

**FRRNG Board meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2007**

FRNNG Board Meeting – August 15, 2007

Location: Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church

Full Board: 1830 – 2000

Facilitator: Sean Conley,

Notes Recorded by: Sverre Gropen

Staff Present: Erica Graber-Mitchell

**Board members present:** Sean Conley, Tom Arneson, Sandra Smith, Jane Kaiser, Sverre Gropen, Sue Redepenning, Gerry Sell, Roy Vanderwerf, Stearline Rucker, Gary Johnson, Mike Nichols,

**Board Members not Present:** Kim McCoy, Karen Pratt, Barbara Harris, Val Gunderson, Sara Buchwitz  
Paulette A. Wilson, Jeff Wells

**Other Present:** Scott Benson, Elizabeth Glidden, Ila Duntman, James Wentzell, Joe Kiesling

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**Quorum was reached**

**Welcome, Introductions, Open Forum**

**Ila Duntman, Gardenworks ([www.gardenworksMN.org](http://www.gardenworksMN.org))**

- Ila gave a brief history of Gardenworks.
  - It is a 2 year old company
  - Represented in 13 wards
  - There are more the 5000 gardens
  - They receive 200 phone calls for help
  - They also focus on community building in addition to helping with gardening tips
- Specific things that Gardenworks would be able to help our Gateway garden with
  - Gardenworks would be facilitators for us and not give specific help.
  - Ila pointed out that it was very important to gather help from the neighborhood
    - 10-12 people needed to get the project going and sustain it.
      - Where to get water from
      - Help from schools
      - Recruit people to help
- Councils comments

- Need to acquire land first and then talk about the sculpture
- Jane's brother is willing to offer his expertise with the project
- Need vision sessions
  - Gardenworks can help facilitate networking and brainstorming sessions
- Possible uses of the space
  - Concerts
  - National night out
  - Seasonal events
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual parade of community garden Saturday August 18.
- ACGA (American Community Gardening association) is a good resource. ([www.community.garden.org](http://www.community.garden.org))

### **James Wentzell/ Joe Kiesling Harks Co. (Winner Gas)**

- James is presenting himself as the contact man for Winner Gas Station. He states that he is an active member of the community and is part of the neighborhood comities in North Minneapolis. They have another gas station close by at 41<sup>st</sup> and Lyndale.
- Joe is presenting;
  - The will add a cooler/freezer, keep the current green space and add green space as well
  - The whole outside will be painted and the storefront will have windows where the garage is now located
  - The opening hours will be 6 or 7 until 10 or 11 (they are undecided at the moment)
  - Dumpster will be mover from the west side to the east side and will be 19.9 feet from the property line.
  - Will not block the view for the traffic (specifically from the alley) with the green space. Will keep it open with high visibility. Worked with the city planners on it.
  - New fence will be put up
  - Bathroom will not be on the outside anymore. Will be moved to the inside. Did not specify if the bus drivers could still use them.
  - They are associated with Kingdom Oil. They supply their own gas.
  - They will have regular groceries
  - They will have cigarettes.
    - Discussion on cigarttes
      - It was suggested cigarettes might increase the risk of robbery
      - It is bad selling cigarettes across from the school
      - They insisted that they will not sell cigarettes to minors. They will have management on site and states that it is very hard to get a cigarette license

back if they lose it and it is therefore in their own best interest to not sell cigarettes to minors.

- Security is very important for Winner gas. They will have security cameras and bars in the big windows so cars can't drive through the windows to rob the place.
  - If all permits are approved they think they will be done with the construction by Early next year.
- They will focus on helping the community as much possible; they would like to help as much as Alice has in her tenure with the gas station.
- Winner gas station would like a letter of recommendation from the council.

### **Scott Benson- Ward 11**

- 50<sup>th</sup> street bridge demolition is set for the weekend of September 6-8. There will be a meeting at Washburn High School September 5 with details of the closing
  - Scott will try and expand the area that gets a post card about the closing.
  - The parkway will be closed at times because of this
  - Some council members have received complaints about the extra traffic on the parkway and 46th street
  - Scott has asked MNDOT to not close down the 46<sup>th</sup> street bridge before Diamond Lake Bridge is opened.
  - The schools have been notified of the closing, but not the private schools.
    - Gerry has informed the private schools of the closing.
  - There will be a push for more fire and police coverage and presence.
  - Fire was OK at last closing, police did not have good coverage.
  - Any group that wants to meet about the closing should contact Scott

### **Elisabeth Glidden – Ward 8**

- She will try to get the word to the people on the north end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue about the bridge closing.
- MAC Update
  - Citizen class action lawsuit
    - Their case is different than the one the city has. For a class action settlement the court will have to approve the settlement before it goes into effect. Hence nothing is settled as of yet, there is just an agreement between MAC and the citizens that is not approved by the court
  - City's lawsuit
    - They have not reached an agreement with MAC
    - They are trying to gather more feedback from the residences.
- The Northrup issue discussion

- The Northrup issue is that they are trying something and trying to regain some trust
- Bridge building (35W)
  - Will go over budget (Compared the federal funding)
  - MNDOT just wants to make the bridge as cheaply as possible
  - Discussion about LRT on bridge or if it should be a separate bridge farther south
    - Is tunnel a possibility from the Twin cities campus to the St. Paul Campus

### **Current board Issues (ACTIONABLE)**

- Green space management
  - Discussion on which committee that should be in charge of the green space
    - Roy thinks that the business committee should not be in charge of the green space. He thinks that it would be more natural that Community and safety Committee would be in charge of the green space. Kim is not present so the decision to move the Green space from the Business Committee to the Community and Safety Committee was not made.
    - Roy is willing to make some phone calls and help out, but does not want to be involved in all the meetings.
    - Original reason the green space was assigned to the Business committee was that they had the funds for the project
  - The money for the green space is still in place
    - \$30-40 000
    - Not sure how much money is actually set for the project
    - The money was earmarked for the sculpture
    - Joe Senkyr from Pepitos will take care of the landscaping of the green space
      - Noted that it is very generous of him to commit to this
      - He has started to come to the green space meetings
  - The city wants \$1000,- for the land
    - Everybody agrees that the FRNNG should purchase the land
    - FRNNG sold the land to the city for \$1,- and finds the \$1000,- price slightly unreasonable. Suggest offering the city \$1,- for the property
    - There is uncertainty if the both the west side and east side of the green space area is included in the deal. It is also unclear if the FRNNG actually sold the property that was on the west side of the alley to the city. The board agreed that it had to be clarified what was actually included in the deal from the city and that the board wants to obtain possession of the green space on both sides of the

alleyway. – Roy notes that he thinks that the west side is not included in the current plans.

- It is agreed that we need a legal description of the land and that the purchase price should be \$1,-
- No update was received from the community group
  - All committees please ensure the updates are on time
  - Erica will ask for updates
- New format for committee updates
- Gerry reports that Barbara Harris is concerned about people stealing cans from the alley
  - Call 911 if you see somebody taking recycling; it is considered stealing
  - Encourage people to not put out the recycling early
- There is concern about increased crime in the area especially around 48<sup>th</sup> and Chicago
  - Pepitos was broken into and Joe Senkyr was harassed outside the restaurant
  - Shop in the city was broken into
  - There was evidence of a failed burglary attempt at the Pumphouse Creamery
  - The business group is going to try and get more police presence
  - Grant from the city to get more Police?
  - Should the group try and hire off duty police to help with security?
    - Sean is strongly against this. States it is a moral issue
  - Maybe the business group should try and add some CCTV to the stores and maybe outside of the stores
  - People in the neighborhood has also experienced some crime
  - Encourage neighbors to be aware of their surrounds.
    - Broken glass may be a sign of a burglary.
- The close to home deadline is Aug. 31.
- Community and Safety will have a meeting about traffic
- A hit and run was reported between Bloomington and the Parkway
- 2 houses qualify for block appeal on HGTV in Regina
- Amending house phase to housing Loans
  - 5 years as standard home payback. It is considered a grant if they stay there more than 5 years
- Green roof initiative
  - Maybe it can be included at the SCABA festival
  - Get the housing committee to work with the green roof initiative
- Fall Festival
  - The board agreed that there should be no funding for the fall festival
  - The main purpose of the fall festival is to promote businesses and that is not in the best interest of the board
  - The board is willing to help with some entertainment
    - Roy is volunteered
    - Other suggestions include Paul Metsa, Mariachi band, Sword People

- Neighborhood representatives will be attending the NRP election
  - Sue and Barbara will represent Northrup and Field.
  - Sean will find somebody to represent the Regina Neighborhood.
- Grant writing course for Erica is approved
- House on 4929 Portland wanted approval for a building a new house on the property
  - Variance is needed
  - House is condemned
  - Approved by board with the current design
- Everybody is invited to the goodbye party of Kate
  - Money should be given to Gerry and checks written out to Sean
  - The gift will be a Visa gift card

**Voting:**

1. Approval:
  - i. Financial Report:
  - ii. July minutes with corrections
  - iii. New secretary
  - iv. Reduction from 5 years to 10 years housing loan
  - v. Copy to CEE
  - vi. Change the block appeal form 75 down to 50 for the Regina neighborhood for 2006
  - vii. Sending Erica to grant writing course
  - viii. Approving 4429 house for Variance
- b. Denying
  - i. Funding for the SCABA Festival