

South Uptown Neighborhood Association  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Online Meeting Minutes

Attending: Ashley Bredeson, Dylan McMahon, Brad Klein, Max Ellis, Rollie Olson, Rob Raike, Justin Gardiner, Sophie Snow, Scott Engel, Jerome Chateau



**1. Call to order/Announcements**

- a. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM. Board members introduced themselves.
- b. Motion to approve the agenda and October 20 minutes, seconded, motion passed

**2. Bryant Square Park, Jason Green**

- a. Offer to anyone to reach out with questions or concerns: 612-370-4773  
[jngreen@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:jngreen@minneapolisparcs.org)
- b. Skating rink is not going to happen this year unfortunately. Driven by asset management. Financial and COVID related decision
  - i. Send an email to Jason if you would like to submit your comments about the skating rink
- c. Winter sports registration opened up, possible practice resumes on January 4<sup>th</sup>
- d. Question about if a personal entity could financially support the ice rink. Green is unsure if that would be supported this year, but did mention there is a possibility. Estimate \$10,000 to maintain the ice rink
- e. Green will provide an update to Engel about future operations

**3. Development Committee, Ashley Bredeson**

- a. Strategic Planning Update
  - i. Engel met with U of M consulting group about the application to have them lead strategic planning efforts. A decision should be made within a couple weeks
- b. Give to the Max Day Update
  - i. <https://www.givemn.org/organization/South-Uptown-Neighborhood-Association>
  - ii. Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Everyone is encouraged to give whatever is meaningful to them
  - iii. Encouraged people to post on the day using the #WhyILoveSUptown hashtag and sharing a photo from the community
- c. Strategic Planning Exercise
  - i. 3 breakout rooms were created and facilitated by Raike, Michener, and McMahon. 20 Minutes were allotted for discussion, and questions were given to facilitators prior to the meetings
  - ii. Breakout Room #1 Notes:

1. *How would you describe the current mission and work of the South Uptown Neighborhood association?*
  - a. Could be enhanced and elevated and agrees with health and safety.
  - b. Neighborhood association has some specific roles and vague roles. More specific are the loan program, security... NRP. Dealing with those funds and finding ways to use them. Other specific is giving a voice to members of community irt developments and committee-of-the-whole around that. Small things like wrapping boxes and art projects. Connection-creative-community covers it but the need to focus specifically on health, safety (safety training in the past). Do we need to specifically refer to NRP?
  - c. improving quality of life. Connection-creativity-community, like it, but think it can be expanded/adjusted.
  - d. want to expand Health and Safety.
  - e. Agree with everything said. Mission can be more specific and spelled out. Safe, healthy, connected community is important.
2. *What is the top thing our organization could do for everyone in the South Uptown community?*
  - a. Communicate good or bad- health, safety, whatever's happening. Communication is important.
  - b. Connection or community, coming back to the mission. COVID has made it clear the distance between neighbors, so interested in how SUNA can create connection between neighbors.
  - c. connection, communication. Safety, making sure we have a safe neighborhood. Not sure how it's actionable but notes the importance.
  - d. SUNA take into consideration future neighbors, specifically when considering development projects. Lack of supply of housing and it's a barrier to more neighbors.
  - e. communication
3. *What about this community do you value?*
  - a. my neighbors
  - b. safety comes up, especially after this summer, feels quite safe in the neighborhood. Living close to potential increased density.
  - c. despite increased density, still feels like a neighborhood.

d. like the neighborhood feel, really appreciate neighbors which shows through while walking around.

4. *Why do you stay here/why did you move here?*

a. moved back, never leaving because of the neighbors, bus stops, everything within walking distance. Availability, shoppability.

b. access to everything without a car- bike, transit, walk to lakes, parks, greenspace.

c. affordable rent

d. affordable rent. Stays for the transportation, no car. Appreciate that greenspace is close to grocery and shopping.

e. housing was affordable when he moved here, low crime stats. Stay for the neighbors.

5. *What does success look like for the organization?*

a. with decreased funding in the future- survival. The ability to keep up events (chili fest, etc) as a necessary way of community building. Continuation of NRP projects.

b. survival is #1. Forward thinking. Keep community events.

c. engagement. Recently started joining and want to keep joining.

d. influence SUNA has on community projects. Like the sway we have. SW journal going away makes communication much more important.

iii. Breakout Room #2 Notes:

1. *How would you describe the current mission and work of the South Uptown Neighborhood association?*

a. Appreciate tone of inclusivity, but a little generic

b. Nice but "static" but the neighborhood is dynamic with decisions to be made; is not reflective of the current needs

c. Would like to see more: dynamic community need dynamic mission

d. Need to better flush out, be more explicit and better define

e. Creation is nebulous, connection and community similar

f. Would like to see something around equitable, a little inclusivity – social diversity seems apparent, but maybe income diversity needs to be called out, renters are a big part of the community, need to call out their specific value and make them feel welcome

g. Should there be something around gentrification and rents?

2. *What is the top thing our organization could do for everyone in the South Uptown community?*
  - a. Engaging more resident, getting more people involved, more outreach and flyering
  - b. Needs assessment of residents in times like COVID (e.g. evictions) and is there some way the association can help, helping connecting residents to state and city resources (e.g. city COVID \$'s, via website)
  - c. Inform the residents of the changes coming to the neighborhood
  - d. Social gatherings (e.g chili fest) with altruistic endpoints (food shelf)
3. *What about this community do you value?*
  - a. Walkability, public transit, bike-ability, safety and green space
  - b. Connection and knowing your neighbors, small town feel, village-centric
  - c. Diversity of population, renters are a big part of the community which is nice
  - d. Young and vibrancy, creativity, Proximity to everything
  - e. Borders lake street, very important artery for activity, which is a big draw for young people
- iv. Breakout Room #3 Notes:
  1. *How would you describe the current mission and work of the South Uptown Neighborhood association?*
    - a. a. Events that promote community building: ice cream social, music in the park, chili fest
    - b. b. Neighborhood beautification – trees on the boulevard etc.
  2. *What is the top thing our organization could do for everyone in the South Uptown community?*
    - a. Mutual aid society – could the neighborhood association connect us so those of us who have more can support others
    - b. Ways we could support our local businesses One person shared that the owner of the Treetop Apartments bought Beauty Lounge gift certificates for residents
    - c. Help us make the neighborhood more safe
    - d. Neighborhood watches (?) – other ways we can take care of each other
    - e. Safety tips
  3. *What about this community do you value – why did you move here, why do you stay?*

- a. Neighbors –“ wonderful, warm people”
- b. Transit options – buses, bike lanes, walkability of neighborhood
- c. Quality of living: small businesses, coffee shops, parks, proximity to lakes, music, mix of renters/owners

4. *What are the key things you want to see the organization accomplish?*

- a. Financial resources are currently available to home owners only – what about renters?
- b. What do they need?
- c. Equity issues need to be addressed – financial and otherwise
- d. Is there a technology that could connect us? Hesitant to use Nextdoor

**4. Land Use and Transportation Committee, Jerome Chateau**

- a. Met last week
- b. Intersection of 31<sup>st</sup> and Dupont and Emerson, temporary bumpouts are going to be replaced with permanent infrastructure
  - i. Not sure what the design is- the group is coming to a meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- c. Bryant avenue has been redesigned, there is an upcoming open house in early December
- d. Calhoun Square redevelopment / Seven Points
  - i. Don't take the sketches too literally, it is still preliminary and there is much to still do
  - ii. In agreement that an open space in the middle is ideal
  - iii. Important to have a pathway, not sure where it will be now
- e. Local Ventures
  - i. Will be at Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> land use and transportation meeting

**5. Board of Directors Retreat**

- a. Late November / early December
- b. Goal to create a mission statement that is more fitting for the neighborhood
- c. Hope to come back in January with drafts of the mission, vision, value statements to gain community input
- d. Officially move into strategic planning in late Jan/Feb

**6. Treasurers Report, Dylan McMahon**

- a. Paid out for the graffiti wraps in front of the Moxy. Is reimbursable through the city.
- b. Signatories are updated
- c. This past Saturday a group was able to come and finish setting up the South Uptown Office

**7. Final Comments**

- a. Give to the Max day- a reminder to give and upload your why you love South Uptown photo

- b.** Question about volunteering work, such as shoveling snow.
- 8. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:12 pm, seconded, motion passed