Attendees

*Board members and staff present marked with “X”*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ben Osborn – President | X | Katie Krisch - Treasurer | X |
| Charity Huot Benedict (Staff) | X | Carrie Henning-Smith – Secretary | X |
| Bob Jorgenson | X | Rhonda Fields | X |
| Cory Schaffhausen – Vice Pres. | X | Cassie Batinich | X |
| Allan Cummins | X | Nathan Sterner | X |
| Frances Roen | X | Jim Meyer | X |

Meeting called to order: 7:01 PM. This meeting was via Zoom.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of January Minutes

Cory moved to approve minutes; the motion was seconded. All approved.

Agenda Item 2: Introduction of new HPDL staff member, Charity Benedict

Charity started in the HPDL staff role on Feb. 7. This is her first board meeting, but she has already met several board members through Frost Fest and other meetings. She is happy to meet with board members individually if they’d like.

Agenda Item 3: Councilmember Koski Report

* Thanked the board for a good job on Frost Fest and recognized that a lot has happened in Minneapolis since our last meeting (in January), including community violence and shooting of Amir Locke.
* City updates:
  + City rescinded emergency regulation requiring proof of vaccination/testing at restaurants.
  + Redistricting process has been completed and it will not affect people in HDPL. Ward 11 might gain a little in the east, but little other change.
  + Property owners can order trees for $30 each.
  + City behavioral response team increased operations. Still be dispatched through 911. Collaboration with MPD is going well.
  + Hennepin County has victim services administration. These services are provided to victims for free from county attorney’s office. Can have services without going all the way through investigation process. She provided this contact information:
    - The Hennepin County Attorney Office Victim Services Division.Contact Information:• Adult Felony Cases: Phone – (612) 348-4003• Juvenile Cases: Phone – (612) 348-7916
  + She’s working with various committees to discuss no-knock warrant process. Working to change policy and will have more information and updates by next month, hopefully with actionable items.
  + Affordable connectivity program helps people afford Internet access, up to $30/month for services.
* Ward updates:
  + Still in 100 day of action plan.
  + Weekly meetings in different neighborhoods, including Field/Page last week.
  + Will have in-person meeting in Pearl Park next month.
  + The best way to access information is Ward 11 calendar, which is posted on website.
  + Three community groups have been set up: Black/African American community members, older adults, and youth community group. Information on Ward 11 calendar on website: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-11/newsletters/>
  + Staying in touch with Public Works about future Nicollet Ave. bridge update. Let business owners know that it’s slated for 2024. Bloomington Ave. bridge is also under construction right now (over Minnehaha Creek).
  + Events information: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-11/ward-11-events/>

Agenda Item 4: Nokomis Farmer’s Market

* Ben introduced Erin Swenson-Klatt and Emily Ziring from Neighborhood Roots and gave an update on farmer’s market. Unfortunately, they cannot provide the market at Nokomis this year because of the challenges of the past two years, due to staffing and financial challenges. (They also do Fulton and Kingfield markets.) They have a goal to bring the market back in 2023.
* Erin and Emily introduced themselves. They are volunteers on the Neighborhood Roots board. They gave a brief history of Neighborhood Roots. They started in 2001 in Kingfield and have grown in staff and budget since then, adding additional markets, including Nokomis.
* They provided an overview of their challenges, including loss in business sponsorships (~70%).
* They ran all three markets last year (over 70 markets) with one staff person, volunteers, and a volunteer board. They made the determination in December that that was not sustainable for 2022. Decision was made to pause Nokomis Farmer’s Market for 2022 season, with the hope to bring it back in 2023. More details here: <http://neighborhoodrootsmn.org/nokomis-farmers-market-update/>
* Part of this pause is to reset staffing and staffing plan, and to reconnect with neighborhoods to build relationships. They’re specifically looking for people to volunteer on the board and connect with local businesses to find sponsors, financial support, and volunteers to help at the market itself.
* They offered thanks to this neighborhood and the supporters of the market, including Heather’s and First Free Church.
* Their 501(c)(4) status challenges their fundraising efforts, as donations are not tax deductible. This status also makes them ineligible for many grants.
* They need approximately $27,000/year to run the Nokomis market. Their goal is to bring in $30,000 in business sponsors and $10,000 in individual donations.
* Charity will look into whether it would be possible for HPDL to partner with Neighborhood Roots to apply for a partnership grant from the city. France offered to help with some of these efforts.
* Can sign up for their newsletter here: <http://neighborhoodrootsmn.org/>

Agenda Item 5: Frost Fest Recap

Ben provided recap of Frost Fest. We had an estimated 1,000 people there and it was a huge success.

* We partnered with Hale/Field PTAs to decorate luminary bags and that helped to encourage turnout. Rhonda suggested that we should include that engagement in report to city as part of engaging children, youth, and families.
* Cory offered to add photos to website, and people can send additional photos to Charity if they have any.

Agenda Item 6: Organization and Financial Update

* Courtney and Charity worked together to roll over money from previous funding source to current funding source. We have about $29,000 that we rolled over into new funding.
* Budget amendment at the end of the year for new neighborhood network fund. We got $15,000 more than we’d projected for. City staff are working on those amendments and we should have those in March.
* Goal to have draft of budget for next month. Following that, we will explore creation of new finance committee.
* City also has new funding mechanism for partnering with other neighborhood organizations. It’s due in April, and it will be competitive. It needs to be an organization within the neighborhood, and schools don’t count. Charity suggested that the farmer’s market might be the best fit for this. She will forward on information to the board and there’s an info meeting 3/1/22 from 6-7pm.
* On May 14, there’s a newly established “neighborhood day” for boards to meet and select new members. HPDL has traditionally held this meeting in the fall, but the city is encouraging a common model for all neighborhoods to hold their elections on that day. HPDL currently has one open seat and could hold an election then to fill that.
  + Current board members would not need to run for their current seats.

Agenda Item 7: New Business and Other Project Updates

Michael Sack provided update on Minneapolis Sidewalk Repair Hunters:

* MSRH are also looking for volunteers. The position info can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/sidewalkhunters under Files
* Michael also provided update on MSRH activities. They’ve been growing and have been responsible for initiating numerous repairs.
* Michael shared an idea to partner with Earth Day activities to do sidewalk cleanup and identify inaccessible sidewalk areas. Ben suggested that we have MRSH present at Earth Day and then have a separate accessibility day in May to give more specific attention to accessibility.
* Michael also shared the group’s website: <https://www.mplssrh.org>

BVBS Library Book Club:

* Ben reported that the BVBS library is finishing up another book discussion. Allen reported that it has gone very well, but participation has been lower than before (6 participants on 2/15/22). The final meeting is 3/1/22. Rhonda reminded board to capture information to share in equitable engagement report.

Community Action Workshop:

* A tentative meeting is scheduled for March 24th or 25th for a community resilience/emergency preparedness workshop presented by the city. The meeting hasn’t been confirmed yet, but Ben has followed up with them to do so. If it’s held, the meeting would likely be virtual and they would offer the same workshop twice (one daytime, one evening).

Community Conversation Meeting about Afghan Resettlement Work and Immigration Services in Minneapolis:

* Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (DLLC) is partnering with Alight to help set up houses to support refugees.
* YMCA also contacted us to share information.
* All of those groups will share info on 3/3/22 at 7:00pm via zoom. HPDL will host the zoom, but the organizations will run the meeting.
* Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86916363919?pwd=ZWhrZ25nTFByR2FQbjY4c0F2KzArZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 1636 3919

Passcode: 896649

* Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2361244274017368>

Earth Day:

* Charity will apply to be a site for Earth Day by next week. We’ll sign up to be a coordination site at Pearl Park, will share supplies, and will pass out donuts and have some social media activity.
* It would be 9am-12pm on Saturday, April 23.
* Board members were in agreement that we should move forward with that event.
* Charity will follow up next week with more details for those who are interested in volunteering.

Seed Library and Garden Walk:

* Cory provided an update. The seeds for the library are organized and ready. The library will be well-stocked and he’ll put those out in 1-2 weeks. He’ll coordinate with Charity for social media blast.
* For garden walk, need to restart planning with HPDL staffing changes. Cory can check in with neighborhood volunteer who was interested in working on that.
* In the fall, Cory did an experiment for a bulk purchase of bee lawn seed. This could be an opportunity for a small fundraiser, because bulk purchases can help individuals save on shipping. This might involve buying seeds in advance, packaging, and branding them. That would require a motion to spend money up front for the seed purchase. Discussion of whether/how we can use city funds for that purpose. Cory will provide proposal to vote on next month.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:47pm**