



South Uptown Neighborhood Association (SUNA) Meeting Minutes  
April 18, 2023

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**Attendees:**

- ★ Katy Briggs, Jenna Egan, Phillip Qualy, Rachel Starcher, Alex Bissen
- ★ Others Attending Matthew Ayres, Minneapolis 10-W CM Aisha Chughtai, Scott Engel, Jason Green, Lynee Koester
- ★ Excused: Gretchen Sieger, Haakon Gisvold, Joel Chechik, Jerome Chateau

**Agenda / Meeting Notes:**

Introductions/ Announcements, SUNA President Katy Briggs:

- Welcome and introductions on Zoom:

Approve Agenda & 3/21 Minutes, Katy Briggs (Vote):

- Motion to move to ad DEI committee update after a committee update
  - Approved
- Motion to approve March 21, 2023 Minutes
  - Approved
- Motion to amend March meeting minutes,
  - Motion, Phil, Second, Alex. Motion failed committee vote, 2-2. (2 abstain).

Community Forum, Katy Briggs (Discussion):

Potential future topics:

No items brought forward this month.

## Bryant Square Park Update: Jason Green, Director

- Green reports vehicles being stolen from the park's parking lot. Personal comment that Jason has never seen this before in city park system. As witnessed, youth at ages as young as 10- 14 years are stealing, damaging, and targeting police vehicles with stolen cars Jason reminds persons to protect your vehicles, valuables.
- MPRB has changed the deadline date for Fall registration for ball-game sports.. Registration is now May 1st. Please send youth, family, friends, and neighbors to program.
- Bryant Square Summer Camp has openings for youth. Please contact Jason at the park if financial assistance is needed for youth to participate. Ten scholarship slots are open and more can be added. The summer program runs Tuesday-Friday, for \$10.00/week. Bryant Square has capacity to over-enroll kids ages 8-14.
- Park flag football program has strong sign-up numbers for the Spring season. Jerseys and equipment being provided by Minnesota Viking Community Fund. There is large participation level from young persons identifying as girls. All are welcome to join-up.
- The Bryant Square Park concert series schedule is going well. Only One date is not filled at this time, June 29,. Please see the Bryant Square and South Uptown websites for the schedule.
- Saturday April 22nd, 2023 is the Earth Day Clean Up. Volunteers are needed this Saturday, 9:00 AM to noon, at Bryant Square Park. Volunteers will be provided with gloves and bags to pick up litter in the neighborhood.
- Bryant Square Park has received a financial grant from the University of Minnesota and second source for flag football outreach totaling \$9K- \$6000 in 2023 and \$3000 in 2024. It focuses on 5-7 year old Flag Football players for the Fall Season.

## Joyce Uptown Food Shelf

- Matthew Ayres and volunteer Amanda from the Joyce Food Shelf, presented history and program summary of food program. The Food Shelf was started through Joyce Church in 1969, Joyce is oldest food shelf in state, remains on corner of Fremont and West 31st St.
- Joyce moves 60,000 pounds of food per month.
- The majority of people receiving services shop at Joyce similar to retail, but with no cost. Joyce also provides emergency food for persons in crisis need with "four-day" food bags. Geographic area data has service area from zip codes 55408 and 55407.
- Joyce is a "no questions asked" food provider, with no requirements for where one lives or how much money they make. Basic demographic information is requested for compliance. Ethnic breakdown is 40% Latino/Spanish, 10% West African. Joyce's 10% of serviced persons are homeless.

- Joyce is open 34 hours a week opening Saturdays, 10 AM, for 8 hours, Tuesday , 10 AM, Wednesday 12 PM, Thursday and Friday 11 AM. Friday has a small delivery door to door service program and the on-site open store..
- Joyce spent \$140,000 on food in 2022, with \$369,000 annual budget for FY2023. Second Harvest is a major supplier providing 65% of food source, purchased from them.
- Joyce Food Shelf budget is under pressure due to inflation and competition for available food sources. Government donations provide less than 10% of the Joyce budget. Majority

of budget is from small donors.

As a summary, Matthew thanks SUNA for the continued outreach and community partnership. Joyce Food Shelf has valued working relationships with CARAG and SUNA in the past. Joyce is open to the public: "We are here, we are serving our community".

-Questions: Chair Briggs asks how can we help Joyce Food Shelf? Matt responds continued food drives, drop-off contributions of unopened food and spices, continued fundraising support, and will welcome bi monthly outreach. SUNA/Bryant Square Park Music in the parks will host a Joyce Food Shelf outreach table at each concert..

New annual report is available online at: <https://www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org/2022-annual-report>

#### WARD 10 Council Member Aisha Chughtai Update

- Council Member (CM) Chughtai provided report on Bryant Avenue South and Minneapolis Public Works design and reconstruction project. CM Chughtai did not update on any other City of Minneapolis or recently presented SUNA Board subject areas.
- Bryant Avenue is owned by City of Minneapolis. Community outreach and lay-out included 1800 contacts but did not include points of origination. Council approved reconstruction design.
- Project construction has begun and is planned to be completed by end of season 2023.
- A lot has happened during last weeks on this subject area. Three weeks ago, Public Works started dialogue with CM 10 office. Several weeks ago, city received letter from Bryant Avenue residents with strong concerns with pending design. There are challenges from residents about green space, drive-way width, access and egress, as well as snow plow space during winter.
- There are new ideas to widen driveways, moving green space, angled parking, which deviate from approved plan and neighborhood feed-back.
- Feed-back has been frustration from Bryant Avenue residents, the SUNA Board, and the CM's office. Residents believe it is "unfair" to persons who were not in planning process. Residents ask: "Why aren't public works, planners listening to community feed-back"?
- Public Works is hosting a community meeting this Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 6: 30 to 8 PM online. Public Works will also visit with Minneapolis pedestrian advisory committee prior to the open meeting. The Public Work's website for Bryant Avenue reconstruction has project information and meeting link.
- CM Chughtai shares her belief that "changes are being made" by Public Works. However, it is difficult to delay projects with Public Works logistics and private contractors.

- Question: Scott Engel: What will be the changes, difference on Bryant Avenue between Lake Street to 32nd Street? CM Chughtai said it is not yet clear what changes will be. CM does not agree with angled parking idea, change of plan due to reduction of trees, green space, snow plow storage area, and space between cars. Public Works has not made a final decision on design.
- Question: Alex Bissen: At what point have the planners passed the point no return threshold? Further, at what point does a final plan need to go back to get Council approval? CM Chughtai answers that Public Works final design does not need approved by council. Difficult to know when Public Works has crossed the line. CM Chughtai states "the good news is that this is all about political will and leadership". Difficult to delay projects with contractors.
- Question: Phillip Qualy (Third person): Is CM Chughtai willing to ask Public Works to delay the final traffic-flow, parking, and surface design while sub-grade and sewer work is completed? CM Chughtai responds delay will cause an undue impact on residents and business. She reiterates it is difficult to request a project delay. CM Chughtai states frustration for lack of consensus and communication from Bryant Avenue neighbors. She also answers she is not hearing enough from SUNA neighbors to justify a project delay.

#### Land Use & Transportation Committee, Jerome Chateau, Scott Engel.

- Common Bond Project, 1301 West Lake Street has been awarded \$1.5 million in TIFF funds through City of Minneapolis. Funds are redirected from Seven Points to Common Bond.
- Jerome announced he is now a member of the Common Bond Advisory Committee. There will be two community outreach meetings in near future. The meetings are for the entire community and will be held at the Uptown YWCA and Midtown Global Market. One meeting is April 29, 1PM at YWCA.
- -Jerome reports he attended a Common Bond Advisory Board meeting. There was a lot of feed-back for green space and architectural character. He shared question as to why meetings are being held at the Global Market several miles east from Uptown on Lake Street. Their vision is to bind with the whole of greater Lake Street. Common Bond held conceptual discussion for ideas for the proposed project's street level uses. These included a non-overly ambitious for retail space, requirements for retail, and community space. Early visioning as to project priorities.
- Moxy Hotel HVAC: Chair Briggs and Scott Engel report they had a Zoom meeting with the Graves Group last month. Their intent was to have a report for April 5<sup>th</sup> (cancelled) meeting. Graves Group stated they would need to find HVAC design information. After speaking with Graves Group before meeting, they have found Moxy HVAC documents. There is no further update of progress to date. Phillip Qualy, (third person) reiterated while the goal is to remediate the Moxy HVAC noise on SUNA homes, he requested inclusion of impacted neighbors within SUNA outreach to assure the most satisfactory outcome.

#### Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Statement, Rachel Starcher (Discussion)

- Approved SUNA DEI action plan is ready to move forward. There are a few things going on. Consider what do we with action plan, implementation. How do we move forward?
- 1,500 has been allocated, monies set aside for DEI. Apply strategies from focus group, do we need outreach consulting. (Allied Folk).

- Chair Briggs is in favor of outreach to re engage Allied Folk for an outreach strategy, For next meeting, Rachel, Katie, board members will propose a contract with Allied Folk and have report prepared for next meeting, and consideration for a board vote

#### Livability and Engagement Committee Update

- As reported prior, Bryant Square and SUNA are planning the music concert series.
- A new SUNA Board brochure has been printed.
- Earth day cleanup is Saturday April 22, 2023. Picking up trash 9:30 AM to 12 PM. Volunteers are needed. Volunteers will meet at Bryant Square Park to get trash bags and will then return back to the park. .
- Renter focus group: Under consideration from last meeting. No update at this time.

#### Development Committee

- Summer Concert Series sponsorships are available.

#### Treasurer's Report, Scott Engel Budget Update and Contribution Vote:

- Six months into budget year 2023, SUNA is on budget and ahead of fund-raising goals. Spending has been frugal so SUNA has lower expense balance; March was a slow month.
- The SUNA Board has been contacted by leadership of the Lyn Lake Business Art Festival. The group has requested a donation for the Lyn-Lake Business Association for the festival. A donation of \$1,000 from the SUNA Board to support the event is recommended by Scott Engel. And Treasurer Joel Chechik.
- Chair Briggs calls for Motion to donate \$1,000 for the Lyn Lake Art Festival. . Motion: Jerome Chateau, Second:: Jenna. Egan. SUNA Board Vote: Voice Vote of Support. No votes in opposition.

#### Bank Accounts & Financial Report (Update):

- SUNA Account in good standing. Information provided via email prior.

#### Adjournment Chair Briggs calls for motion to Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn : Jerome Chateau, Second: Alex Bissen. Unanimous Approval; Adjournment.

#### Upcoming Committee Meetings and Events:

- South Uptown Neighborhood Meeting: Tuesday May 16th, 2023, 7:00PM