

Minutes
Summit Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 24, 2020

Attendance: Erik Christiansen, Anneliese Greenier, Anna Highsmith, Torin Mathieu, Britt Page, Read Porter, Laura Ramsey, Tom Schmeling

Guests: member Grant Dulgarian

January minutes: Britt and Erik were left off of the attendance. With that amendment, the minutes were approved.

President's Report: No report in Ethan's absence.

Treasurer's Report: Britt shared an update on the budget.

Program & Committee Reports:

Membership Committee/Bylaws: Tom reported that we have 102 current members because Read's membership expired.

The bylaws committee (Tom, Ethan, and Read) met recently to create a to-do list and hope to have more updates in March for board approval, so that we can take them to the membership at the annual meeting.

SNA Newsletter: Erik said that he has no updates since the recent email he sent around with ideas for columns. Due date for articles will be March 13. Read recently sent out another e-newsletter.

North Main Street Committee: Ethan said via email that he will be circulating the North Main Street development proposal that has been drafted in collaboration with leaders from the Mount Hope Neighborhood Association.

Community Garden Committee: Read reported that ASL interpreters have been hired for the upcoming gardeners' meeting. The contract was set up with SNA, so if future events need interpreters, then we have a company in place. Read suggested that we consider offering ASL interpretation at our meetings, as needed.

New Business:

- a. Anna reported that the library is trying to campaign to be open more hours. Sign cards at Rochambeau to support the effort.
- b. Anna pointed out that the synagogue on the corner of Rochambeau and Camp, and she thinks it would be a great location for affordable housing. She is going to email Chris and follow up with our contacts at the city to inquire about grants or other programs that might help develop this property into affordable housing.

- c. Britt reported that we have not spent last year's \$1500 state senate grant. We need to spend it asap. The parks department suggested that we use the money to replace the chain link fence around Kerry Kohring Park.
 - i. Read suggested using funds to make a sign for the garden, replacing lights (from halogen to LED fixtures) in Lippitt that are out, or replacing barrel trash cans in Lippitt Park to something nicer.
 - ii. Read moved to prioritize the use of grant funds in this way: replacing lights in Lippitt Park, replacing trash cans in Lippitt Park, repairing chain link fence in Kerry Kohring Park (i.e., if one of these ideas is not deemed viable by Ethan or the Parks Department, then move on to the next). Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Anneliese reported from Nirva's meeting that the new traffic arrangement on Hope near Lippitt Park is to accommodate pedestrians. Two people present at that meeting were in favor of the new arrangement, but no one spoke out in opposition. It is not clear whether the stop signs will be permanent.
 - i. Read is concerned about an editorial published in the East Side Monthly that is highly critical of the stop signs. Read felt that there were racist undertones where the editorial was criticizing rooming houses. Read suggested that we write a letter in response as a board that the editorial does not represent our neighborhood's perspective. Tom identified his discomfort with writing a letter without having a sense of what the membership thinks about the traffic situation.
 - ii. Anneliese mentioned that Ethan has received emails that were anti-stop sign.
 - iii. Board members present agreed that the traffic situation needs to be addressed (either as how it is currently being addressed or something else). Read volunteered to draft a letter and circulate it by email.

Ongoing Business:

- a. The annual meeting: April 27 at the Highlands. Anneliese will be in charge of getting the food and drinks for the annual meeting.
 - a. Program –School superintendent (who is on a listening tour right now)? Nirva? Mayor Elorza? police? 5-minute updates from all or some of our elected officials? We could come up with a topic that we would like everyone to address. We will make a decision about the program at the March meeting.
 - b. Erik and Anneliese volunteered to serve on the nominating committee to recruit new board members. Tom said that he would review the list of previous board members and forward it to Erik in case those are helpful contacts. Laura will be stepping down from the board because she is expecting her third child this summer, and so the committee will need to find someone to take the secretary position.
 - c. Perlow Award – Anneliese suggested Sandy Kohring. Anna suggested Diana Jackson, who has basically single-handedly renovated a swath of land near the Peter Pan bus terminal into a little mini-park area. Read said that he added a nominating form to the website to accept nominating from the community.
- b. Events:
 - i. Speaker series organized by Chris
 - 1. Living Green Forum: coming up on Thursday, February 27, 7pm, at Rochambeau Library
 - a. Approved up to \$100 reimbursement for refreshments at this event
 - 2. Getting Old in Providence: future event planned to focus on looking at ways people can be more connected with the neighborhood, collaboration with the Providence Village

- c. Insurance: no update in Chris's absence
- d. First farmer's market: We will have a tent with tote bags to celebrate the installation of the new bubbler. Torin researched tote bags – got two quotes \$700-900 for 100 bags, East Greenwich \$3 for 150 bags. They only need a two-week lead time, though Torin would like to give them a month. We'll authorize this next month.
 - a. The logo will be on both sides, or for an extra \$50 we could have different designs on each side.
 - b. Decision points: logo, amount, color
 - i. Torin will send to the board via email the dimensions of the bag and the print area.
 - ii. Torin suggested the printing be green, as the bag is a natural linen color. We could get a colored handle on the bag for an upcharge.
 - iii. Anna suggested using the logo as it appears on the top of our agenda, centered toward the bottom of the bag.
 - iv. Several people suggested ordering about a 100 bags to start, and then we can order more as needed.
 - v. Tom suggested that the bag be free with a membership of \$25 or above, or current members can purchase a bag for \$10. Grant suggested that we just encourage people to renew early if they want a bag, and others agreed.
 - vi. Read asked whether we should ask a lawyer about whether the membership is still tax deductible if they get a tote bag. General consensus was that it would still be tax deductible, but that asking a lawyer would be prudent.
- e. SNA neighbor pamphlet refresh: no update
- f. The Avenue Concept public art planning update: Torin found out that the owner of the Lucky Kitchen building is fine with having a mural, but they need to double check with their tenants. The owner of the Frog & Toad building said no. The owner of the Bank of America building is open to having a mural on the front of the building, but he would need to coordinate with Bank of America; he was also open to a more temporary kind of art on the building. Torin will ask about the side of the Bank of America building. Torin is still trying to find a contact for the owner of the CVS building.
- g. "Keep Summit Beautiful" signs: no update
- h. Snow brigade: no update because there's been no snow!

Next meeting is March 16th.