



South Uptown Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes- August 15, 2023

Board Attendees

- ★ Alex Bissen, Katy Briggs, Jerome Chateau, Joel Checkik, Jenna Egan, Phil Qualy & Gretchen Sieger
- ★ ~~Absent: Haakon Gisvold, Rachel Starcher~~

Agenda / Meeting Notes

Introductions/ Announcements, Katy Briggs

- Upcoming meetings and events-
 - Ice cream social - 8/16 from 6-8pm
 - Black Panther Wakanda Forever - 9/2 at dusk
 - Annual meeting - September 19th

Approve Agenda & 6/20 Minutes, Katy Briggs (Vote)

- Motion to approve 6/20/23 minutes. Approved
- Motion to approve 8/15/23 agenda. Approved

Community Forum, Katy Briggs

- Speedway is a problematic neighbor with litter, drug use and aggressive behavior observed.
- *Fool Me Once* just opened on LynLake - nice addition to the neighborhood!

Bryant Square Park, Jason Green (Update)

- Unavailable

10th Ward City Council Report, CM Aisha Chughtai (Update)

- Chughtai addressed the Speedway issues.
 - Different management than Lyndale & 22nd, which is more responsive than the Uptown location
 - Former Inspector Blackwell visited with the CM in late winter. They reached out to corporate management (in Chicago) without a reply.
 - Suggestions include adding additional trash receptacles on premises and nearby.
- Mayor Frey presented the 2024 budget to the CC.
 - Three public hearings will be held, between October and December
 - Highlights- 7-9M projected to address the federal consent decree
 - 10M in climate related funding through the Climate Legacy Initiative- partnership with Center Point Energy and Excel (\$1/household/month). Expect to spend around half on weatherizing homes. 1.5M is dedicated to investing in the workforce, 1M for new trees.
- Public safety and policing
 - CC voted unanimously to renew the contract with the crisis response team. This is an alternative response to 911 calls for those experiencing mental health crises.
 - Added additional contracts and funding (1.8M) for violence interrupters (violence prevention specialist). includes both East and West Lake Street.
 - Restructuring within the MPD. Katie Blackwell has been promoted to Assistant Chief of Police. It is exciting to have someone in a leadership position who
 - Inspector Kristy Nelson has replaced Ms. Blackwell.
 - New Social Worker named Melissa. This is funded by the County and the City. She will deal with cases that require more follow-up, especially those that rely on 911 on a regular basis.
- Minimum wage ordinance for Uber and Lyft drivers will be proposed this week.
- The current Bryant Ave construction is supposed to be completed by the end of this year's construction season.
 - Phase 1 - everything south of 42nd will be redone to fixed problems (allow emergency vehicle access)
 - Lessons learned from phase 1 will be applied to Phase 2 (north of 42nd).
- Traffic related questions (34th & Bryant bus stop; crosswalk at 32nd/33rd & Hennepin)
- Special assessments - burden of paying for improvements falls on people that live in the immediate vicinity (through taxes).
 - Residents on fixed incomes are especially vulnerable to these special levies. The most that can be done is a payment deferral for a few years.
 - There are conversations around including these projects in the annual budget, which is planned for and therefore shouldn't be an unexpected burden.

- Special assessments account for nearly 10M in funding for work every year.
- Speed bumps? Is there any expansion of this program? Short answer, yes. All of the traffic calming measures are receiving attention and priority.
 - Vision Zero improvements planned for 31st.
 - Neighbors are not able to pay for their own speedbumps. The idea is that it is more equitable; that improvements are made where they are most needed, not where neighbors are able to raise funds separately,
 - 30 projects a year is not enough (>700 requests were received in the last year).
- Question about state level funding that goes to the City, CSAA Program does not include the City. There are 2 pots of funding, Does the transportation funding from the state help residents of Minneapolis?
 - Funding should be proportional to the population and anticipate growth, so in this regard there has not been enough funding. More and more of the City's money needs to go to these infrastructure and transportation projects,
- Common Bond project-
 - Concerns about what is going to happen as far as execution.

9/19 South Uptown Annual Meeting, Katy Briggs

Board Nominations (Vote)

- Each August we take nominations to run for the South Uptown Board.
- Four members' terms are running out: Katy Briggs, Alex Bissen, Joel Chechik and Haakon Gisvold; meaning each will need to run again during the September 19 Annual Meeting (if planning to run again).
- The remaining Board Members are in the first year of a two-year term.
- Today we begin the process of nominations.
 - Alex self-nominates
 - Katy nominates Joel

Annual Meeting details (Discussion)

- The Board discussed the idea of making the annual meeting more friendly, to be held in person at BSP, with a pizza party.
 - Begin 6:30 for dinner, with the meeting to start at 7.

South Uptown Committees, All (Update)

Development Committee

- A few short of getting 100% sponsorship for the concert series. This is still an improvement over previous years. We should pursue this type of sponsorship for other events.
- Katy will schedule the next Development meeting this week.

Livability and Engagement

- Fall neighborhood cleanup this September 30.
- Chili Fest may be reenvisioned for next year.

Land Use & Transportation Committee

- No updates on Seven Points.
- Common Bond- early September meeting will include more detailed plans and designs.
- The Fremont project passed the Planning Commission.
- There are people living in the houses that have been abandoned.
- The Lyndale Ave reconstruction will be discussed at the 9/6 meeting.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Rachel Starcher

- Finalized details of a contract with Allied Folk to consult on a renter focus group and continued DEI work with the Board.
- Renter Focus Group planned for August 23 @6:30
 - 19 people are registered!
- The contract with Allied Folk to provide DEI consulting with the Board will help the Board utilize feedback from the focus group. We just received a revised contract that details a timeline for this work further into the fall.
- Motion to approve the new contract, which was previously approved, and is changed only in the contract duration (Oct-Dec 2023). Approved

Treasurer's Report, Joel Checkik

Bank Accounts & Financial Report (Update)

- Typical spending (rent, staff, supplies). Transaction report includes t-shirt sales from the Concert Series. Expenses related to the Concert Series (\$1000 for musicians – \$100 for each performer/group).

Proposed Fy2024 Budget (Update)

- A draft fiscal year 2024 budget based on current spending and projected programming was distributed. A final version of the budget should be approved during the South Uptown Annual Meeting on September 19.
- The current year's budget is lined up with the proposed budget. We are anticipating spending ~\$3K more next year, but at the same time we expect increased revenue.
- Bike racks and utility wraps are planned expenses for programming for next year.

South Uptown Office Lease (Vote)

- A proposed office lease for the space at 3501 Aldrich was distributed. The agreement extends for two years and proposes a small 2% rent increase each year.
- Motion to approve the 2-year office lease. Approved.

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn. Approved

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Events

- BSP Ice Cream Social: Wed, August 16, 6-8PM at BSP
 - Movie in the Park "Black Panther, Wakonda Forever": Sat, September 2, Dusk at BSP
 - South Uptown Annual Meeting: Tue, September 19, 6:30PM at BSP
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