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

Monthly Board Meeting, 6PM, March 9, 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, Richard Logan, Paul Legler, Lynette Davis, Victoria Hoshal, Dave Stougaard, Tim Knight and John Bordwell

**Absent:** Martha Yunker and Ann Webster

**Guest Speakers:** Allison Sharkey, Executive Director for 7 years for Lake St Council

**Welcome from the chair and announcements:**

* Approval of February minutes: Motion by Richard, second by Victoria, **approved**
	+ Movie night will be July 2, Onward is not available at this time
	+ Concrete pour scheduled to start tomorrow causing a high volume of concrete truck traffic onto Abbott en route to the light rail tunnel construction site.
	+ Bader continues to work on utility permits
		- Parking has been shifted at Calhoun Towers to be outside, currently the garage is shut down at the Bader property
* Treasurer's Report and review of finances
	+ Newsletter was not received at the Be at Axon Green or The Calhoun Towers
		- Potential to use a new vendor for printing and mailing
		- Michelle has already followed up with Minuteman Press and was told they included the addresses that we requested

**Committee Reports**

* Communications
	+ Report on Face Mask Campaign/Postcard
		- Reviewed current designs and wording and messaging options discussed
		- Change West Calhoun to West Maka Ska
			* Michelle to send Victoria new logo
			* Current budget for $8K
			* Motion to add second postcard to budget for up to an additional $2,500
				+ Motion by Victoria, second by Richard, **approved**
	+ RFP for new re-brand and website review
		- Send any questions regarding the re-brand to Michelle
		- Victoria will invite up to four agencies to present to us
			* Meeting to be held 3/18 at 6pm
			* Shinebox, Thorburn, LTR Digital, and 4th proposal from Fjorge Digital
* Greenspace
	+ MOU for bird and bee garden discussed
		- Lynette emailed Colleen O’Donnell at the Park Board seeking a clarification of the proposed MOU.
		- 10-year volunteer maintenance plan discussion
	+ Jack Whitehurst to check with Bob Cooper regarding park board maintenance for upkeep of anything we have paid to put in
		- Can we use our funds for maintenance of this?
		- Costs are unknown until we agree on the MOUs
	+ Buckthorn removal
		- Goal to continue with plan for April
		- Money is allocated

**Guest Speaker: Allison Sharkey, Executive Director for 7 years for Lake St Council**

* Lake Street Recovery Update
	+ Group effort, had 80,000 donors
	+ Raised $11M overnight, brought in stakeholders
	+ Invested in every single independent business with over 325 that had damage or theft
	+ Hired folks to engagement team, native Spanish and Somali speakers
		- Found businesses that they did not know even existed and invested close to $6M to those business
		- 83% were owned by BIPOC
	+ Increased construction projects
		- Mortenson, etc., donated staff to do estimates and find contractors
			* UHC donated 1M dollars- 11 small health care business -pharmacy, dentists,
			* Lake Street Council working to review losses due to physical property as well as emotional trauma on the streets for several nights after George Floyd was killed and buildings were under attack
			* Funding for acquisition of properties, can get forgivable loans to buy a building on the street. 2 now approved. Also helps with pre-development costs, with $700,000 in grants
			* Next steps: using support to make a Corridor Recovery Implementation Plan, with repairs, improvements, and placemaking.
	+ Questions & Answers:
		- New developments are happening slowly
		- Nonprofits vs profit businesses both could apply for grants through Lake Street Council
		- Lack of increase of customers due to people not feeling safe on E Lake St with increase in crime, and carjacking, inadequate police protection trying to help people feel safe
			* When city budget for 2021 was being debated, the Lake Street Council weighed in to encourage city council members to invest in
			* Has requested more creative support as well with violence disruptors and focus on drugs, prostitution, addiction, not just violence.
			* Working on a job description for a safety point person with any questions or concerns
		- Goal to help business with marketing, have summer activities, getting boards off
			* Size wise with 2040 plan - previously had 2 story quaint older building, is city requesting high-rises: some have 2-4-6 stories and up. Can have variances, unsure how strict the city will be on it. A lot of work has been put into the plan. How do you balance the smart values in 2040 plan with density and green design, but to balance the immigrant property owner with single property who may not have the capacity to build in that way - goal to balance the values
		- Bill for state funding for Lake Street $300M for capital investment, 200M in Minneapolis and 100M in St. Paul, passed both committees in the house. Lake Street Council testified with business owners. Some Republicans supported the Democrats giving them hope that some bills may pass.

Senate has concerns about trusting the funds to go through the city

Rural/urban divide not wanting to support the money going to Minneapolis

* + - During COVID, almost all of small businesses have held on. In Uptown, a lot of doors are closed and boarded up. Concerns with retail and Uptown too

Miscellaneous Topics:

* Ideas for $5K previous designated for commercial neighborhood rebuilding
	+ Bridge for Youth, Lake Street Council or other- per Richard, goal to focus on homelessness
	+ Ok to shift the 5K into the strategy - Jack Whitehurst to fill out the paperwork
	+ Motion to give $5K to Bridge For Youth, Motion by Lynette second by Richard, **approved**
* Ideas for Equitable Engagement
	+ - Tenant Outreach
		- >$4K dedicated to equitable engagement , could use NRP or base but that’s the base amount we need to use for equitable engagement

Possibility to hire a tenant to do outreach to other tenants.

**New Business/Public Comments**

* Safety initiative first mtg tomorrow night, NCR/Steve Gallagher is coordinating it
	+ Richard is our designated attendee, email him with any questions for the meeting
* NextDoor is a great resource to read about news in the community
	+ Board members have seen an increase in crime in our neighborhood, good to stay connected
	+ Goal for community building in the neighborhood

7:45 – Adjourn

Submitted by Michelle Sass, coordinator

**Next Council Meeting –** Monthly Meeting April 13• 6:00pm • (to be held on Zoom)