

**Phillips West Neighborhood Organization
Board Agenda**

Monthly Board Meeting

March 28, 2022

[Online Meeting](#)

Present: Genna, Steve, Becky, Alex, Ilo, Brenda, Luz

Called to order at 6:11pm

Opening - 6:00 PM

1. Kick-Off
 - a. Mission statement
 - b. Adoption of the agenda - **APPROVED**
 - c. Adoption of February meeting minutes - **APPROVED**
2. Officer report backs - trying something new!
 - a. Chair
 - i. [Consent agenda](#)
 1. Mira sent out a google form to us prior to the meeting so we can be more efficient in the meeting time - noncontroversial items so we can have that info beforehand
 2. Mira will be sending out the e-votes, and can also include items that don't require discussion
 3. Mira can include space at the bottom of the form to see if there are items for discussion
 - ii. Equitable participation
 1. Want to make sure that everyone's participating and has reworked the agenda a bit to make sure everyone is reporting back
 - iii. Post-meeting feedback
 1. Asking for each of us to answer 3 questions post meeting
 - iv. April and May 1:1 partners: Genna/Ilo, Luz/Becky, Brenda/Steve, and also do a 1:1 with Alex ASAP!
 - b. Vice-Chair
 - i. They're good to go!
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Notes are in our Google Drive, as always!
 - d. Treasurer
 - i. February finance summary
 1. Our income is at a negative because what we have achieved hasn't matched what we hoped to achieve, so it's not that we are not doing well
 2. Expenses part is a work in progress currently, we need to make sure we know how to tell Dennis to allocate our funding
 3. We also have to work on expenses by programs

4. Current cash in account is about 48k
- ii. CPP Annual Report - VOTE
 1. Steve gave a presentation about the ways our funding sources have changed, we did a google survey about those funds and we need to approve Mira's answers, deadline is April 15 -
APPROVED
- iii. Budget surplus survey
 1. We are really divided in the results from the survey and this requires some discussion
 2. Some amount of consensus for some portion of the funds to be held in reserve
 3. A lot of folks said split equally between our priority areas
 4. Genna thinks that a committee should hold the responsibility of spending those funds - it could be a good project for people! Fine to split it up, but it actually has to be someone's responsibility
 5. Steve saying we could do something like it gets split up, and then if each priority area doesn't have a plan we can re-evaluate
 6. Options for spending a large chunk on housing:
 - a. supporting security for the 5th ave encampment
 - b. - supporting the renter support fund
 - c. - supporting additional emergency hotels
 7. Most of us said the funding should be split between priority areas, mostly focused on housing, food, and safety (community connection less popular)
 8. It seems like things are pointing in the direction of a committee taking this on?
 9. Luz: with the meetings we're having, and the encampment eviction, I am changing my opinion on splitting evenly to just actually supporting unhoused folks with these funds
 10. Steve likes the idea of providing security, as long as its not us giving the impression that we're securing the neighborhood from the encampment; could be in the purview of the safety committee
 11. Security is thorny; Luz has a bit of a grasp on the various security groups that exist in the cities and feels like putting security in place is more appealing of homeowners than for the encampment residents
 12. This can be a question at the community circle tomorrow night!
 13. Becky likes the idea of splitting it, can see a hybrid where we save some of it and can use later on
 14. For now, so committees have some flexibility, we can give 1-2k to each priority area and that leaves space for making a big decision for the bulk of the funds, and could also put a chunk towards hotels/encampment support? Genna agrees

15. Alex will entertain motions at this point to either table or for a specific plan forward
 16. Steve moves to table it (Genna adds a friendly amendment that we table with Luz and Mira working on a proposal to bring to the table next time)
 17. Any board member with a proposal forward to Mira and Alex, and Luz, Mira, and Alex will gather all info and bring it to the next meeting - **APPROVED**
- e. At-large members
 - i. Brenda has been talking to neighbors about participating in events and committees and it's hard to recruit but she's trying!
 - ii. Becky still trying to get some support within the coop to get people more involved, they're planning their 75th anniversary of being a coop and it's giving some opportunities to connect with people
3. Committee report backs
 - a. Executive Committee
 - i. Met before this meeting, talked about work plan! Talked about grievance policy! Checked in about the encampment circles! Have some work to do before the next meeting
 - b. Safety committee
 - i. Lighting pilot program - we have selected 3 blocks that will be receiving free lights as a testing phase, to see how it works, and inviting neighbors from those blocks to the next meeting and do some pre-program surveying, hope is to get that first round of lights installed by the end of April!
 - c. Garden committee
 - i. Met recently, 2 subcommittees: one is for a foraging map for the neighborhood, will involve a plant walk (a few plant walks!), the gardening committee had a work day this past weekend, proposal to rent a wood chipper, probably not going to start their own plants this year
 - d. Spring Celebration planning committee (Events committee)
 - i. Becky has talked to some folks from the neighborhood that might be interested in helping; Luz might know some music people!
 - ii. Becky and Luz will connect on garden activity
 - iii. Genna is working on permitting stuff!
 - iv. We're not meeting this week but meeting the following week
 - e. Housing committee - on pause
 - i. We need help recruiting folks to participate!!!
 - f. Working groups
 - i. Joint-hiring committee
 1. We will be making offers this week! We have already made one! You can expect to meet new staff at the next board meeting
 2. Mira's last day will be end of April
 3. Should we celebrate Mira? probably

- ii. 5th Ave development committee - on pause
 - 1. There's been a lot happening on that block, Mira wants to bring this up at the next few circles
- 4. Past business
 - a. TOPA letter, update
 - i. Housing justice coalition that has been organizing around TOPA has a very specific set of talking points, so Mira wanted to make sure there weren't any amendments needed, Mira will talk to Alex about this
 - b. Encampment letter, update
 - i. Sent it out today to all of City Council and the mayor as well as the department of regulatory services, which is handling encampments as of a week ago
 - ii. Several other neighborhoods signed on
- 5. New business
 - a. Partnership with Global Transitional Services - VOTE
 - i. This was split on the consent agenda vote to discuss or not
 - ii. We were the fiscal sponsor for another org last year, and this organization has now asked us to do that for them (GTS)
 - iii. Mira had a quick meeting with reps from the org, and this is basically all she knows!
 - iv. To apply for this funding, they have to partner with a neighborhood org, and they're just south of Lake, technically in Central but close to us, so that's why they picked us
 - v. We are allowed to claim \$1k max from the grant for administrative costs
 - vi. Luz: could we invite them to a meeting?
 - vii. Genna just wants a gut check on their values and if they're aligned with us
 - viii. Steve has some questions about the reimbursement process; Mira has some answers and it mostly depends
 - ix. Motion to ask GTS to come to our community meeting and then we take an e-vote - **APPROVED**
 - b. Neighborhood development evaluation form
 - i. McDonalds letter - VOTE
 - 1. We need more votes than we got on the e-vote - we're going to re-vote! **APPROVED**
 - 2. Becky would like to know if Lake Street Council has been connected to this project - there is a question of the drive through window, which was a major issue for folks in the neighborhood. When Becky was chair of Lake Street Council, mcdonalds came with asks a lot, and another issue that has come from McDonald's employees, they weren't getting paid overtime and they won backpay
 - 3. It feels like they aren't listening to community input - Becky wants more discussion

4. They seem to be relatively new franchise owners, and Mira got in touch with them via Lake Street Council, so her instinct is that they are likely in touch about it
 5. 2 abstentions, 3 opposed, we are not supporting the letter, we can always re-vote if we need to
 6. If there are a list of specific questions we have, either for the lake street council or for the franchise owner, so we can share that
- c. Board recruitment
 - i. Board open house
 1. April 11, Alex's house!
 - d. Covid check in - returning to in-person community meetings?
 - i. Gauge interest in having our April board meeting in person
 - ii. With boosters, masks, and if the weather is nice it could be at the garden
 - e. Cost-sharing agreement with SSCO: included having a personnel committee, is anyone interested in joining - Genna might be interested, brenda's a maybe

Adjournment - 7:41pm

- **Brenda: It will be difficult for me to participate in board/committee activities from April 16th thru May 22nd. If verbal comment or vote is needed, I can be reached at 612-718-8175.**