

South Uptown Neighborhood Meeting
June 21, 2022

Board Members in Attendance:

Katy Briggs, Jerome Chateau, Tony Cipolle, Brad Klein, James McLain,
Rob Raika, Scott Moss (Absent: Hannah Friel & Rollie Olson)

Online:

Gretchen
James
Melissa Kell
Nina Bouten
Ester
Russ Brooks
David Frank Uptown Association

7:04

Announcements:

BSP Concerts: 800-1000 people for Wookie Foot
Garden Tour: Saturday 10am Monday evening

No meeting in July

Next meeting is Tuesday August 16th

Motion to amend agenda: DEI update not development update

New basketball rim is on order

Esther and Nina: Arts & Recreation Uptown (Graves Hospitality)

Get to know the artists (mile deep, inch wide)

Revitalizing

Art, Mini-Golf, Community Engagement (live music, speakeasy space,)

Destination attraction space

How do we foster community? Public art projects (bringing in emerging and mid-career artists for public art, murals, installations, engage physical spaces and local artists) Pairing mid-career artists with established artists for professional development. Showcasing local artists. DE&I and accessibility focus. Working with MRAC MN regional arts council to develop accessible mini golf and restaurant. They have Fair food on the rooftop. They are creating an interactive art/music experience while having a meal. Multi-use space, gallery space in the restaurant, community space, corporate events.

Love for Uptown: campaign to promote this space through businesses and community organizations. Presenting food and art in the community, honoring the artists.

Opening the rooftop in July. First floor mini golf, restaurant etc opening in September.

Lovefromuptown.com

Artist roster is forthcoming will be on Arts & Recreation Uptown's website
Art for sale in their gallery
Working on opportunities for art outside of the space in the community
Tour for SUNA once construction is at a safe point

David Frank - Uptown Association
Exec director of the business association (focussed on Lake and Henn)

Safety is a huge priority for business owners
More people needed back in the neighborhood
"More businesses like mine"

Safety - not mentioning more or fewer police officers
What can property owners and businesses do for low/no cost to make people feel safer?
Series of speaker Q&A's crime prevention specialists, lighting, cameras, how to speak to customers, who to call, practical tips to business owners

Revitalization - property owners sharing information on tenant prospects, rental rates, etc to fill in vacancies, sharing leads

Tracking revitalization year over year - Uptown Assoc. partnering with a financial engineering company to figure out how many people come to uptown and how long do they stay.

Uptown Art Fair 2nd most attended MN event

Soon to propose streetscape improvements for Hennepin between Lake and 31st (Activity Block) urban designers and landscape designers working on proposal (bike racks, benches, lights, planters, encouraging passive activity)

Question: Renovations before new tenants come in?

How can SUNA help?

Is there something the City of MPLS can do to support brick and mortar stores via tax considerations? Traditional B&M retail is very different now, but Uptown should be a location that focuses on keeping retail alive.

Councilperson Aisha Chughtai Update
Wins:

American rescue plan act - Free signage from the city to convert single stall restrooms to gender neutral

\$700,000 moved into a pool of funds (\$1 million total) for business recovery for W Lake, E Lake, 38th and Chicago. Funds could be used for fixing empty storefronts, covering payroll, one-time

costs (ie accounting software upgrades). City staff reviews applications for funds. Applications available on City of MPLS website.

Behavioral Crisis Response workers (unarmed crisis response workers) 2 vans exist now. MPLS is adding more vans so there is one for every MPD precinct.

Working on:

Future of Hennepin Avenue: Layout vetoed and parking restriction resolution vetoed by mayor, city council override vote happening next week. Council looking for compromise with the mayor's office. Negotiating over hours of bus-only lanes. Construction is coming soon and will last 2 years. Aisha focussed on how the city council can support uptown during construction.

Rent stabilization work group being formed and will come up with recommendations for rent caps, exemptions, and vacancy control.

Land Use Committee update: 7 points redevelopment has been approved. Demolition starting in fall and construction will last until 2024.

Common Bond Project AHTF Letter of Support to development of 1301 Lake Street (6 stories, 120 units of affordable housing, 20 of which will be transitional housing units). Requires funding from the city and the state. Land Use Committee has drafted a letter of support for this redevelopment:

Vote: Motion to approve letter of support unanimously accepted

D&I Committee update:

Katy meeting with Ashley in coming weeks for one-on-one coaching

Summary:

Board members should take lead on areas and provide group with recommendations

Establish top priorities and vote on most important actions and timelines

D&I position document progress and provide updates to board and community

This will be a topic at the Board's July Retreat, Scott sending a doodle poll to schedule retreat.

Treasurer's Report

LynLake Business Association - Street Art Festival request for funds (\$1000 from neighborhood revitalization pool of funding)

Vote: Motion to approve funding approved unanimously

Proposed NRP Plan Modification

21 days notice given tonight. the vote will take place at August meeting

Needs “yes” votes from 25 non-board members in order to reallocate \$187,252 from NRP strategy 3.1.5 Cycle of Life Housing to strategy 11.1.1 Staff and Administration Support.