

Phillips West Neighborhood Organization
Board Meeting was held [Online]
Meeting was held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes, January 24, 2022

In attendance: Alex Palacios, Steve Roos, Ilo Amba, Becky Gazca, Brenda Bailey
Staff attendance: Mira Klein

Absent: Genna Mastellone, Luz Cruz

Meeting called to order by Alex at 6:03pm

Adoption of January Agenda: Approved, vote was unanimous

Adoption of November, 2021 meeting minutes: Approved, vote was unanimous

Discussion:

1. Finance Report:
 - a. Steve presented the 2021 annual financial report which was emailed to us earlier. His synopsis is the agency is fiscally sound. There are requirements on the amount of dollars we spend due to change in city programs. In the past, we could carryover 10% but we have to spend full budget and spend it appropriately. Need to find programs that fit the requirements. Steve suggested we individually review the report and discuss more thoroughly at February's meeting.
 - b. The IRS notified PWNO of penalties existing from the year 2019. On behalf of PWNO, Dennis is contesting the charges. IRS response is 'they will look into it.'
2. Committee Reports:
 - a. Due to lack of quorum, the Executive Committee did not meet. To complete their agenda items, they will move to discussion and voting via e-mail. (Alex)
 - b. The Safety Committee established bi-monthly meetings temporarily. Dates are included on the shared calendar of events. Three goals for 2022 were established: Lighting, Traffic Safety and Block Captains. They will continue to solicit residents so as to create sub-committees for each goal. Alex suggested that the committee create a doc to keep them accountable and Mira agreed to put minutes from Safety Committee on website. As a point of information, the lighting project, started in 2021, consists of string lights and we are waiting for the order to arrive. There is no plan on how the lights will be distributed. (Brenda and Mira)
 - c. The Garden/Food Access committee is having its kick-off event on Saturday, January 30, 2022, starting at 2 pm. Everyone is encouraged to be at the garden site on 28th & Portland for hot cocoa and a bon fire (contained pit). Alex offered their fire extinguishers. (Mira)

- d. Housing Committee is a member of one---Steve. He will be reaching out to the community for participation but also asking for referrals from the board. The city has postponed the eviction of the encampment on 5th and Lake from 01/25/22 but a future date has not been shared, although their timeline is April. A task force is needed to focus on the homeless encampments in PW neighborhood, especially the one on 5th and Lake. It would be ideal to get someone with development knowledge to strategically communicate with the city as well as the development groups that are buying up the vacant lots. Per Alex, we don't need a vote if Task force consist of neighbors. Alex did a round robin on board's opinion if PW should get involved on the homeless encampments and the consensus was:
 - i. Hold city accountable to having a policy around encampments and effectively and fairly resolving this issue.
 - ii. We cannot be negative if property is privately owned. We cannot violate property ownership rights.
 - iii. Have resources available for the tenants in the encampment.
 - iv. Alex will write a letter to City Council and the Mayor regarding this issue. Mira suggested to have other neighborhoods sign as support and also send letter to the city departments.
 - e. Events Committee has not met.
3. South Minneapolis Community Collaborative Update: The cost sharing agreement has not been finalized. Legal counsel from the city has sent a draft. Anticipated timeline is to post job descriptions in February and start interviews in March. Alex asked for another round robin on the board's thoughts:
 - i. We might need to have a special call meeting to get this process done.
 - ii. Steve thought we could possibly have a joint meeting with both boards (Phillips West and Stevens Square) to build a good relationship.
 - iii. It would be good to have an organizational chart to see the structure of command so both boards see who does what and who reports to whom.

The three job descriptions and the joint-hiring committee participation and timeline were emailed to the board for review. It was motioned to accept the documents and the vote was unanimous.
 4. Operations: Due to the time (7:18 p.m.) the board voted unanimously to table this discussion and move to February's meeting.
 5. PWNO Staffing Changes: Each board member expressed their mixed emotions regarding Mira's departure from her staff position at PWNO. Staff transition should always be for the betterment of the individual and Mira is doing something for her growth and productivity and we all wished her future success. Mira shared her timeline and work plan for completion by end of April. She shared her intent to return to Minneapolis, and specifically the PW neighborhood, in September.
 6. Upcoming Events includes:
 - a. The Garden Kickoff on January 30th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- b. The supply drive for the homeless encampment was held this past Sunday, January 23rd from 2pm to 4pm. Leftover donations are in the possession of Mira and will be distributed.
 - c. The next community meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Please invite your neighbors.
 - d. Future meetings will be held on ZOOM, starting with the next Community Meeting.
7. Odds & Ends: Alex agreed to write a support letter for TOPA. This program provides opportunities for tenants who are renting to purchase a home.

Lastly, the Executive Committee met after the December retreat and decided to do “on-on-ones” with board members in order to get to know each other. We will rotate every month and next assignment will be after each board meeting. Alex will meet with each person individually but this month’s schedule is:

Luz will meet with Ilo

Steve will meet with Becky

Brenda will meet with Gena

Having no further discussion items, the chair adjourned January’s PWNO Board meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.