

## **FRNNG Meeting Minutes**

**May 13th, 2023**

### **Annual meeting & elections for Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Association**

McRae Park, 906 E 47th St. Minneapolis MN

Call to order – 12pm

#### **In attendance:**

**Board of Directors:** Nate Lansing, Lindsey Feiner, Patty Miller, Wyatt Fertig, Colleen Stockmann, Rachel Sporer

**Absent:** Karen Date, Steven Date, Connor Blacksher, Dan Rauchman, Charlie Anhut, Cathy Anhut, Christina Brill

**Guests:** Judy Hannigan, Tod Foley, Steve Gallo, Bill Kinney, Theresa Taylor, Rosalinda Miguel, Nancy Meyers, Jimmy Randolph, Lauren Anderson

#### **Welcome and Board Updates**

Nate gives an overview of accomplishments since September. Partnership with the park, events FRN has hosted, financial reviews and revisions made to align with the current funding picture, re-definition of staff needs and new staff hire.

#### **Bylaws Changes**

Wyatt gives an overview of the changes to the bylaws. Biggest change is the election in 2024 and going forward. Executive committee will be appointed by the board after this election. Current bylaws were put together under the supervision of a legal group selected by NCR.

#### **Neighborhood Survey**

Lindsey introduces the neighborhood survey, asks people to complete it if possible.

#### **Open Forum**

Patty asks for an overview of the CEE loan program. Nate explains the program and how they can apply or share program info. Info available on website.

Question about term limits, when members were elected to the board and possibly adding that info to the website.

#### **Board Election**

Procedure/voting explained by Nate

Nominations from the floor taken by Nate

Candidate statements made by all candidates present or read for those unable to come

Voting form opens

**Election Results will be posted at [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org) on Thursday 5/18.** Those up for election can come to the May 17th meeting if they'd like, but will not be voting members until the June meeting. Board/finance training will be scheduled for July.

### **Next meeting and adjournment**

Next meeting – May 17, 6:30-8pm at McRae.

---

*The following summary of the organizational transition in 2022 was approved by the board as an amendment to these minutes:*

### **2022 Interim Board Transition Summary Memo**

FRNNG Board Member at Large, Wyatt Fertig, 5/16/2023

To the 2023 Field Regina Northrop Board,

From approximately May 2022 to June 2022, nearly all Field Regina board members and the organization's Executive Director resigned. With the help of the FRNNG Vice President, one active remaining board member, and NCR staff, several volunteers (including myself) were appointed and served as interim board members keeping the FRNNG running. Due to the abrupt turnover of the FRNNG board and the chaotic state left for the interim board members, we determined to record a high-level history of findings to ensure such events do not reoccur in the future.

With the rapid pace of 2022 and 2023 FRNNG activities and organizational obligations, this formal account was never written. In the shared interests of recording the group's history and providing additional context to the limited information in the FRNNG 2022 annual report, I have tried to record noteworthy events during the 2022 interim board transition. Due to the chaos and confusion of board members' resignations in May/June 2022, I will likely have some details wrong, but I strive to be as objective and accurate as I can be. I do not have sufficient context regarding most of the events and decisions below to understand their reasons or justifications. In many cases, I only saw the aftereffects. Wherever possible, I tried to record concerning events and decisions I had directly or closely witnessed.

Summary of concerning events and decisions:

- 2022 FRNNG Executive Director resigned without two weeks' notice
- 2022 FRNNG Executive Director could not be reached by interim board members wishing to understand the state of the organization and acquire keys and important social media

account passwords. These passwords were never given over to the FRNNG board and were acquired after months of strenuous effort contacting former board members and social media account providers.

- 2022 FRNNG Executive Director was reimbursed for a \$500 purchase of office supplies within two weeks prior to resignation. No office supplies close to that amount were ever located and no receipt or itemized report of supplies was ever turned in. FRNNG Executive Director was unresponsive to all contact as mentioned above.
- 2022 FRNNG Executive Director requested a check for over a week's worth of salary. This check would have been paid for time after resignation for hours that had/would not have been worked. The effort to print this check was supported by the former 2021-2022 Board President to the FRNNG accountant without contacting the board but was stopped by the interim board due to a lack of contact by FRNNG Executive Director.
- 7 unique FRNNG email accounts were deleted, likely by the 2021-2022 FRNNG President near their resignation, and all FRNNG accounts had to be locked to stop further deletion of public information.
- The interim board found several checks cashed without receipts/itemized receipts while assessing the current state of FRNNG's finances.
- The FRNNG 2021-2022 director and FRNNG board failed to post minutes and financial reports for several months throughout 2021 and 2022.
- The board paid a vendor approximately \$500 to record drone footage of the 2021 duck race despite the York High School filming the race with drones and no footage from the vendor ever being turned in.
- A 2022 Contractor paid to conduct community engagement meetings with community members did/could not provide information regarding the dates, times, parties, and locations of hourly community engagement work.
- For at least over a year, the FRNNG Board paid for an international phone line at a cost of approximately \$150-200 per month.
- For at least over a year, the FRNNG Board paid for office space in Lake Nokomis Presbyterian which was not being used.
- For at least over a year, the FRNNG Board paid for a phone line designated for fax use at approximately \$150-200 per month.

#### Closing:

The 2022 interim FRNNG Board was advised not to pursue a criminal investigation into missing supplies and improperly reimbursed funds by NCR staff due to the dollar amounts in question not exceeding what the Minneapolis Police Department would investigate. The 2022-2023 Board has made intentional efforts to increase transparency, closely monitor and safeguard public funds, and has taken the conflict-of-interest training provided by the NCR. Field Regina

Northrop residents deserve a board that actively serves our community's needs. As I end my 2022-2023 board term, I am encouraged by the hard work undertaken and still forthcoming to rebuild community trust and better serve FRNNG residents. My hope is that the details above provide a somewhat objective account for future board members and residents to refer to should the details of the 2022 interim board transition ever be required.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Fertig

FRNNG Board Member at Large

5/15/23