



South Uptown Neighborhood Association (SUNA) Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2023

Attendees

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

Agenda / Meeting Notes

Introductions/ Announcements, Katy Briggs

- Welcome and introductions
 - John J, Lynee, Shane, and Chris C are attending from the community.

Approve Agenda & 2/21 Minutes, Katy Briggs (Vote)

- Motion to move the Bryant Square Park update to agenda item #3
 - Approved
- Motion to approve 3/21/23 agenda
 - Approved
- Motion to approve 2/21/23 minutes
 - Approved

Community Forum, Katy Briggs (Discussion)

Potential future topics:

- The City lowered the speed limits and the traffic levels have increased (John)
 - Speed bumps seem to work well. However, the City is reluctant to use/fund speed bumps
- Southwest Connector (Phil) Clean-up funds at Seven Points
- Outreach from Lake street businesses (Phil)

Bryant Square Park, Jason Green (Update)

- Jason gives a note of thanks for the annual SUNA donation (\$1500)
- Park Board has 8 parks selected to be in the UMN Study (BSP was chosen)

- 1 program per season starting in 2023. \$9K will be received for implementing the programming for 6-13 year olds.
- Flag football will be offered (no more tackle football in the parks) for those under 7th grade age
 - Full registration- 3 full teams and 44 kids signed up
 - Vikings are providing jerseys!
 - Twins are paying for all RBI baseball and softball jerseys
 - (No softball at BSP)
- Booking concerts & Finalizing the schedule
 - 12 dates are picked – sending confirmation letter to the groups
 - 58 artists submitted for 12 different spots.
- Gardening events upcoming- Will have seeds to give away
- BSP has a master plan upcoming that is to go down to one field, and hopefully better manage the field conditions.

Mpls Park & Recreation Board, Cathy Abene- 6th District (Update)

- Cathy represents the park board in district 6 and is a civil engineer by day.
- Open houses for diamond sports facilities that are purposeful and align with schools, parks, and traveling leagues
 - Bryant Square Park is used as a rink in the winter– makes the ground conditions (e.g., compact earth, weeds) disadvantageous for diamond sports
- Two main topics to solicit interest and advocacy
 - There is a new board of commissioners.
- Water quality and storm water mgmt
 - Runoff from buildings, sidewalks, trails, & roads that end up in bodies of water
 - The Storm sewer system (SSS) operates but not with a focus on water quality!
 - City operates the SSS like a utility..
 - Proposing to add \$2 to the storm water fee to fund water projects & monitoring
 - Lake monitoring works really well, but there is a gap in who is staffed and responsible for stormwater management
 - A storm water improvement project in the 90s was successful, but the goals were abandoned
- Parkways
 - Condition is so poor, whether driving or biking
 - Parkway maintenance is paid for by the City (\$750K per year in funding with no increases) \$6M each year is needed to catch up and maintain parkways
 - Asking the City to find a different way to fund..?

Land Use & Transportation Committee, Scott Engel (Update & Vote)

Land Use Rezoning Study Comments

- Jerome is unavailable this evening

- Rezoning study - match up zoning maps with the new 2040 policies/plan
 - The Land Use Committee discussed earlier this month
 - Very complex as it updates the zoning code for all City properties
 - Minneapolis 2040 already approved, so there are not a lot of opportunities for feedback
 - In South Uptown, interior will remain residential, but may have some larger buildings
 - Commercial corridor will be expanded
 - Residential-Mixed use (Lake and Bryant) – slightly larger residential units while still maintaining the commercial aspect

Common Bond TIF Letter of Support (Vote)

- \$1M was awarded; need an additional \$1.5M
- TIF \$ would fund the gap by redirecting increased property taxes to the project
- Phil proposes amendments to the letter
 - Support concept of health and wellness / human services - focused facilities over bars and clubs
- Public hearing next Tuesday at Business, Inspections & Zoning (BIZ) Committee
 - If approved and forwarded to the City Council it can move on, filling the funding gap.
- Architecture and how it fits into the neighborhood (John J)
 - Tabled for future discussions and opportunities
- Motion to approve
 - Approved

Moxy Hotel HVAC (Update)

- Met with Jen Graves and Moxy leadership (General Manager)
 - Passed along the concerns.. They are committing to addressing the concerns and state that this is not reflected in the feedback from guests.

DEI Statement, Rachel Starcher (Discussion)

Revised draft of DEI statement:

In South Uptown, everyone is welcome. Whether putting down roots, blossoming new generations, or ebbing and flowing like the water's edge on our lakeshores, our community's vibrancy stems from our neighbors.

- Motion to approve the DEI Statement
 - Approved

Mission Alignment Framework, Katy Briggs (Discussion)

- Katy introduced a set of questions that can align our mission given that we are a 501 c3 nonprofit
- Which issues really focus on a safe, equitable and vibrant community?

- What is the plan to engage the entire community / neighborhood (John)
 - Great question, and that is why the framework is being laid out
- SUNA has always been issue driven; must rely on the volunteers (Phil)
 - Concerns about determining whether the initiative truly benefits "as a whole".
- SUNA cannot lobby nor endorse candidates, and has to be extremely careful about these parameters. These are some of the limitations of a 501(3)(c).
- The proposal to the board is to introduce a framework for enabling good stewardship.
 - e.g., Ensuring underrepresented groups are included and have opportunities to give feedback and participate
 - Door knocking: upcoming
 - Social media: ongoing, trying to ramp up
 - Pop up social events: being planned
 - Attendance has been bumped up by issues, but tends to be topic-driven.

Other Committee Updates, All (Update)

Livability and Engagement

- Planning the music concert series
- South Uptown HH at the Granada Theater 5-8PM 3/23
- Earth day cleanup April 22, 2023
- Renter focus group?

Development Committee

- Meeting on Monday 3/27 @ 6PM via Zoom
 - Summer Concert Series sponsorships

Treasurer's Report, Scott Engel (Update)

Bank Accounts & Financial Report (Update)

- Joel is unavailable
- Not a lot of activity besides donation of \$1500 to BSP
 - Workers comp insurance paid
 - More expenses expected later this year
 - SUNA will use NRP funding as part of Bryant Ave reconstruction to:
 - make bike racks customized with SUNA logo
 - cover utility boxes (preventing tagging)

Neighborhoods 2020 2022 Report (Vote)

- City Neighborhood and Community Relations
 - 2020 is the program that funds a significant portion of SUNA
 - Need to complete a survey (short answers) to provide an annual summary describes outreach; equitable engagement plan is new this year
 - Highlighted organics recycling & BSP Concert Series

- e.g., Flyer in different languages?
 - 2% in our area- not going to have a big impact
- Motion to approve the report
 - Approved

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn
 - Approved

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Events

- South Uptown Neighborhood Meeting: Tue, April 18, 2023, 7:00PM
 - South Uptown Happy Hour: Thu, March 23, 2023, 5-8PM at Granada Theater, 3022 Hennepin Ave
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