking area by skateboarders. She warned that a skate park is still part of the plan for our greenspace and told us to be alert and advocate as needed.

Allan asked about the status of the proposed neighborhood park near Lake and France and noted that $383,000 in Park Dedication fees has been generated in the neighborhood and could be used for a new park. Commissioner Forney said that chief park planner Michael Schroeder is aware of the desire for a park at that location and the Park Board has an interest.

Richard raised the issue of renewed hot rodding in the Lakeside Center parking lot. Commissioner Forney said that last year Michael Schroeder had worked with Lakeside Center owner Stu Ackerberg to erect Jersey Barriers to control the activity. She said that she asked Michael to contact Stu to take action again this year.

The commissioners were asked about the proposed mural along West Bde Maka Ska Parkway but had little to offer besides the fact they were aware of the plan.

Commissioner Forney said that she was delighted with the new Park Board and that climate resiliency would be a priority for this year.

Regarding maintenance of the parkways, Meg said that the $700,000 contributed each year has not increased in twenty years despite inflation. She pointed out that West Bde Maka Ska Parkway has no stop signs and is considered a commuter route. As such, it should be a priority for maintenance funds.

Melanie asked about the pipe in our greenspace. Meg said that water quality in Bde Maka Ska is a concern because the storm water pipes drain directly into the lake. The Park Board needs to work with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed Association to address the issue because Minneapolis Public Works is not concerned about lake water quality. Meg also noted that one of the reasons for erosion of the shoreline is that drainage into Lake Harriet is not properly regulated and the water level is too volatile.

Megan asked for more detail about the Park Board’s plans for addressing climate resiliency. Cathy said we need to protect ecological system health and plan for heavier rain and more heat. Meg said there was need for more tree planting.

Melanie asked when we can expect to see implementation of elements of the Bde Maka Ska/Harriet Master Plan, such as rerouting of the parkway and movement of the sailing school. Meg was unable to provide a timetable, but said it was necessary to move activities from the northeast corner of the lake because of congestion there.

**Approval of March minutes** – **Minutes were approved.**

**New Board Member**

Richard nominated Leyden Iraheta to fill the open seat left by the resignation of Joey Meiers, who will be moving from the neighborhood at the end of the month.

Leyden previously served for two years on the Stevens Square Neighborhood Association.

**Leyden was unanimously elected to fill the empty seat.**

**Treasurer’s Report**

In Dave’s absence Tim reported that during the past month the board retreat dinner and the plaque for

neighborhood Treasure Tabio Yuoh were paid for out of unrestricted funds.

**The board approved a $25 fee to file the 2021 Charitable Organization Annual Report.**

**The board approved the filing of our 2021 income tax return (Form 990 EZ)**

**Coordinator’s Report**

Board members who would like to have business cards should see Tim.

Banners are in production. Michelle will work on getting permits for installation.

**Committee Reports**

**Communication Outreach and Events**

Spring Fund Raiser Event at My Burger from 4 to 7 PM on May 9. Bob reported that only Ben and Jerry’s allowed posting of a flyer. My Burger refused despite sponsoring the event. Bob will get in touch with the responsible person at My Burger corporate. Bob suggested handing out business card sized notices of the event. Lynette warned that recipients might just discard the notices as litter. Posting flyers in buildings was suggested as an alternative.

Elected officials who have committed to the event are Hennepin County Commission Chair Marion Greene, City Council Vice President Linea Palmisano, Park Board President Meg Forney, State Senator Scott Dibble, State Representative Frank Hornstein. In addition, Bakken Museum Interim President Heather Walch said she would attend. Timing of the presences of the elected officials was discussed but no conclusion was reached.

**Greenspace**

Lynette reported that the Greenspace team had identified three potential bidders for the Greenspace Project: Metro Blooms, Tangletown Gardens, Earth Kind. Discussion focused on the bidders’ requests for a budget. Melanie met with Metro Bloom. **The board agreed that the bidders should be given a maximum budget of $60,000 in developing proposals.**

Issue: What is our budget. The vendors need some idea.

Possible park at Lake and France would be paid out of

We have about $140000 available.

Apt building at gas station. Has a triangle of space. They have committed to maintaining it, but who knows.

Need to set money aside for maintenance.

Have vendors with park board before? Dealing with government issues.

About 25000 square feet.

Heather (Bakken) can take pictures on their recent landscaping and the prices. Checked online for prices. Average about $40,000 for half acre.

Lynette Noted: Trash around the businesses.

**Equitable Engagement**

Tabio Yuoh is to be honored by presentation of a West Maka Ska Treasure plaque at Axon Green at 10 AM on April 22nd**. The board approved up to $150 of unrestricted funds for the purchase of donuts, etc. for the ceremony.**

Tim proposed a volunteer clean-up of the neighborhood for the Saturday of Earth Day weekend (April 23rd) to be advertised by word of mouth in the buildings where board members live and on social media. We will supply bags and gloves. Potential to do this throughout the summer.  **The board approved up to $50 for the purchase of bags and gloves to be paid for out of equitable engagement funds designated for increasing participation of young renters.**

Allan suggested three possible uses of the approximately $50,000 in undesignated equitable engagement funds that must be committed by the end of this year.

* The mural project, assuming the artists are from diverse communities throughout the city.
* A joint project with the Jordan Neighborhood and Habitat for Humanity to fund and help build homes for first-time home buyers.
* A free safety check for vehicles in the Jordan Neighborhood with coupons for use at auto parts stores.

**Allan will contact NCR about these ideas as well as seeking suggestions about additional organization we can partner with in equitable engagement.**

Melanie suggested a doggie beauty pageant. Tim said that if people send him dog photos he will put them in the website in a Dogs of West Maka Ska section.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.**