

South Uptown Neighborhood Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 7PM
3501 Aldrich Avenue S./ Online

Draft Meeting Minutes

Board Members Attending:

- Jerome Chateau, Brian Dvorak, Phil Qualy, Rachel Starcher & Alec Shannon (Absent: Alex Bissen, Joel Chechik, Jenna Egan, Gretchen Sieger)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM

Agenda & Minutes, Jerome Chateau

- Motion, seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Approved.
- Motion, seconded to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024 meeting, as presented. Approved.

Community Forum, Jerome Chateau

- Qualy mentioned that he and his neighbors are hearing noise from the Moxy Hotel HVAC again after a multi-month reprieve.
- Chateau noted that a few businesses at Lake and Lyndale are interested in pursuing Street Cafes outside their restaurants. He requested support from the South Uptown Board in order to send a letter to City Council Member Aisha Chughtai expressing encouragement of Street Cafes and Parklets. Motion, seconded to endorse sending a letter of support for Street Cafes and Parklets to the City. Approved.

Bryant Square Park Update, Jason Green- BSP Director

- The online registration for spring and summer programming in Minneapolis Parks goes live this week. There are a wide variety of camps, sports and other activities scheduled at BSP.
- Unusually warm weather caused the shortest skating season at BSP on record. Crews were able to get the rink open for just a few days in mid-January before the ice melted. It also forced the cancellation of the Luminary Skating Party.
- Many musicians have submitted applications to perform at Minneapolis parks this summer including BSP with the deadline closing February 15. South Uptown and BSP have partnered on a sponsorship program the past few years to raise funds for the neighborhood, upgrade the concert series experience with food and provide a stipend to performers.

Minneapolis Park Update, Cathy Abene- MPRB 6th District Commissioner

- Abene represents South Uptown and much of southwest Minneapolis on the Park Board, and she now serves as their Vice President.

- She noted that BSP is not scheduled to receive upgrades within the next 6+ years since major renovations to the playground and wading pool were made in 2017 and 2018. MPRB has been implementing Neighborhood Park upgrades in a methodical process that prioritizes equity.
- Abene addressed a recent petition seeking compensation for musicians who perform during the summer Music In the Parks concert series. She noted appreciation of their work, but believes paying the musicians isn't feasible since there are more than 200 performances. The Park Board also relies on volunteer labor for other programs including maintaining plantings and coaching sports.

South Uptown Committee Updates, All

- Development Committee: The group meets next on February 27 to discuss the BSP concert series sponsorship program including approaching business sponsors.
- Land Use & Transportation Committee: LU&T meets next on March 6 and will discuss strategies for supporting local businesses. The 1301 W. Lake St. affordable housing project is delayed at least another 6 months due to a financing gap.
- Livability & Engagement Committee: The group meets on March 13 to discuss event planning and engagement strategies. The Chili Fest is coming up on February 25 and the next Happy Hour is March 7.

Renter Engagement, Alec Shannon- DEI Officer

- Shannon highlighted a list of renter engagement options for the Board to consider. The options were presented via an online platform that allowed for real time voting and prioritization.
- The group decided to extend the voting a few days in order to allow absent Board Members to participate, as well. We will review the results at the next meeting and discuss how to move forward.

City Funding for Neighborhood Associations, Scott Engel

- Proposed Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Plan Modification: In November the Board discussed the concept of reallocating \$10,000 from repaid home loans to support renter engagement activities. So, a Plan Modification was presented during the January 16 meeting to move those funds to NRP Action Plan Strategy 8.1.1 Livability Committee/ Engagement. The change was promoted on South Uptown's website and through social media informing neighbors of a vote during the February 20 meeting. Motion, seconded to approve the proposed NRP Plan Modification, as presented. Approved.
- Neighborhoods 2020- 2023 Annual Report: Engel noted that the organization receives about \$33,000 through the Neighborhoods 2020 grant program each year. The City requires completion and Board approval of an online report that highlights engagement over the last year. Motion, seconded to approve the 2023 Annual Report, as presented. Approved.

Treasurers Report, Scott Engel

- Engel highlighted the Financial report that was sent to the Board and available for review during the meeting. He noted expenses in January including a payment to Allied Folk for DEI training.
- Bryant Square Park Concert Series: Engel reviewed a report showing income and expenses for the 2023 concert season. Business sponsorships offset costs like flyering, advertising, karaoke machine rental and stipends for performers. The Development committee wants to make an earlier push for sponsorships ensuring all 13 concerts are sponsored this summer.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.