

NEPNA Monthly Board Meeting Minutes - January 11, 2017

8 persons in attendance
All Executive Board members present

AGENDA

- 18th Ave Construction Project
- NEPNA Community Organizer
- Robust Community Engagement Process
- Committee Formation

18th Ave Construction Project

Vice Chair Derek Watson provided a synopsis of this attendance at the Public Works project meeting for the 18th Ave Reconstruction project this past week. He found out through the meeting through the Ward 1 Newsletter, but residents along 18th were invited specifically to attend. Meeting was an overview of current project design, discussing the pre-assessment phase for property owners, and project costs (\$5.9 million). Opportunities for residents to ask questions and connect with Beverly Warmka, 612-673-3762, at the City. The project page is <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/future/WCMS1P-147114>.

Question was raised whether neighborhood can use funds to offset assessments? Nobody knows the answer to that question, so we'll need to connect with City (Jack Whitehurst). DW believes that NEPNA can play a key role in public engagement and outreach for the residents and businesses of Northeast Park. The project is scheduled to begin officially in April 2017. Board members present would like to have the reconstruction as a topic at an upcoming meeting. Secretary Karina Heim would like to work harder to get information out, including on Facebook and on website.

NEPNA Community Organizing

Vice Chair Watson provided an overview of robust community engagement process dictated by the City and agreed to by the Board back in October 2016. We would again like to contact Jack Whitehurst to get a sense of exact timeline.

Question was raised about what spaces or venues we have for community discussion, including the recent shooting at 12th and Buchanan. Board discussion of how we don't have a good community space right now. More work needs to be done on providing opportunities for community conversations and basic resource development and awareness. We can make better use of communication resources and provide better resource information, but that's not entirely the issue. We are lacking in a strong foundation for community organizing.

Some discussion on formats for community engagement (survey, mailer, door knocking).

CPP Report due to the City (added agenda item)

Treasurer Laurie Andersen informed those present that the Board needs to sign and confirm CPP funding document for 2017-2019. The report/document was due in December. Board members present had not had an opportunity to view the document and were not ready to commit to signing the CPP report. Some discussion ensued about when and how to bring in Board member involvement earlier for documents that involve neighborhood funding and decisions that impact the future actions and capacity of the neighborhood. Some of this lack of involvement of entire Board may be a carryover from previous Board dynamics from years back.

Discussion ensued about whether we may consider bringing on an involved staff member or volunteer who is able to work more hands-on with City documents and programs. No decision was made at this time as to whether that would be appropriate.

The CPP report was not signed, and Board members requested the document be sent out for review and potential approval at the next meeting.

Community Organizer Contract Review

The position of community organizer has been open since last fall, and contract negotiations have been ongoing. The contract process has been lengthy, in part due to the legal review and questions from the prospective contractor who was present at this meeting to bring questions forward about the contract. Prospective contractor asked questions related to liability insurance, independent contractor status versus employee status, and concerns about the limited number of hours. The Executive Board, which had convened a week prior to discuss these questions, provided responses. The number of hours could be increased to 50 per month at this time. The contractor status is firm. Contractor tax issues are understood, and current staff member had offered to be a resource. We will investigate the liability insurance issue, but the understanding is this is pretty standard for contractors.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:00 pm

ACTION ITEMS

- All Board review CPP document for discussion next month
- Derrick will contact Jack Whitehurst
- Laurie will reach out to Susan Webb for next month's meeting
- Karina and Derrick will work on other meeting speakers
- Karina will request Facebook and website login and work on postings