

**FRNNG Board Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**  
**Meeting, 6:30pm -8:00pm**

**Present:** Francesco Marraffa, Michele Johnson, Laura Dale, , Kenna Shearman, Nate Lansing, Deborah Spiesz, Willie Bridges, Alexander Tolchinsky, Charles Rodgers, JAck Weatherman, Ann Cazan, Heather Suag, Alex,

**Staff :** Stearline Rucker

**Guest:** Jeremy Schroeder Ward 11

**Open Forum:** Ward 11 Councilperson Jerney Schroeder opened with Governor Walz, has lifted restrictions from bars and restaurants and getting back to normal lots of liquor licenses are going out. A reminder to still practice safe distancing and wash your hands. We are not out of this yet. Charter information will be available at a later date per Councilperson Schroeder..

**President Franseco Marraffa** opened the meeting with an introduction to Jess Birken (Birken Law Office). Neighborhoods 2020 are now required to do compliance upgrades and will be working with all community boards. It's time to update the by laws, employees handbook, policy and procedures. This will be ongoing until the end of the calendar year d=December 31, 2021..

**Proposal** from David Fronsoe (former FRNNG Interim President), Mr. Fronsoe proposal began as follows: The barbershop located at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and 43rd is up for sale. There is common interest by Field and Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group along with Evangelist Crusader Church to purchase the shop. Church wants to own the shop, but needs assistance and is requesting for FUNDS to help with a monetary portion of \$175,000.00 to secure a mortgage. The church is offering to lease or rent to the FRNNG Board Office making it more visible and a user friendly location, possibilities to lease for 5 to 10 years and then renegotiate. The church is requesting that FRNNG board give them an answer before the June, 2021 board meeting. Nate asks David if he was asking for the entire funding and David responded no, just a portion to come up with the down payment. This is just a proposal until more information is collected.

Board member Willie Bridges recommended that the neighborhood try to invest in this corner located in the Regina neighborhood. Currently the FRNNG has installed a camera located on the pole behind the Southside Clinic to monitor the neighborhood for any crime..

A resident asked if money has been made available to other businesses in the past, and is there any record of that and what is the largest sum.

FRNNG Executive Director Stearline Rucker stated that the largest amount of money loaned to Town Oaks ,town homes in the sum of \$375,000.00, 25 years ago. Three years ago it was negotiated for Town Oaks to start paying that money back.

The Executive Director continues to explain how FRNNG gets its funds from the City and any and all fundraiser and loans payback. The City of Minneapolis provides each neighborhood, funds to operate. The budget for FRNNG 2021 was \$150,000.00 .

Town Oaks has repay FRNNG a total amount of \$100,00.00 for housing programs.

FRNNG has money in a reserve fund . FRNNG has unrestricted dollars, these are funds that the association has raised in fundraising and the approximate amount is about 20,000.00. This is money that came from the \$1.00 dollar campaign, and the Duck race, and the McRae Park Celebration. We raise that money that the city does not cover for us.

The residents became loud and started talking over each other. It became difficult to continue documenting the minutes because the meeting was getting out of control.

President Franseco regained control of the meeting and stated to the audience that we made a list of things which the resident would like to see online, ie, Minutes of monthly board meetings, a slim down version of the monthly financial report, and bylaws for the community. The president agreed that these action items will be completed by mid January 2022.

A person asked who is the we, is we the board that would make the decision and how many people on the board make the decision to make this happen. The board consists of 14 people. Willie is the housing chair, he would be bringing the information to the board and the board will make a decision.

Parks Chair Heather Suage explain to the residents and the board about the Parks current programs as follows: The Park is currently operating their school age childcare since last June 1<sup>st</sup> , had 35 kids a day last summer, then 20 in the fall and then when children started back to school in February, we have about 10 to 12 children daily because of transportation issues.

Now full for the summer in this area, Lake Nakomis, Keewadin, and Sibley are doing school age children and all four sites presently are full, with a closed waiting list. Nineteen locations were open during the pandemic and 4 cases of Covid-19 that did not spread throughout. Precautions taken worked well. She is excited to get back to normal coming up in August and FRNNG will have a cook off which will have many fun activities for the children and the community. Dance program will be starting again, lots of fun things planned and if there is anything, anyone in the room would like to add as suggestion please let me know and I will advocate for

We have a group of 22 senior citizens during Covid-19 that every month a senior care package is delivered. Any ideas please feel free to contact me.

Residents asked about updating equipment at Macrae Park. Macrae park is up for updating, the initial plan came out 7 years ago. Money was going to demo and move pools and other things around. Now she would like to recreate and have the community come to a meeting to decide how the money will be spent. Throw ideas around putting in for 2 grants and hopefully she will be approved. Pickle ball is in the plans! Central air and other amenities needed.

WillieBridges (FRNNG board member & Click) provided details on what has been issues in the past for construction on improvements and now pushing forward to make these things happen.

FRNNG Education Chair Kenna Shearman, Progress in wrapping up this school year, FRNNG has the wellbeing of our communities youth at the forefront of what to do for our children. Covid-19 took a real toll on the children in the community, routine and access to safe classroom environments, rich in both social and emotional learning and academics.

Teachers did a phenomenal job to the best of their abilities to what they had access to, but the children lost time in the classroom and had closures throughout the year. They have missed out on enrichment programs and canceled higher learning. FRNNG has an idea and bringing it to you to know this particularly important issue is in the works. Coming from mental health aspects this will be needed to move our children forward.

There is available money for enrichment, and we know our schools , churches and communities are in support of the summer enrichment and in collaboration with FRNNG will try to provide upcoming enrichment programs in these upcoming months.

Update from FRNNG President Marraffa:

Thank everyone on the board for working on the programs

Reports on The Duck Race financials

To take the duck race again next year yes or no

St. Joseph is up for sale and FRNNG is interested and would like to get more information and maybe merge charter schools/senior housing,, and will continue gathering information to create and explore opportunities.

The treasure( Laura Dale) reported the dollar amount raise on the duck race

Original budget was for the duck race of 4,000.00

And total expenses to date was 5,439.74

Over budget by 1,439.74

City will reimburse

Amount raised was 5,806.10

A resident requested that FRNNG create their own Venmo account.

Francesco made everyone aware there where changes with the board and the board was unable to access many passwords to the accounts for the Duck Race activity. Had a hard time with previous account holder giving the transition team the password to gain access which limited getting information out to the community and for FRNNG Board to have normal access of use with the accounts. Looking into Venmo accounts to set up.

We are working to get all of the systems in line and look at several ways for payment.

Board member Nate Lansing asks a question and states we raised 5,800.00 dollars will this money go to neighborhood food shelves, and so on. So where not keeping any of this money because it was advertised that, that is where the money is going.

Due to the crowd getting out of control the meeting was adjourned.

**The next Meeting is scheduled for June , 2021 at 6:30pm**

Michele Johnson  
FRNNG Secretary