

Bancroft Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 10, 2011

Present: Matthew Ayres, Neal Baxter, Andy Hestness, George Moore, Mike Simons, Rob Warland, Keith Twist, Evette McCarthy, Mike Klick, Whitney Kieffer, Jessica Rosenberg

Absent: Sara Luoma, Ryan Sturtz

President Hestness called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, and asked members to introduce themselves for the benefit of our guest, Larry Matsumoto of the City's Public Works Department.

AGENDA ITEM #1:

Members perused the minutes of the January (2011) meeting, and corrected typographical errors. Neal moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Mike Simons seconded, and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM #2:

Keith Twist offered his Treasurer's report. Mike Simons commented that the Board needs to husband its funds more effectively, and moved to accept the Report with comment. Whitney seconded, and the motion passed. Matthew asked about the internet fee item on the Report; the fee is a yearly one.

AGENDA ITEM #3:

Our esteemed guest from the Public Works Department of the City of Minneapolis, Larry Matsumoto, informed the Board of plans to re-surface Chicago Avenue from 38th Street to 46th Street. Mr. Matsumoto handed out maps of the City's paving projects for the year, explained the 3 stages of street repair, and laid out his procedure for informing residents of the coming disturbance. A public hearing will be held on April 5; another public meeting on June 1 with the City Assessor will give residents an idea of the cost to them of the work; and after a formal meeting on June 7 in the City Council chamber Mr. Matsumoto will contact residents with the date the re-surfacing will begin.

Matthew asked about ways the City accommodates residents who have difficulty paying the assessment. Mr. Matsumoto replied with a summary of options for residents, and the steps he takes to alert residents to the day work is to begin. The date to begin re-surfacing has not been determined.

AGENDA ITEM # 4:

NRP update from Andy Hestness. First, neighborhood associations are considering a suit against the City to recover funds the Council has voted to withhold from NRP. After discussing whether to join the plaintiffs, the Board agreed to table this matter.

Andy reported that the Housing Committee met with GMHC and TCF Bank to put the finishing touches on the Board's several housing loan programs. Andy explained how residents will apply for these loans.

AGENDA ITEM #5:

A report from the Green Initiatives Committee by George Moore. The committee met to flesh out a series of "green" events in the neighborhood:

1. participating in the Green Fair at Sabathani
2. joining Bethel Church for a neighborhood plant exchange
3. liaison with Powderhorn Park Neighborhood's programs,
4. getting in touch with so-called Transition Towns in the City
5. hosting a celebration and bicycle parade to inaugurate the River-Lake Greenway

AGENDA ITEM #6:

Matt Ayres reported that the Special Projects Committee had not undertaken much business lately. Jessica added

that she has informed the owner of Diva Suave (at 42nd & Cedar) that the BNA will not act as fiscal sponsor for that organization.

AGENDA ITEM #7:

Evette reported from the Commercial Development Committee that she had worked on the application for Community Initiated Grants for interior improvements. She hoped to finish this application by March.

Also, Emmett Bryant (former Board member) is drawing up a list of vacant properties; 805 East 38th Street may have a new tenant soon; possibly a seafood restaurant; she asked if the Board wished to join the West of the Rails and 38th & Chicago Business Associations, as dues-paying members. Both organizations assess dues of from \$50 to \$100 per annum. After discussion, Whitney moved that the Board pay dues to the 38th & Chicago Business Association, Neal seconding. Motion passed. George voiced support for doing likewise per the West of the Rails Business Association. Neal so moved, Matthew seconded, and the motion passed.

The Board also discussed urging local businesses to join those associations.

AGENDA ITEM #8:

Mike Klick reported that the Outreach Committee had: developed a 3-year plan and begun to draw up a neighborhood survey; discussed engaging more neighbors as volunteers, esp. to help with The Banner and the website. Mike asked the Board what types of outreach we should undertake. Rob said he has called the 4 churches in the area, talked with 2 (Gospel of Life and Calvary Lutheran) which expressed interest. Board members agreed that our relationship with El Colegio needs more vigor. Whitney added that she has called and talked with Karen Notsch, the Police Department liaison, and Karen is eager to help with outreach.

AGENDA ITEM #9:

Jessica proposed BNA hold a neighborhood business meeting in the spring. The Board was not in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #10:

Jessica's Organizer's Report included news of an event in Powderhorn Park on February 13 concerning recent violent incidents; an invitation to members to volunteer at the upcoming Housing Fair at South High School; and a note about block leader training on February 22, at the Police Department's 3rd Precinct headquarters.

AGENDA ITEM #11:

New & Old Business:

Matthew mentioned the money that the Board gave Cup Foods for a new bulletin board on that establishment's facade. Evette allowed that the new bulletin board is available to post as soon as weather permits. Matthew also urged members to call 311 when they notice graffiti around the neighborhood. He said that Valspar Company donates paint for obscuring graffiti. He intends to procure paint from Valspar, use it, and invited other members to join him. Andy reminded the Board that funds from the Police Department are also available to pay for murals on bare walls. Another expedient to discourage graffiti.

Evette remarked that Jessica Theissing of the Small Area Plan has found a new job, and will leave her position with the Plan. Also, the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Assoc. has lost its Executive Director.

President Hestness entertained a motion to adjourn from Neal, which Evette seconded. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Andy Hestness, President

Neal Baxter, BNA Board Member