

FRNNG Board Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2023

Monthly board meeting for Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Association
McRae Park, 906 E 47th St. Minneapolis MN

Call to order – 6:35pm

In attendance:

Board of Directors:

Nate Lansing, Theresa Taylor, Jen Kalaidis-Meslow, Steve Gallo, Rosalinda Miguel, Solleen Stockman, Bill Kinney, Dan Rauchman, Patty Miller, Rachel Sporer, Charlie Anhut

Absent:

Christina Brill, Cathy Anhut

Staff:

Lauren Anderson

Guests:

Clay White, Ward 8 candidate

Mary Harrison

Bob Cooper, City

Council President Jenkins

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of July meeting minutes

Motion to approve June 2023 minutes made by Colleen Stockman

Seconded by Steve Gallo

Motion carried with all votes in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

June Financial Report: See financial reports online.

Bill Kinney reviewed the June financial report. Reviewed some payments. Misc Duck Race expenses.

Bill Kinney made the motion to approve June Financial Report

Seconded by Dan Rauchman

Motion carried with all votes in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

July Financial Report: See financial reports online.

Bill reviewed the July report including the first payroll for Lauren, the city deposit, some balances which were moved to permit flexibility. Nate asked about funds infusion from the city. Bob Cooper explained that the amounts were not loaned but were advanced at the beginning of the program. Several questions were raised by board members, including what the “contract receivable” was, which is Lauren’s pay accrual. The blank donation check received a few months ago was discovered to have been intended to be a \$50 contribution.

Patty Miller made a motion to approve the July Financial Report
Seconded by Bill Kinney
Motion carried with all votes in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

Bob Cooper (City of Minneapolis Staff) Presentation

Neighborhood Funding Update

Neighborhoods 2020 is the current city funding program. The citywide Neighborhood Network Fund funds neighborhood groups with \$10,000 per neighborhood per year. The proposed budget for this year increases this to \$15,000 or \$45,000 for FRNNG.

Community Participation Program (CPP)

Neighborhood Revitalizations Program (NRP) – The original program began in 1980's as a state supported program. \$20,000,000 were approved to disperse to neighborhoods citywide. From this program there remains \$229,000 still available to FRNNG. Most of this is virtually unrestricted. In addition, program income available in the future to FRNNG includes \$160,000 in outstanding loans expected to be repaid gradually over several years. Another \$185,000 in deferred loans are NOT expected to be repaid due to the loanee meeting forgiveness terms. Dan asked how "protected" these funds are from a government entity simply taking them. Bob characterized this as low.

Bob explained the difference between funds and suggested that if we needed money for a specific project, to contact him to help determine where to draw funds from, and how to move funds to make them available as needed.

Phase II Program Activities - Approximately \$197,000 is remaining in this contract. No funds have been drawn since November 30, 2020. Bob emphasized that these funds, if left unused, are susceptible to being frozen by the city.

Council President Jenkins' report on topics of current interest:

- Importance of community ownership of the future of George Floyd Square
- City's recommendation of Century Plaza facility for 3rd Precinct location
- Progress on reconnecting Nicollet Ave through the old K-Mart location
- Homeless encampment at Lake/35W/31st/Nicollet Ave area on old Wells Fargo lot and efforts to relocate people to better accommodations
- Proposal to establish program to safely administer drugs
- Crime fighting efforts

Clay White, visiting Ward 8 candidate, explained his position to address homeless, primarily focusing on a much more significant increase in funding of up to \$30,000,000 to address the issue.

Colleen Stockman asked why a crosswalk couldn't be added across Park connecting the two parks between 43rd and 44th streets. It was explained that Park Ave is a county road requiring Hennepin Country approval.

Board Business:

Program Ideas for Fall and Winter

Members were encouraged to give thought to ideas for activities to sponsor for this Fall and Winter, since we have available funds to do so.

Lauren mentioned some ideas from other neighborhoods she was familiar with including a Holiday Tour of Christmas lights and noted that we really had nothing on our calendar after the Cheer Squad for the Twin Cities Marathon on October 1.

Colleen reported on the increased momentum and success of the Buckthorn Eradication project. Lauren added that the number of people signing up for greening demonstrated that there is plenty of volunteer interest looking projects with leadership.

Other ideas suggested:

- Neighborhood Garden Support - helping a neighborhood that lost its garden
- Shoveling sidewalks – pairing people needing help with people volunteering

The board members were encouraged to add their suggestions to the virtual “bike rack” Google document so we could review them during our next meeting.

Playground Celebration

Rachel made a motion to budget an amount not to exceed \$1,100 for the event, including communication material and other miscellaneous supplies.

Steve Gallo seconded the motion.

Motion carried with all votes in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

Greening Update

Colleen reported that great progress had been made with Buckthorn efforts due to an increase in volunteer turnout (which has included volunteers from outside FRNNG). So much so that there may be the opportunity to move forward with planting seeds as early as this fall. But, this is expensive. There was discussion of potentially coordinating with other organizations.

Proposal to partner with League of Women Voters

Patty Miller made the motion to budget an amount not to exceed \$200 to partner with the League of Women Voters on the Ward 11 City Council Candidate Forum (the Ward 8 City Council Candidate Forum costs are covered by an outside grant).

Dan Rauchman seconded the motion.

Motion carried with all votes in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

Open Forum

Mary Harrison again raised concern about the danger of crossing Park Avenue and the need for a crosswalk connecting the two bodies of water between 43rd and 44th Streets. There was some discussion about possibly inviting our County commissioner since Park Ave is a county road. No further action taken.

Terry White introduced himself as a candidate for city council from ward 8 and stressed homelessness as a serious issue which if elected he would champion.

As the meeting extended well beyond the intended 8:00 pm end time, Dan suggested a timekeeper be assigned for future meetings.

Next meeting and adjournment

Next meeting – Board Training September 20, 2023 6:30-8pm McRae

Bill made a motion to adjourn.

Dan seconded the motion.

Motion carried with all votes in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.