### West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council Minutes: April 2021

Monthly Board Meeting, 6PM, April 13, 2021

Monthly Meeting Minutes: Done virtually via Zoom

**Called to order**: 6:06pm

**Presided by**: Allan Campbell, Chair

**Note taker**: Michelle Sass

**In attendance**: Allan Campbell, Richard Logan, Paul Legler, Victoria Hoshal, Dave Stougaard, Tim Knight, and Martha Yunker

**Absent:** Ann Webster, John Bordwell, and Lynette Davis

**Guest Speakers:** Meg Forney and Linea Palmisano

**Welcome from the chair and announcements**

* **Notice**: The May 11th WMSNC meeting agenda will include a vote on a proposal to adjust neighborhood priorities by reducing funding for the rebuilding of commercial zones by $5,000 and increasing support for homeless youth by a similar amount.

**Approval of minutes and Treasurer's Report**

* Motion to approve March minutes by Tim, second by Richard, **approved**
* Treasurer report
	+ $5-6k spent for mask wearing social media campaign, including mailing for postcard at this time
	+ Got final bids for bike racks and interpretive signage from Bakken, all within budget and good to go

**Guest speaker: Park Board Commissioner Meg Forney**

* Attempted to reach out to staff to get information
	+ Unaware of ‘in-roads’ for the Lake Street bus stop proposed neighborhood park site. County is eyeing it for affordable housing in conjunction with the neighborhood park that we have proposed.
	+ In the past, County has donated land to the Park Board.
	+ Unlikely to close West Bde Maka Ska Parkway, but closures of parkway on East side of Harriet and sections of West River parkway are approved as of last week to allow for socially distanced pedestrian use.
	+ Fixing the pathway around Bde Maka Ska where the sidewalk is falling in is not in the budget queue
	+ No further information on bird and bee garden
		- Martha has tried to call and leave messages to Colleen at the Park Board with no responses
	+ Drainage of greenspace issue- similar to collapsing walkway: major expense, funds are not available
	+ Working with the city for the trial, sad day; appreciates working with Linea

**Guest speaker: Councilmember Linea Palmisano**

* Has been a long few days with a broken heart over awful tragedy, death of Daunte Wright
	+ Linea has no impact over Brooklyn Center PD, but same things are in play as in Minneapolis
		- Train officers to be clear, be mindful, wellness checks on officers for MPD is important
	+ Currently limited patrol resources are strapped
	+ In the midst of After-Action Review of events after last summer, currently using outside firm
		- Wants a conversation to share experiences and dialogue and inviting neighborhoods including ours to participate if interested
	+ Some unrest has come to Minneapolis
		- 46th and Nicollet was a target, officers chased them away, Target on Lake Street was looted again, then “smash and grab” at another location, last night 2100 Lyndale community pharmacy, had weapons that were being shot off, this leads to why a curfew is important, attempted burglary at Walgreens at 54th and Lyndale and then left
		- Operation Safety Net is very thorough per Richard
			* Joint Communication Team is a huge improvement from last summer
	+ Bakken got accolades from Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, last 3 bird-friendly windows are complete, thanking everyone for a good collaboration
		- Resident in our neighborhood recognized for bee safety in Minneapolis: Kathleen Connally
		- Linea to email information and discuss on next month’s meeting
* Park Board Commissioner Brad Bourn (invited but did not present)

6:45 - Committee Reports

* Communications (report from Victoria)
	+ Rebranding as West Maka Ska with the Shinebox agency (contracts for $25,000 have been signed)
		- Discovery Meeting tomorrow at 4:30-6:30, the more people on the call tomorrow the better
	+ Mask Campaign
		- Money available for second postcard- Tim to help lead that
		- Victoria to reach out to get information on Google Analytics demonstration to determine whether a second postcard is needed.
	+ Spring Newsletter
		- Send ideas for newsletter to Michelle and Allan by the end of next week
		- Looking for people to write articles
* Safety (Report from Richard)
	+ Operation Safety Net
		- Google “Operation Safety Net” and see all their platforms
		- Karen Moe and Steve Gallagher are doing a fabulous job for the city
		- Good permanent relationships being built for the benefit of the neighborhoods
		- Had a dangerous night in our city last night
	+ Working with Other Neighborhoods
		- Working for ideas with Steve Gallagher and Jack Whitehurst
		- Encouraged to send out RFPs for $5-10k packages to work with non-profits for a good fit for the good of the city
	+ Follow up on Property Managers meeting
		- Richard has been sharing weekly Operation Safety Net information with property managers in the area
* Greenspace
	+ Bird and Bee Garden
		- Meg pointed out we have someone involved with pollinators in our block, idea to invite her to a future meeting
		- Looking at getting questions answered regarding maintenance as it is a long-term commitment, what happens if we cannot fulfill it?
			* Hopeful to hear from Colleen soon
	+ Buckthorn Removal
		- To be reviewed on our next meeting
* Land Use
	+ Elevage Condo Proposal for BP site
		- Elevage to come to next meeting with proposal for condos versus hotel rooms with 80 high-end units and some amenities, such as a coffee shop, on first floor

7:15- Miscellaneous Topics

* Neighborhoods 2020 Response
	+ May be funded for community participation funding through 2021
* Ideas for Equitable Engagement:
	+ - Tenant Outreach, Millennial outreach – need a plan to submit to the city to get funding from the city, with our rebrand, needs ideas
	+ Idea for neighborhood membership card with discount deal at Happy Hours or other events
	+ Outdoor first responder meeting
	+ Executive center parking lot with Italian car event
	+ Movie Night – sometimes 90% are from other neighborhoods
	+ Idea for a food truck event, has happened at the Bakken in the past (100+ people attending for a minimum fee), idea to have a band, partnership with local theater for show on roof including improv theater
		- Idea to fund a minimum for an ice cream truck, first 100 people get a free scoop of ice cream
		- Unable to use city money for food, we do have non-restricted funds but maybe not enough for food truck
* Bakken (report from Executive Director Michael Sanders): architect worked on drawing for phase 2 to expand classroom on south side. 2,000 square foot expansion with rooftop deck overlooking the lake, applied for federal funding – will be reviewed over next months
* Plans for summer camp, rooftop deck connecting to green roof
* Applied for 3M dollars of federal funding
* Rep. Ilhan Omar – email to encourage her, funding being negotiated
	+ Michael Sanders to email Michelle with a sample letter to share with the board members

**New Business/Public Comments**

* Looking for a facilitator for the property managers to get together, Richard currently emailing them weekly
Email Richard with any safety issues in the neighborhood
* People around and strangers working on the Bader project – different vibe, lots of construction workers around
	+ Robb and Will O’Keefe notified that building is shaking, loud at Calhoun Towers

7:23 – Adjourn, move by Martha, second by Victoria, approved

Submitted by Michelle Sass, coordinator

**Next Council Meeting –** Monthly Meeting May 11• 6:00pm • (to be held on Zoom)