

Minutes for Meeting of the Board of the Bancroft Neighborhood Association
April 12, 2012

Present: Neal Baxter, Joe Hatch, Andy Hestness, Whitney Kieffer, Sara Luoma, Heidi Rivers Marshall, Evette McCarthy, Mark Sauter, Matt Toburen, Keith Twist, Shelby Williams; Jilian Clearman, Community Organizer.

President Luoma called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Approval of Agenda—Sara Luoma

Mark moved the agenda, Joe seconded. Approved.

Approval of March Minutes—Neal Baxter

Andy moved the minutes, Whitney seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Due to Kyle's absence, the Board took no action on the Report.

Green Initiatives Committee—Shelby Williams

1. Nina, the Organizer of Bryant Neighborhood Organization, came to the Green meeting and asked for BNA's support and help in establishing a community garden at 39th & Columbus. The land is vacant and owned by the City. The committee agreed to help with this project. Raising money for water, seeds, etc., is the next step.
2. Committee discussed the energy audits offered by the Center for Energy and Environment. At our next meeting the Committee will choose a date for a workshop with CEE, and plan how to alert neighbors.
3. Committee agreed to keep minutes of its meetings, and to meet at 6 PM henceforth.
4. All are invited to a brain-storming session soon to prioritize our objectives.

Commercial Development—Evette McCarthy

The Committee took a field trip to 42nd & Cedar. New businesses at the corner included a gift shop in the former Country Boy store, and a restaurant which will open at the end of April on the northeast corner. Committee is trying to get a look at changes made to the inside of the bowling alley on 41st & Bloomington. A barber recently moved his operation from 42nd & Cedar to 1401 E. 38th Street. Kim Bartman, local restauranteuse, has gotten approval for zoning changes which will allow her to open a restaurant in the building on 11th Avenue & 38th Street, long vacant. Set to open in the fall. Committee continues to promote Facade Improvement Grants in the neighborhood. Some businesses, Southside Farm Store among them, appear reluctant to avail themselves of these funds.

Outreach Committee—Andy Hestness

Andy passed out a draft of a mission statement. The Board liked what they read, and we will vote on this document via e-mail as soon as practicable.

BNA will host a Crime Prevention event on May 24, at Bethel church. The community liaison from the 3rd Police Precinct will lead the event, which will also be conducted in Spanish & English.

April 11 Lisa Cernie of Public Works met with a few board members at Bancroft Meadows. Lisa gave the impression that her department will limit the use of, and the events in, that open space in our neighborhood. Heidi Marshall hosted a successful listening session. Three more are planned for 2012.

Housing Committee—Whitney Kieffer

Thirteen houses are currently for sale in Bancroft. This month seemed like a good time for an Open House to promote our available houses, but only 4 real estate agents were interested. Board agreed that holding the Open House in the fall would allow more time to promote and prepare this event.

Personnel Committee—Sara Luoma

Sara, Heidi and Matt met to review the review which they will use to review Jilian's first 100 days as BNA Community Organizer. The review will take place April 12, after the Board adjourns.

CPP Update—Andy Hestness

The Citizen Participation Program released new guidelines. CPP has extended the current 18-month fiscal cycle for an additional 18 months. When the 2 cycles end, CPP will commence operating in 3-year cycles. It appears that BNA needs to spend money allocated to us more quickly, as CPP may not allow funds to carry over into subsequent cycles.

Thanks to an adjustment in allocation rates, BNA will receive an additional \$10,000 next cycle.

Carrot Initiative—Sara Luoma

The Initiative is asking for support from local Neighborhood Associations, in the form of a resolution. Mark moved the resolution, Neal seconded. Approved.

Sara feels the Initiative has lost its momentum, and the Board agreed.

Garden Update—Mark Sauter

Our community plots at Bethel church will receive an award on May 5; Mark will accept for the Board.

Thanks to new rules for the garden—gardeners must live in Bancroft, only 1 plot per household—the garden has enough plots for all interested parties. April 21 will be the first work day at the garden.

Bancroft Meadows—Shelby Williams

Soap Factory gallery in Minneapolis has selected this spot for an event that will coincide with the May Day parade. Participants will drop pottery “bombs” full of annual seeds in open areas around town. Public Works, skeptical at first, consented to allow this use of the Meadows during a meeting on April 11 (mentioned by Andy, above).

Community Organizer's Report—Jilian Clearman

Aliveness Project's annual Dining Out event is coming on April 26.

Hefty Printing will print, address and mail the Banner for \$310 or so, saving Jilian time and BNA money.

Shaun Murphy of Public Works wants more neighborhood response to the median which lay across the intersection of 17th Avenue & 42nd Street during the month of March.

The E-Democracy website wants BNA's involvement.

The Orchard grant fell through, as we need to draw the City into plans to use vacant land for raising fruit trees.

New Business—Sara Luoma

A neighbor who expressed interest in joining the Board changed her mind.

The plant sale at Bancroft School ends April 13.

SUN Project, the multi-neighborhood collaboration, is learning about the strengths of its member boards. The Board planned a night of fun for April 26, at a local bar.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.