

Meeting of the Board of the Bancroft Neighborhood Association
February 9, 2012

Present: Neal Baxter, Kyle Gaffaney, Andy Hestness, Whitney Kieffer, Sara Luoma, Evette McCarthy,
Mark Sauter, Matt Toburen, Shelby Williams; and Jilian Clearman, Community Organizer

President Luoma called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

January Minutes—Neal Baxter

Mark moved to approve, Whitney seconded. Approved.

Amending the Agenda—Sara Luoma

Neal moved to amend the agenda, Matt seconded. Approved.

Evette moved the agenda, Andy seconded. Approved.

People for Parks—Myles Johnson

Our first guest introduced his organization, People for Parks. He described how the group raises money and how they spend it to improve the parks in Minneapolis. They would like to help BNA develop a park in our neighborhood, as we don't have one.

Andy asked if People for Parks might collaborate with El Colegio in developing their Patio. Myles said No, but Colegio should contact the Park administration, esp. new Superintendent Jayne Miller. She might be interested in adding the Patio or Bancroft Meadows to the Park system.

Minneapolis Public Works—Chris Trembath

Our second guest came to tell us about the City's plan to re-surface 38th Street between Chicago and Cedar Avenues this summer. He handed out a sheet showing the probable cost to typical owners of houses and commercial property. Assessment statements will be sent out in May to all residents and businesses along 38th Street. A public meeting will be held at Powderhorn Park at 5:30 PM on May 31; the City Council will vote on the paving proposal at a public hearing on June 5 at City Hall. Chris asked BNA's help in communicating the above to our neighbors. In response to questions, he stated that the paving will not be co-ordinated with construction of the Southern Bike Connection on 17th Avenue, although the crew may paint crosswalk stripes after paving the intersection of 17th & 38th.

Treasurer's Report—Kyle Gaffaney

Our account accrued 76¢ interest last month. The recent Facade Improvement grant went through. Printing charges paid to Bethel church are high on this report, as the church hadn't charged BNA for 2 years. Next month the report should show a charge for one month only.

Neal moved to approve, Evette seconded. Approved.

Green Initiatives Committee—Neal Baxter

After describing the progress made with Bancroft School toward setting aside part of the schoolyard for garden plots, Neal asked the board what is BNA's interest in this project. Given the obstacles to community interest (high percentage of yield accruing to the school, preference to gardeners available to teach gardening principles to children during school hours), and also Andy's news that Principal Marietta will move to Ramsey School next year, the Board could see no interest in pursuing this project.

Our garden plots at Bethel church have been cited by Metro Blooms. Award to be given to BNA on May 5.

Norma Garcés, Executive Director of El Colegio, detailed for the Committee her school's plans for their vacant

land along 41st Street, and interest in using Bancroft Meadows for programs (if possible including both parcels in an arrangement with the Park & Recreation Board).

Commercial Development—Mark Sauter & Evette McCarthy

A group will talk with property owners about what measures will be needed to fill local vacancies. The Committee has drawn up a list of all commercial vacancies in and near Bancroft. One of the great problems with keeping tenants has been the exorbitant rent many owners charge.

Outreach Committee—Andy Hestness

Listening Sessions will resume soon. Committee also will investigate and discuss ideas for using Bancroft Meadows.

Housing Committee—Whitney Keiffer

The Open House Tour of local houses will take place on April 28 or 29.

A Housing Fair is scheduled at South High on March 10. BNA needs to man a table there and promote our neighborhood and board.

Andy asked, Is the Open House a good place to promote our local businesses? Board members responded with enthusiasm that it was.

Carrot Initiative—Sara Luoma & Neal Baxter

A January 27 meeting at the Blue Ox discussed forming a committee to lure a grocery or co-op into the neighborhood. Representatives of Central, Bryant and of course Bancroft attended. Those present agreed that we want a retailer. Committee established at this meeting is writing a survey to plumb the interest in the vicinity. Also, founders of 2 city co-ops will be asked in detail how they established these outlets.

Friends of Hosmer Library—Neal Baxter

Neal attended the 3rd meeting of parties interested in forming a “Friends” group in support of Hosmer Public Library. The meeting took place at Hosmer on January 24. Neal and Wizard Marks of the NRP Board agreed to incorporate the group, and convene its first official meeting.

Community Organizer’s Report—Jilian Clearman

Found: a thank-you card from Mike Simons, and a postcard from Jessica, Jilian’s predecessor.

Help making a bulletin board on the wall outside the office would be most welcome.

Jilian asked the Board about the value of spending at least 4 hours of her time writing an application for an arts grant. Funds to be used on a newly designed work of art calling attention to the corner of 38th & Cedar. Andy moved that Jilian fill out the application; Neal seconded. Approved. Andy added that grants for this project are also available from the Minnehaha Watershed District. Matt offered a friendly amendment, giving Jilian explicit authority to apply for grants in the Board’s name. (No vote)

Andy reminded the Board that we need to compile an official e-mail directory, pursuant to the Board’s new e-mail voting policy.

Has the BNA an ADA access plan (relevant to a form Jilian needed to fill out)?

BNA needs to create a place for arts spending in its budget.

Heather Doyle, of Chicago Fire Arts, proposed that the new sign at 38th & Cedar be planned, built and installed with help from interested neighbors.

The Community Connections Conference is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 11, at 26th & Park Avenue. Jilian will man Bancroft's table there from 8:30 to noon; anyone willing to take her place in the afternoon?

Working on finding a less expensive internet connection. Even if we broke our contract with Qwest and paid a penalty, BNA would save money over the next 18 months. Sharing Bethel church's internet account is still a possibility.

New/Old Business—Sara Luoma

Sara: BNA's website is splendid! Take a look. Jilian has improved the site, too.

A guest, Greg, and his young son: We learned about tonight's meeting thanks to the website. They live on 12th Avenue, and the boy studies at Ramsey School. Greg confirmed that Ramsey is moving into the Folwell Jr. High schoolhouse in the fall; he will return to the board with more information as it becomes available.

Two other guests, Sandra Smith and Detra Wilson Nimmegadda, expressed interest in joining the Board. Sandra served as chair of Bryant Neighborhood Association until moving into the Bancroft neighborhood recently. Detra is her daughter, and also active locally.

Mark moved to adjourn, Andy seconded. Approved, at 8:50 PM.