

Minutes
Summit Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 18, 2019

Attendance: Erik Christiansen, Anneliese Greenier, Ethan Gyles, Anna Highsmith, Christopher Lowe, Read Porter, Laura Ramsey, Tom Schmeling, Sharon Lee Waldman

Guests: Olinda Urizar, Community Relations Coordinator from the Mayor's office; member Grant Dulgarian; member Mike Cziplicki from the Democratic Ward 3 Committee; member Kari Rai

September & October minutes: no copies available, so we'll vote on approval at our next meeting

President's Report: Ethan thanked Sherry for coordinating the cookoff.

Treasurer's Report: We brought in \$70 for memberships since last reporting. There were a few other transactions related to the community garden and some printing.

Program & Committee Reports:

Membership Committee/Bylaws: Tom reported that we have 101 current members.

SNA Newsletter: Ethan conducted a straw poll of the board via email with three options: 1) continue newsletter as is, 2) phase out newsletter and transition to email newsletter, 3) something else. All board members who responded chose "create your own option." Most of the suggestions were about reducing the number of newsletters per year and growing the email newsletter, but are hesitant to lose the penetration of the printed newsletter.

North Main Street Committee: Ethan reported that we are collaborating with MHNA to create a document to take to the city in order to try to engage with developers who might be interested in developing vacant properties on North Main Street. We plan to take the document to the city soon.

Community Garden Committee: Read reported that the garden is done for the year. We now have a composter (for gardeners only; no food scraps yet) that was custom designed.

New Business:

- a. Community meetings tomorrow night:
 - i. Ward 3 Community Meeting hosted by City Councilor LaFortune at Rochambeau Library on Tuesday, November 19 at 6pm – discussing traffic issues, 8th street development, and public safety
 - ii. Miriam Hospital annual community meeting at 6:15pm on Tuesday, November 19, as well – reviewing master plan and how it interfaces with the neighborhood
 - iii. Our education meeting was scheduled for tomorrow night but will be rescheduled to the new year to avoid conflicting with these other two meetings
 - iv. Grant mentioned that a city plan commission meeting is also being held tomorrow night at 5:30pm that will focus on a couple projects on the East Side.

- b. TSA – issue brought forth by Grant Dulgarian
 - i. TSAs offer exceptions from zoning and city planning ordinances, which defeat the purpose of city plans. They have started to be granted on a very regular basis. The mayor tried to take over TSAs, but the City Council resisted, but Grant reported that they are approving them on a very regular basis. Four TSAs were recently approved; a hearing was held and only one person showed up in addition to the developers. Grant suggested that we inquire of Councilor LaFortune what her position is and advocate that she foster a broader discussion on TSAs. He also suggested that SNA make a statement that is anti-TSA without guidelines. Ethan suggested that we take this issue to the coalition of neighborhood associations. Chris reported that the coalition hasn't addressed this issue but he will email John to have that added to a future agenda. Ethan said that he would ask Councilor LaFortune about this issue at her meeting tomorrow night. Sherry referenced a recent NPR story on enterprise zones that is relevant to this issue.
- c. Speedy traffic on Hope Street – The issue of speeding on Hope Street was raised by member Kari Rai. Tom reminded us that bump-outs and crosswalks have been added to Hope based on the advocacy of SNA. Metal manhole covers are creating extra noise. Anna suggested contacting our new police lieutenant for the east side about this issue; Ethan offered to make an introduction with Kari so they could discuss the issue. Olinda suggested reporting this issue to 311. Read shared that the city recently did a speed study on Blackstone, and he suggested that a traffic study on Hope Street could be helpful.

Ongoing Business:

- a. Drinking fountain project – Trenching, procuring of equipment, and utility survey is complete. They need a master plumber for the water line connection and still need to do the masonry and dry well installation.
- b. Events:
 - i. Education Forum: Chris reported that the new date for the event is January 7. The superintendent of Providence Schools will be there, in addition to someone from the curriculum administration. Keith Oliveira from the Charter Schools will also be there. More details will be confirmed in the next few days. The venue may be MLK Elementary. Chris is looking into arranging childcare for the event. Funding for childcare for 2-3 hours was unanimously approved.
 - 1. Chris reported that he has been documenting all of the steps he's taken with Gayle to put this event together, so that we can use the information as a resource for future event planning. He's mapped it onto some of our regular events and will share with the board via Google Docs for everyone to revise and use.
 - ii. Fall cook-off was on Wednesday, October 30, 6pm-8pm, Seven Stars: Sherry said that there were three entries and three winners.
 - iii. Caroling for a cause: Monica from Miriam suggested Sunday, December 15. Anneliese agreed to reach out to Sandy Kohring to see if they might want to coordinate the event together. Sherry may reach out to Ellen Santaniello as well, as she's been involved with the event in the past. Chris said that he may be able to help out with the event as well.
- c. SNA neighbor pamphlet refresh: Ethan recently shared a draft of the pamphlet that Mary Ann Risoni has updated. We are looking for updated photos, as well as suggestions for additional information to add that will fill a blank space.
- d. The Avenue Concept public art planning update: Britt reported that there are no new updates.

- e. Social event: Erik said that he emailed Steve Krohn about doing a wine class as a stand-alone event and is waiting for a reply.
- f. Snow brigade: Britt asked if folks had ideas about publicizing the snow brigade for both more volunteers and people in need. We currently have more volunteers than people in need. Tom volunteered to help with calling churches and synagogues.

No meeting in December due to the holidays. Next meeting is January 27th (fourth Monday because the third Monday is MLK Day).