**West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council Meeting (in person at the Be and by Zoom) Minutes**

**June 13, 2023**

**Presided by:** Tim Knight

**Board members in attendance:** Melanie Fehlberg, Bob Gordon, Leyden Victoria Iraheta Santos, David Stougaard, Dylan Ohm, Richard Logan, Allan Campbell, Tim Knight, John Bordwell

**Absent:** Lynette Davis

**Coordinator:** Michelle Sass

**Tim called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**

**Approval of May minutes:** Richard moved approval. Allan seconded. **Minutes were approved.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Dave reported no issues, but we have not yet been billed by We Push for Peace. This will come out of Equitable Engagement funds. Richard moved approval of the report, Allan seconded. **Report was approved.**

Dave to serve as treasurer until October annual meeting at the latest. Still in need of replacement treasurer.

**Chair’s Report:** Tim read a letter from the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute thanking the West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council for our letter of support for their proposed Urban Farm and informing us that the State Legislature had appropriated funds to allow them to buy the site from the City. Letter to be posted on our website. A block party celebration will be held at Cedar Field Park from 1 to 8 PM on Sunday, June 18th. Michelle reported that about a dozen neighborhoods, including our neighbors in Linden Hills, had signed on to the letter of support. Richard said that it was a good example of neighborhoods working together for a good cause.

**Coordinator Updates:** Have requested liability insurance quotes since American Family is no longer willing to insure us after our policy terminates on June 26th. Need to maintain $2 million in coverage. Only one quote so far, from Higgins Agency.

Lynette has been in touch with Councilmember Linea Palmisano’s office concerning increased crime. Auto thefts appear to be up this year, but that’s across the whole city. CM Palmisano’s office said that crimes only show up on the City’s crime dashboard if the victim files a report, so crime may be greater than it appears. Call 911 for emergency; 311 to report a crime. Our Crime Prevention Specialist is scheduled for our July 8 meeting. Linea is also likely to be at the meeting. Tim suggested that we should also invite We Push for Peace.

**Committee Updates:**

* Communications, Outreach, and Events (COE)/Equitable Engagement (EE)

Tim said we need someone to pick up and hand out materials for the June 24th Clean Up Day. Bob tentatively volunteered, pending a check of his schedule.

Richard offered his can of graffiti remover, which he obtained free of charge from the fire station.

Michelle announced that the Park Board has approved the concept for the mural on West Bde Maka Ska Parkway. Painting should begin in the next few weeks. Revised mural concept was shown.

Bob suggested a sandwich board to announce events. Allan said we already have a sandwich board.

Tim said we need flyers in the neighborhood and that this worked for publicizing our Earth Day event. Bob said we need places to mount flyers.

Richard pointed out that we have a kiosk. It is now being held by the light rail project since it was on the site of the entry to the Greenway and had to be removed for light rail construction.

Allan raised the need to reach new residents with the Waterbury House likely to receive tenants soon. Dylan is working on a brochure for new residents.

The Southwest Connector was suggested as a way to publicize events. Michelle said their reporters have been invited to Council meetings.

Dylan, Bob and Richard volunteered to be a Communications sub-committee.

Michelle said that the free tickets for the LOCH MESS play on the Bakken green roof got a good response from publicity in the Bigos properties newsletters. Michelle also suggested emails to the distribution list that would provide information about the Council while also offering free tickets. Richard suggested offering tickets to apartment building staff.

Dave said he is working to get contact information for the At Home apartments.

An ice cream social has been proposed. Michelle suggested involving We Push for Peace. Richard offered to talk to Scott Eller, owner of the Ben & Jerry’s and having entertainment as well. Richard also suggested linking an ice cream social to a Clean Up day.

* Greenspace**:**

No updates

* Safety:

Still trying to find some from the ADA office to come to a meeting.

Patience from 3150 Excelsior said the City had acquired some of their property by eminent domain to allow for widening of the sidewalk. The current sidewalk is inaccessible to wheelchair users and even to residents transporting organic waste to the City collection site due to an Xcel pole in the middle of the sidewalk. Richard has contacted Xcel about the pole.

Allan said that the light rail office confirmed the plan to improve the sidewalk but could not give a date for the work – possibly in 2024.

Richard introduced Steve Goltry from the CIDNA board. Steve had been a member of the now defunct West Maka Ska-CIDNA joint safety committee. Richrd said we should put more emphasis on traffic safety and re-iterated the need to try again to work with the Fire Department, Cedar Commons and Whole Foods to discourage entry and exit on Market Plaza due to the congestion this creates and the resultant safety issue when the Fire Department of First Aid Squad need to respond to calls. Traffic impact of the soon-to-open Waterbury House apartment building was also discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM