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

**July 11, 2023**

**Presided by:** Tim Knight

**Board members in attendance:** Melanie Fehlberg, Bob Gordon, Leyden Victoria Iraheta Santos, David Stougaard, Richard Logan, Allan Campbell, Tim Knight, Lynette Davis

**Absent:** John Bordwell, Dylan Ohm

**Coordinator:** Michelle Sass

**Guest speakers:** City Council Vice President Linea Palmisano, Trahern (Trey) Pollard with We Push for Peace

**Also in attendance:** 8 neighborhood residents and Rodge Adams from the CIDNA neighborhood

Tim called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Due to a scheduling conflict, CM Palmisano presented before any Council business was conducted.

**Council Vice President Linea Palmisano’s presentation:**

Thomas Beach (Linden Hills neighborhood) issue on July 4: There were large groups of juveniles shooting fireworks at cars and police officers. Police responded once there were enough officers on site. Two juveniles were arrested. There appeared to be enough evidence to charge them with Probable Cause – Riot, but they have not been prosecuted for that crime.

A resident asked why they were not prosecuted. Linea responded that it was a judges decision and that she was not on her way to a meeting with judges to raise this concern.

Residents reported crimes: A house broken into on Friday night following previous incidents of a gun abandoned on the property and a car stolen within the past 1 ½ years. No follow up by police.

Resident question: What is the city doing in response? Linea said she spends about half her day on

public safety.

Chris Lundeen from the Bakken: Some streets around here are very dark. Maybe better lighting, neighborhood watch groups are needed

Linea: Dark corners attract bad activity. Suggests having motion-sensor lights on properties.

Melanie: Research shows the effectiveness of lighting and hedge trimming in discouraging crime. Linea said she would look into improved lighting on Zenith Avenue.

Richard: Asked about progress with the new Public Safety Director in addressing crime. Linea said data shows some progress. Will send a report.

On the subject of traffic safety, residents suggested stop signs on West Bde Maka Ska Parkway and at Rose and Zenith. Also a suggestion to make Rose one way – eastbound only.

**Approval of June minutes:** Melanie moved approval. Allan seconded. **Minutes were approved.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Insurance invoices were noted. Dave said we have liability coverage good through March 2024. Allan noted that we have over $100,000 in Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds available for safety improvements such as those discussed during Linea’s presentation.

Have received invoice from We Push for Peace for Earth Day event, but cannot approve because it includes food. Will work with WPFP to get a new invoice. The question was raised whether we got $5,000 worth of service from WPFP. Attendance at the event was about 75.

Trey Pollard said he liked that there were a lot of people from the community. Thinks more publicity would help. (Note: Very cold day). WPFP gets weekly reports from police. Will send extra people to those areas. Looking forward to next event. Would like to work with community further. Would like to be informed of any neighborhood crime. They’ll put people in the areas. Tim will reach out to Trey about neighborhood issues and Fall event.

Melanie moved approval of the Treasurer’s report. Richard seconded. **Report approved.**

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

**Committee Updates:**

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

Next Event: Fall Back to School Event. Backpack/School Supply Give-Away. Have it in the

Lakeside Center Parking Lot. Add a food drive. Possible fund raiser.

October annual meeting: Who to invite? Allan suggested that Ward 7 council candidates would be a possibility, but cautioned inviting them might lead to attendance being dominated by folks from other neighborhoods in Ward 7.

Garbage pick up July 29. Allan to bring equipment.

* Greenspace

Allan said that the Park Board has planted trees in the portion of the greenspace where Tangletown Gardens had drafted a plan for a pollinator garden. Melanie suggested we ask Tangletown to revise their plan.

* Safety

Richard reported that there will be rail safety meetings on July 24 and 26. Everyone must be informed of what to do if there’s a rail emergency. Suggested putting rail safety on next agenda.

Dave noted that there is a homeless encampment north of Lake Street and that its residents may be responsible for some break-ins.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

* Safety