Monthly Board Meeting, 6PM, June 8, 2021

Monthly Meeting Minutes: Done virtually via Zoom

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

**Presided by**: Allan Campbell, Chair

**Note taker**: Michelle Sass

**In attendance**: Allan Campbell, Lynette Davis, Richard Logan, Dave Stougaard, Tim Knight, Martha Yunker, John Bordwell, Joey Meiers, and Bob Gordon

**Absent:** Paul Legler

**Guest Speakers:** Park Board Commissioner Meg Forney; Michael Sanders, Executive Director of the Bakken Museum

**Announcements and Welcome from the Chair**

* Victoria Hoshal has moved out of the neighborhood and has resigned from the board

**Approval of May Minutes,** motion by Richard second by David and John, **approved**

**Treasurer's Report**

* Search to hire a bookkeeper – Rachel is leaving to pursue a different adventure
	+ Candidate Christie Rock Hantge, has a great resume with economic development experience and works as a bookkeeper and/or coordinator for other Minneapolis neighborhoods.
		- Rate will be $46/hour
	+ Motion to hire Christie, motion by Richard second by Lynette, **approved**
* Resolution to accept annual filing with AG as a nonprofit. Motion by John, second by Dave, **approved**
* Extension of Propel Affordable Housing loan for one year to June 2022
	+ Current loan is ~$170k; it is a win-win as we gain interest on the investment and it’s a good cause
		- Currently have over $60k in unallocated NRP funds so no immediate need to terminate the loan.
	+ The loan is a note the association has with a nonprofit assistance fund, (now Propel Nonprofit) to fund loans for affordable housing, as was required to provide 40% of our NRP budget to affordable housing
	+ Idea is to loan for one more year then review at that point
	+ Motion to extend for one more year, motion by Tim second by Bob, **approved**

**Guest Speaker: Meg Forney**

* Neighborhood Park resolution review
	+ Section of our neighborhood is cut off, north of railroad tracks, 393 apartments plus 83 condos, with many children
	+ A prospective neighborhood park is included in the Southwest Service Area Master Plan area. Councilmember Linea Palmisano and Meg to ask the park board to acquire the land for affordable housing and a park
		- Staff got excited for a pocket park idea in the master plan, good idea to collaborate and share
		- Linea and Meg have shared this idea before, could be a win-win for everyone to generate the interest to Hennepin County collaboratively to seek support from the board to get approval to use some park dedication fees
		- Resolution from board is welcome, not sure if its effective being in an election year
		- Get support from Linea for asking the county to sell the land as part of the plans along affordable housing
			* Allan to get in touch with Linea for that
		- Approval for resolution that may be modified with discussion after Linea for affordable housing
		- Request to make certain to be designated as a playground park, has seen pocket parks in design journals for 40+ years that are too small, not more than 2-3 children.
			* Review what purpose we want it to serve, have a vision of who in the neighborhood it should be for
			* Request to walk over the bridge to that neighborhood to show the need for a usable playground park, especially having the new commissioner for the district go get them on board now, and encourage Linea and Meg to get draft together
			* Park board candidates need to walk over to see West Bde
		- Ensure Park is not a pocket park, - we do not need another housing development crammed into our neighborhood
		- A whole building of affordable housing
		- Bus stop at Lake and France – ½ acre
* Climate Resiliency
	+ State Representative Fue Lee contacted Park Board regarding federal funds coming to the state
	+ Up to $12M dollars for climate change resiliency with climate projects including water infrastructure, green parkways to make parkway system less harmful to natural systems. Narrowing removal and rerouting trails, modifying shore water, stabilizing water levels
		- Specific projects are identified as W Bde Maka Parkway from Lake St to 32nd St – $7.1b
		- North beach drainage from parking lot
		- Ideas: Move the parkway in towards NW Athletic Field; add boardwalk over lake edge for the trails
		- Changing level of the lake causes erosion
		- Pipe on south end is chronically clogged
		- Stormwater mitigation, improvement of water quality, drainage improvements – mitigate pollution going into the lake
		- Payments for relocating boat rental/sailing school -not in legislative agenda
		- Question on what the board should do to help move things forward as a council – hear about it every month but what do you need? new initiatives to proactively contact people etc.?
		- Goal to improve water quality in the lakes
* Michael Sanders pointed out the Maka Ska Harriet Master Plan shows a retention basin at the South end of the greenspace
	+ Page 27 has a drawing of it. Before and after show the dock and boat launch and sailing club with the holding pond (retention basin), boardwalk and wetland with water filtration along the shore Not shown on the plan but approved is inclusion of skateboard park on green space area – as addendum the night it was adopted, but not in the drawings

**Guest Speaker: Michael Sanders- review bike racks and panels at the Bakken Museum**

* Bike Rack project in last few days has begun to be installed, will be complete tomorrow
* Budget $5k, contract work and permit was under $5k with staff time; projected early summer- made it
* On 36th looking at entrance to the west
* Wetland Interpretation project – activity cart – snappy popcorn – will have make and take activity (people and kids can make and take home) – related to wetland, lake, and natural areas
	+ Staff making 3 and will be rotating the cart
	+ Will have tool and prompts to explore the wetlands in the museum
	+ Outdoor walking area is free to anyone, only charge is inside the museum
	+ Start in Saturdays with the food trucks on site – launches in 1.5 weeks
	+ Interpretative panels –Nice Ride, bike racks, interpretative panels, instead of many signs
		- Has tried unsuccessfully to reach from Syd Beane to learn more about the area’s Dakota heritage but moved on – behind schedule – will not be installed at start of
* Martha comment: light tower and wetlands look spectacular – appropriate for museum, beautiful addition to the lake with the wetlands
* Honey produced with Bees Knees – takes the honey and centralizes it before distribution, gets more than we actually produce and sold in gift store – unsure how much in total
* Event this summer: Paul Bunyan Log Jam open theater on roof

**Resumption of in person meetings**

* Vaccination rates going up. Have meeting virtually in July. No meeting in August, Starting in September meet at the Bakken
* No restrictions at Bakken for groups
* October will be the annual general meeting. Plan to find a place along apartment buildings to get rental involvement – and determine where best location will be – back to Bakken in November

**Equitable Engagement (report from Joey and Tim)**

* Target demographic is 18–34-year-olds. Over 50% of population, we have a very low social media presence – people are not aware
* Want to build on that with social media – hiring someone to go door to door to apartments to make people more aware and get flyers out and surveys going
* Bob – goal to collect email addresses – work with businesses to generate coupons – go to website supply email address then coupon gets emailed – will attract people – put signs in both neighborhoods (West Maka Ska and CIDNA) – example for My Burger; $25 gift card with raffle – can only spend at local business – win-win for all involved
* Ideas for young professionals: hosting a happy hour, host events (such as volleyball tournament), partnering with Audubon to do a bird walk, engage in neighborhood and be the hub of connections
* Goal to build community with neighborhood that is engaged within our own borders along with neighboring associations, how do we engage neighbors and the community
* That half the neighborhood is a golf course is a barrier
* Idea to have a food truck, we have Wakame but not a lot of bar life
* Will have movie night in the neighborhood on July 2
	+ 90% come from other neighborhoods – not a good way to make contact with the neighbors
* Have merchandise with any events, for example if we do a volleyball tournament bring T-shirts
* Focus on restaurants, bars, fun things to do with free things and events, clothes, and food
* Goal to gather more email addresses
* Idea for beer tasting MGM corner off parking lot
* More events = more visibility

**Committee Reports**

* Communications
	+ Re-branding/second postcard
		- Ask Shinebox to find a new tag line, specific to West Maka Ska as part of their brand story
		- Ideas for 2nd postcard mass mailing: IG promote post – geolocation advertise movie in park post – or another post – get involved in neighborhood – use IG as means to reach out
		- Motion to use the money we had planned to spend on 2nd post card to encourage mask wearing to instead use it for a survey of the northwest corner of the neighborhood to determine the need for a neighborhood park
		- Redesignate part of post card money for 2nd PC Move by John second by Martha and Bob, **approved**
		- Allan, Bob, and John to work on survey, Paul to help upon return from vacation
* Greenspace
	+ Buckthorn removal has started – heard all the sawing
	+ Special chemicals cannot be along the lake at all per direction of park board and city
	+ Greenspace meeting with Louise Campbell, Lynette, John and Richard. Scaled back bird and bee garden project
		- Give direction to greenspace team to move forward with a more modest project of planting trees for the greenspace - Move by Bob second by John, **approved**
* Land Use
	+ Update on BP site Apartment Proposal
		- Pictures of apartments proposed BP site – same dimensions as hotel 72 apartments – not affordable – contribution for affordable housing elsewhere
		- 1.45 cars per unit
		- Opinions: Has no character, nothing for pedestrians – lack of affordable housing conflicts with goal of 2040 Plan
	+ Hotel fell through – wondering how did Bader become part of project
* Safety
	+ Truth and Reconciliation report
		- Review of what is happening in Minneapolis with George Floyd and racial disparities, kind of role we might play
		- T&R to be discussed at next month’s meeting
	+ Land Acknowledgement
		- Taking a moment to recognize the land that we are on is not originally ours
	+ Partnership agreements with other organizations
		- Ideas – Men against Destruction/Drugs (MAD DADS), finding positive things to do
		- Collaborating with our neighborhood, the Bakken, and the lake
	+ Safety walk
		- To schedule one with CIDNA and David Davies of the Light Rail Project Office
		- Date to be set for a day in September

**New Business/Public Comments**

* Proposal for SW Minneapolis Neighborhood-Focused Newspaper is a good idea
* Joey and Tim to get in touch with Tracy Onchwari (Resident) to discuss collaboration and engagement in the neighborhood

8:04- Adjourn, motion by Bob second by John, **approved**

Submitted by Michelle Sass, coordinator

**Next Council Meeting –** Monthly Meeting July 13 • 6:00pm • To be done on Zoom Virtually